

The Knoxville FOCUS

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INSIDE



Knoxville in bloom

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School Board Passes Budget Requiring Tax Increase McMillan Votes 'No'

By Focus Staff

Superintendent Jim McIntyre recommended the largest budget for the school system in Knox County history. The budget will require an investment of \$35 million by Knox County taxpayers if approved by the County Commission.

McIntyre's ambitious budget proposal was not expected to encounter any difficulty in passing the Board of Education. McIntyre wants a fresh infusion of cash amounting to over \$47 million new dollars.

It was clear both the Superintendent and most of the Board wanted a unanimous vote from the Board of Education. Both Karen Carson and Indya Kincannon directed remarks to Mike McMillan, considered to be the

member least likely to support McIntyre's budget request as submitted. Carson admitted few people in Knox County and her own district supported a tax increase to pay for education, but claimed that once she informed residents of what was in the budget, they became more supportive. Of course Carson never told her colleagues whether the converts numbered in the tens or tens of thousands, but the former figure is the most likely.

Kincannon reminded McMillan of the Board's support for building a new Carter Elementary School. Kincannon's was the swing vote in the Board of Education approving a new Carter Elementary School, but McMillan was too polite to point out that the project was only approved after Mayor Tim Burchett

volunteered to find the money elsewhere without touching any revenue devoted to the school system. The Mayor and the County Commission were

instrumental in finding the funds for the Carter project and the Board's role was confined to merely giving its approval to building a new facility.

Cindy Buttry, who is retiring from the Board of Education after her district had gone through the re-districting process,

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PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

8th District School Board Member Mike McMillan listens as 9th District School Board member Pam Trainor makes remarks during the discussion of the school system budget last Wednesday.

FOCUS Weekly Poll*

In your opinion, should local elections to be partisan or non-partisan?

PARTISAN 31.40%
NON-PARTISAN 68.60%

Survey conducted April 3, 2012.

* Focus Weekly Polls are conducted by an independent, professional polling company.

Rogero presents alternatives to City Pension Plan

By Tasha Mahurin
Mahurint@knoxfocus.com

The City of Knoxville Pension Task Force's recent evaluation has rendered the city's pension plan unsustainable. The task force determined that in order to sustain the City's pension program the city's contribution would rise from \$11 million annually to an estimated \$30 million annually over the next ten years. The contribution will rise from \$11 million to \$20 million in 2012-2013 alone.

As a response to this situation Mayor Madeline Rogero asked Eddie Mannis, Councilman Finbarr Saunders, and Bill Lyons to work with the pension system's actuary, Alan Pennington, to prepare a range of alternatives.

"I am anxious to get these draft scenarios on the table so that we can begin a robust and practical discussion of the future of the City pension system," said Mayor Rogero in a press release issued last week.

Rogero has proposed five alternatives to the existing plan. It is important to note that changes will not impact retirees or current vested

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City Council approves PILOT for Cumberland Ave. hotel project

By Tasha Mahurin
Mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville City Council voted to approve \$600,000 in incentives Tuesday night for a project to redevelop the former Days Inn on Cumberland Avenue into a Hilton Garden Inn.

According to Nick Lakha, president of Paramount Hospitality Management out of Atlanta, construction on the \$16 million project could begin as early as the summer.

The PILOT incentive is essentially a 5-year payment in lieu of taxes. The company will initially pay only the current tax bill of \$40,000 in both city and

county property taxes. After the five year period, the bill will increase to \$120,000.

Ultimately, council voted to approve the PILOT incentive (8-1) despite pleas from other local hoteliers.

Local attorney Arthur Seymour, Jr. was present on behalf of the owners of the Cumberland House Hotel who had completed a similar project in 2005 and were denied a PILOT incentive.

"We're not against the redevelopment of this hotel, but we are against a PILOT incentive," Seymour, Jr. told council members.

The hotel market in Knoxville

is already extremely competitive-with local hotels averaging a 50%-60% occupancy rate. Those in opposition to the resolution expressed concern that an unfair advantage was given to the company when there arguably isn't enough demand within the area to begin with.

Paul Jordan, present on behalf of the downtown Hilton, echoed Seymour, Jr.'s sentiment.

"We think it would help us kick-start the Cumberland Avenue project," said Knoxville's Director of Redevelopment Bob Whetsel, in defense of the project. (The City is expected to spend \$13-\$15 million on redevelopment of the

Cumberland Avenue area.)

"Without the PILOT, we could potentially stall out on the project," Lakha told council.

"I just can't imagine this (PILOT incentive) being a deal breaker for a good developer," stated Councilman Saunders, who was the lone vote against the incentive.

Plans for the project will go before the Industrial Development Board next.

Additionally, City Council agreed to urge TVA to revisit its contentious tree cutting policy, refinanced \$95 million in bonds, and approved four new city ordinances regarding blighted properties.

Inskip community to hit the streets

On April 14, 2012 the Inskip Community Association-Asociación de la Comunidad de Inskip (ICA-ACI) will host a neighborhood walk to find ways to make Inskip a more walking-friendly community.

The ICA-ACI neighborhood group was started with help from Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities, a childhood obesity prevention initiative

led by the Knox County Health Department and funded through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The ICA-ACI is working to connect neighbors through walking routes and community events to improve health in Inskip, especially among children. Several health-promoting services within Inskip - including stores that carry healthy foods, a public

pool, park and recreation facilities - are within walking distance for many community members. However, high speed and high volume traffic presents a danger for children, seniors, and non-driving residents, turning Inskip's roads into walls within the community.

The Inskip neighborhood walk on April 14th will focus on identifying the

safety concerns preventing children from walking from school to the recreation center. The information gathered during this walk will assist ICA-ACI and the East Tennessee Community Design Center as they work together to develop a plan for safe walking solutions in Inskip.

City Council and County Commission representatives will walk

with community members in order to understand the concerns and ideas for improvements in walkability and traffic safety. Community members, business owners, church leaders and the community at large are invited to join the walk from Inskip Elementary School to Inskip-Norwood Recreational Center. The gathering place will

be in front of the Inskip Elementary School (4701 High School Rd) at 10:00 a.m. on April 14, 2012.

For more information or to participate contact:

Betty Jo Mahan
Inskip Community Association- ACI President
Email: bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org

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Independent's Day!

By Focus Staff

Political parties aren't popular with the people of Knoxville and Knox County.

That's the message from the result of the latest poll conducted by *The Knoxville Focus*. Voters were asked, "In your opinion, should local elections be partisan or nonpartisan?"

The results were a resounding and overwhelming vote in favor of nonpartisan local elections, a result that surprised many, not the least of which was *Focus* publisher Steve Hunley.

"Oh, yes, I was really surprised," Hunley admitted. "I thought nonpartisan elections would be popular inside the City of Knoxville, but I really didn't expect the county folks to be in favor of nonpartisan elections for local offices."

Once again, voters in every demographic favored nonpartisan local elections. Three quarters of young voters preferred nonpartisan elections and interestingly older voters of 65+ favored nonpartisan elections by a similar margin. Women and men both support nonpartisan elections by almost identical majorities.

South Knoxville registered the strongest support in favor of electing offices on a nonpartisan basis with a whopping 77% in favor of nonpartisan elections. The Fourth and Second Commission districts posted majorities in excess of 70% as well. The majority in favor of nonpartisan local elections was in excess of 60% in every Commission district across the county.

The Knox County Republican

Party recently held its Lincoln Day Dinner, the premier political event for the local GOP and attendees commented on the sparse crowd. Some thought there were no more than 200 people at Lincoln Day an event which not so long ago easily attracted an audience of 1200 - 1500 people. So small a crowd in a presidential election year and an event headlined by a sitting United States senator is indicative of people tiring of something.

While Democrats might be heartened by people moving away from the GOP, these results from The Focus poll shouldn't cheer them up too much. There is every indication Democrats will take a beating in Tennessee this year.

Still, it looks like Independent's Day is coming and soon.

FOCUS Weekly Poll

In your opinion, should local elections to be partisan or non-partisan?

Partisan (31.40%)
Non-Partisan (68.60%)



By Age	Partisan	Non-Partisan
18-29	25.00%	75.00%
30-49	42.86%	57.14%
50-65	34.53%	65.47%
65+	27.55%	72.45%

By District	Partisan	Non-Partisan
1	38.67%	61.33%
2	28.07%	71.93%
3	33.33%	66.67%
4	27.27%	72.73%
5	30.30%	69.70%
6	32.76%	67.24%
7	37.10%	62.90%
8	37.04%	62.96%
9	22.92%	77.08%

McMillan Votes 'No'

Cont. from page 1

joined South Knoxville Board member Pam Trainor in declaring themselves to be "uber excited" over McIntyre's proposal. Buttry had long been a critic of the school administration and her new found enthusiasm for both McIntyre and his budget caused some to ponder the reason for the sudden change to support McIntyre. Trainor, whose tenure on the Board seems to be one of merely rubber-stamping whatever McIntyre wants to do, may be hopeful that if the Superintendent's budget passes, she can salvage a few thousand dollars toward saving the Pete Stafford Stadium at South-Doyle Middle School in her district, yet she has never insisted McIntyre help save a facility built with taxpayer dollars.

Trainor put forth the usual school system line and intoned that the budget "is an investment in our kids."

Superintendent McIntyre and many of the Board members hailed the budget as being the best Knox County can do for its children, causing former County Commissioner Jack Huddleston to opine, "I've heard tell there are some tennis shoes now that cost \$500 and they're supposed to be the best a person can buy. I wonder how many Board members go to the mall and buy their own kids those tennis shoes that are supposed to be the best?"

"If I had to guess, I think

they buy less expensive shoes and say those will do, but that's not how they're spending our money."

Mike McMillan, fresh from his victory in the recent primary election, had just survived a challenge mounted by the remnants of the old school machine. In fact, twice McMillan has been elected to represent the people of the Eighth District against candidates who strongly supported the McIntyre administration. In the end, McMillan was the lone voice of dissent on the Board of Education.

McMillan didn't question whether the budget would or could accomplish all that the Superintendent claimed, but wondered if the timing was right. McMillan further questioned whether increasing taxes before the economy recovered would not place an additional burden upon the citizenry.

McMillan voted against approving McIntyre's budget and pointed out Knox County is currently more than \$1 billion in debt.

"When we talk about our children's future, we ought to remember we are leaving them in a debt situation that is going to seriously get out of control in the near future," McMillan said. "That's certainly not the legacy we want to leave our children either."

Despite trying to present a united front, there is every

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Bluegrass & Me by Sarah Baker

The passing of bluegrass legend Earl Scruggs has brought to mind my own encounters with a genre of music that is more global now than it has ever been before. Growing up in Middlesboro, Kentucky, I didn't even consider bluegrass a genre. I just thought of it as the music played around home. My parents didn't own any bluegrass records. The country music in my house was mostly Hank Williams Sr., Eddie Arnold, Patsy Cline, and Kenny Rogers. Of course, I was familiar with Earl Scruggs from reruns of "The Beverly Hillbillies," but most of my exposure to bluegrass was through local live performances.

One such live performance was in my own front yard. On a warm summer night, I took a break from my usual "cool" teenage angst music (The Cure, REM) when my friends Haskell and Alva came over to pick and sing some ballads and hymns on my front porch. They were talented guys with rich, loud twangy voices, and we had a blast creating our own Cirencester Avenue version of The Grand Ole Opry.

Unbeknownst to us, my neighbor Betty had opened her window to hear us better, but another neighbor had called the police to report us "disturbing the peace." Fortunately, besides having a fondness for listening to bluegrass, Betty also had a fondness for listening to the police scanner. She scurried across the street and warned us that the cops were on their way. We hurried and put the banjo and guitar in the house and told the officer when he arrived that we had no idea what he was talking about.

Of course, as soon as the policeman was gone, we carried on with

our Cirencester Avenue concert. Inevitably, Betty came scurrying across the street again and the same police officer showed up again. This time, my mother met him in the drive way and very calmly explained that my friends and I had just gotten caught up "in the spirit," and we were finished with our concert anyway.

Years later, the movie "Oh Brother Where Art Thou?" was a big hit and my theatre students were rehearsing a cover of "Man of Constant Sorrow" on the stage at the old Claiborne County High School. The custodian was passing through and hollered over at me, "M'am, you know he's gonna be here this Sunday, don't ya?"

"Who is?" I asked him.

"Dr. Stanley," he told me with a grin. I hadn't known. The next Sunday, Grammy winner Ralph Stanley performed his songs on the same stage where my students performed them. I have never heard a more reverent silence than when Stanley's remarkable and raw, a cappella voice sang "O Death," the Appalachian dirge made famous by his performance of it in "O Brother Where art Thou?" At the intermission, I was thrilled when he signed my DVD.

Today in Knoxville, the influence of bluegrass in our culture is difficult to miss. Thanks to WDVX and their role in the scene downtown, it is actually cool to be in touch with our Appalachian roots as bluegrass fans. I even know my share of intellectual Yankees who enjoy the strum of a dulcimer or a banjo. Thanks to heroes like Ralph Stanley and the late Earl Scruggs, hillbillies like me can walk tall not only in our creek beds, but on the most artistic city streets.

Rogero presents alternatives to City Pension Plan

Cont. from page 1

employees. Additionally changes will not impact current but non-vested employees. All the alternatives will place the normal retirement age at 57 for Fire and Police and 65 for general government. Any salary that goes into a defined benefit calculation averages the highest five years rather than the highest two. The employee contribution will continue at six percent (6%) for all plans for general government and fire and police even with proposed changes.

"We want to reiterate that we offer these alternatives as the starting point for public discussion. The objective is to create a sustainable pension system that provides competitive benefits

while still reducing long-term expected costs and reducing market risk," Bill Lyons wrote in a memo to members of Knoxville City Council.

Knoxville City Council members have been provided with a detailed report outlining these five potential alternatives and will begin discussion of these proposals this week. Any change to

the pension plan would require a City Charter referendum, said pension referendum would need to be presented to the Pension Board no later than June 21. Following this process it would then be sent back to City Council to be placed on November's ballot.

"Other assumptions and alternatives will likely surface

as our public discussions ensue. We must design a sustainable pension system that provides competitive benefits for our future employees while reducing future costs and market risk to the taxpayers," Rogero added.

Changes to the City pension system will be presented to Knoxville voters on the November 6th ballot.

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Publisher's Position

Snow White and the 11 Dwarfs



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
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both the Disney classic and the members of the Knox County Commission, you will note more than a passing resemblance. We even have our own version of the narcissistic Queen in Superintendent Jim McIntyre.

As the county begins its budget process the Queen has looked into the famed mirror and asked yet again, "Who's the fairest in all the land?"

Evidently the Queen hasn't always liked the answer provided by the mirror, as Superintendent McIntyre actually went to Mayor Burchett's office to demand to know why Burchett didn't consult him before giving county employees a raise last year and that certainly added to Snow White's luster. Just what business it is of McIntyre's how the Mayor allocates general tax revenue is anybody's

guess. Burchett was quick to remind the meddling McIntyre he didn't need or require his permission to do a dag nab thing.

This year, the Queen is bidding to be the fairest in all the land, yet the Queen is toting a poisoned apple in the form of a 35 cent property tax increase. This would equate to approximately \$35 million in new tax dollars and McIntyre is inviting the Mayor and County Commission to take a big bite. Generous to the core, even the taxpayers are being asked to enjoy some of the apple.

Our fair Snow White is no fool and Snow has already announced she isn't eating any apples around budget time. The villagers (or voters as the case may be) have declared themselves to be on a diet according to the recent poll conducted by *The Focus*, which concluded

that 75% of Knox Countians are opposed to a property tax increase. Just how smart or hungry the dwarfs are remains to be seen.

Just about any politician seeking a tax increase will start talking about "leadership" and "vision," which is merely the sort of language one employs when promoting a cause unpopular with the public. Folks will likely hear the Queen/Superintendent McIntyre intoning those words in his public appearances to promote his budget. Unlike Snow White/Mayor Burchett, the Superintendent doesn't have to worry about anything other than schools or bear the burden of increasing taxes during a difficult economy. Ultimately, that decision will be made by the dwarfs who have to come up with some means of funding every aspect of

local government. Burchett has already announced the county has a shortfall of some \$14 million simply to remain where we are today; if the County Commission/dwarfs are to keep local government running, provide for the pensions and the like, they will need more money than even McIntyre wants.

The dwarfs rarely ever make definitive announcements and have proven time and again they are even more adept dancers than our fair Snow White.

The school system already gets more than the lion's share of Knox County's tax dollars. McIntyre has complained the school system's "share" of the property tax has gone down since 1995, but the truth is the school system received over \$55 million in property tax revenue in 1995. Last

year they received almost \$111 million, meaning it has more than doubled and doesn't even include their other sources of tax revenue. How many departments of government do you suppose have had their funding from one source double since 1995?

The dwarfs have been consistent in feeding the school system and the Knox County Sheriff's Department over the past ten years and the two account for almost three quarters of Knox County's overall budget. Roads, courts, health, libraries and everything else from the remaining 25% of the budget and have largely done without during that time. The county is currently over \$1 billion in debt as the Queen has come out with her apple.

We are about to find out how many of the dwarfs are named Dopey.

Charter Review: Beating a dead horse... again

Committee should leave rights of voters alone

By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

It's one thing to beat a dead horse. It's quite another to keep beating that same horse again and again. Yet that is what some members of the Knox County Charter Review Committee seem intent on doing.

This Wednesday evening, the Committee will meet to discuss possible changes to the Knox County Charter. If the Committee approves, some of these potential changes could appear as ballot questions in this fall's elections. And among several items to be

discussed this Wednesday is a dead horse.

And no, I'm not talking about the golf course in West Knoxville. The dead horse that is being dragged out to be beaten once again by some members of the Charter Committee is the idea of changing Knox County's elected countywide offices to positions to be appointed by the County Mayor. As I said, it's a dead horse. Here is its obituary:

Just over three years ago Knox County voters held a referendum on several Charter questions. The most prominent of those included a measure to

reduce the size of County Commission from 19 to 11 members. This question became popularly known as Amendment 3. Despite losing on Election Day, Amendment 3 passed by a razor-thin margin. Some opponents of the measure felt that if they had had just one more week to get their message out, the Amendment would have failed outright.

The other prominent question on the 2008 ballot was the same dead horse set to be dug up and carted in front of the Charter Committee this week. It was a measure that sought to take away the people's right to elect our countywide officials, and to instead make them positions appointed by the Mayor. More than 70% of

the voters flatly rejected the proposal. It was a fittingly fatal blow to a poorly conceived idea. But some folks seem determined to resurrect the dead.

The revisiting of the issue of appointed officeholders is an irresponsible course of action by a body that is supposed to be representative of the people (remember the measure's margin of defeat), not to mention a ridiculous waste of time since the people have already spoken loudly and clearly.

The very notion of letting people vote to take away their own right to vote is counterintuitive. It is a ludicrous proposition to expect the voting public to relinquish their own power to elect their county officials to a select few elitists in

an ivory tower downtown. These are the kinds of measures that have been historically disguised in populist garb, but which have led to nothing but tyranny and oppression.

The mere fact that such an idea makes no sense, reveals the obvious reason why it continues to be proposed by the same group of people over and over and over. They are elitists who want to incrementally take control of every aspect of local government. You hear them giving the same reasons every time they want to bring it up.

"Everywhere I go, this is what people want," they say. Oh really? I would merely refer them to the aforementioned margin of this measure's defeat in 2008. The fact is the people obviously DO NOT want appointed officeholders. The people obviously DO NOT want a King Mayor that chooses every officeholder in the courthouse. The people obviously DO want to retain their sacred right to vote for their officials. A right that

has been afforded them by the blood of countless patriots for more than two centuries.

What the Charter Review Committee is attempting to toy with this Wednesday is the single most fundamental right we enjoy as Americans. When the people give up their right to vote - or have it taken from them by elitists who think the public is too ignorant to decide elections - the result is the concentration of more power into fewer hands. This is the basis for everything that would threaten the survival of our free republic.

The Charter Review Committee should quickly and summarily abandon the nonsense of giving attention to a matter that has already been decided by the people of Knox County. The people they have been charged with representing. The people whose right to vote they should be celebrating and protecting, instead of beating the same dead horse yet again.

McMillan Votes 'No'

Cont. from page 1

reason to believe McIntyre's budget will face a rocky road once it is presented to the Knox County Commission. Mayor Tim Burchett has flatly announced he will not recommend a tax increase in the budget he will submit to the County Commission.

While the Board of Education doesn't have taxing authority, it accounts for almost two-thirds of every tax dollar spent in Knox County. Since 1995, the amount of property tax revenue going to the school system has doubled from \$55 to \$111 million today. The school system also receives 72 cents out of every dollar of sales tax revenue collected in the City of Knoxville and Knox County. Even part of the wheel tax is dedicated to the school system.

Superintendent McIntyre himself has admitted that next year's budget for the school system would be a pretty good budget because it is projected that the school system would receive an excess of \$12 million from natural growth and current taxes.

Unlike the Superintendent and the Board of Education, the Mayor and County Commission have to think of every aspect of the government and keep up the delivery of services.

Together, the school system and the Knox County Sheriff's Department account for three-quarters of all spending. Roads, health, libraries, courts, etc. are part of the remaining 25 percent. Over the past decade, Commissioners have continued to pour money into the schools and the Sheriff's Department while giving less to every other facet of Knox County government. Mayor Burchett and the Commissioners likely realize any tax increase would be more than the 35 cents wanted by McIntyre and the Board; in fact, Burchett has admitted the county needs an additional \$14 million for services to remain where they are today. Other announcements from county government have included warnings the county's pension fund will need more cash.

McMillan, a former County Commissioner, gently tried to remind his colleagues that the Mayor and County Commission have the responsibility of looking after every facet of county government and services and any budget request from the schools should take that fact into consideration.

Neither Superintendent McIntyre nor the rest of the Board seemed to give that a single thought. McIntyre's

personal relationship with Mayor Burchett hasn't improved since he barged into the Mayor's office to demand to know why he wasn't consulted when Burchett authorized a small pay increase for general county employees, most of whom had not seen a raise in four to six years. An astonished Burchett reminded McIntyre he didn't need to consult the Superintendent about his recommendations for general revenue expenditures.

Burchett has confirmed McIntyre paid him yet another visit just before the Board voted on McIntyre's recommendations. According to Burchett, McIntyre was surprised when the Mayor told him in no uncertain terms he would not recommend a tax increase to the County Commission. McIntyre tried to make the case he understood the attitude of the electorate as he, too, was elected by the Board of Education. Burchett retorted that McIntyre was not elected, but rather selected by five members of the Knox County Board of Education. Burchett pointed out that he himself was elected by the people of Knox County.

McIntyre is in fact more highly compensated than the county Mayor, earning

a salary bigger than that of Vice President Joe Biden, Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court John Roberts, and Speaker of the House John Boehner

Much has been made of the joint meeting of the Board of Education members and the County Commission. Some Board members seem to be under the impression the Commission is obligated to support whatever recommendation they make for the school system. Several of those attending the meeting didn't come away with the impression a majority of the Commission had agreed to sign a blank check for the school system.

Jim McIntyre has certainly made a bold bid for more money to fund Knox County schools. There is every reason to believe his roll of the dice will have significant repercussions on his future as Superintendent and perhaps the Board itself.

Former Knox County Commissioner John Mills, an old hand at winning elections, when asked about his former colleague Mike McMillan's vote last Wednesday night, smiled and said, "If the election were held tomorrow, I can tell you one thing: his margin of victory would be much larger."

Elected Superintendent To Become A Reality?

By Focus Staff

A subcommittee in the Tennessee House of Representatives has approved legislation allowing local County Commissions to elect Superintendents of schools instead of having them appointed by the Board of Education.

Lee Harrell, Executive Director of the Tennessee School Board Association, has sent out an e-mail to school board members across the state to notify them of what he termed a "surprise" move by the subcommittee. The bill will progress to the full House Education Committee and will be heard in the Tennessee State Senate in coming weeks. Harrell is trying to rally school board members across Tennessee to contact legislators to oppose an elected Superintendent of Schools.

If you have an opinion, contact your Representative and Senator. All phone numbers have the area code 615.

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- District 6. Becky Duncan Massey 741-1648 sen.becky.massey@capitol.tn.gov
- District 7. Stacey Campfield 741-1766 sen.stacey.campfield@capitol.tn.gov
- District 13. Harry Tindell 741-2031 rep.harry.tindell@capitol.tn.gov
- District 14. Ryan A. Haynes 741-2264 rep.ryan.haynes@capitol.tn.gov
- District 15. Joe Armstrong 741-0768 rep.joe.armstrong@capitol.tn.gov
- District 16. Bill Dunn 741-1721 rep.bill.dunn@capitol.tn.gov
- District 18. Steve Hall 741-2287 rep.steve.hall@capitol.tn.gov
- District 19. Harry Brooks 741-6879 rep.harry.brooks@capitol.tn.gov

FOCUS MORE ON Seymour

Voter Registration offered at LeConte

On Tuesday, April 10, 2012, representatives from the Sevier County Election Commission will be at LeConte Medical Center offering voter registration from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

In order to register you must:

1. Be a United States Citizen
2. Be a resident of Sevier County, TN
3. Be at least 18 years old by the next election
4. Not have been convicted of a felony (or had your voting rights restored).

The voter registration table will be set up outside of the dining area from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., April 10.

LeConte Medical Center is located at 742 Middle Creek Road in Sevierville.

Visitors to LeConte Medical Center can park in Lot A, and enter through the main door of the hospital.

For more information about voter registration in Sevier County call the Election Commission at 865.453.6985.

Seymour Rotary Leader Completes P.E.T.S. Training

Jack Funderburk, President-Elect of the Seymour Breakfast Rotary Club has completed a significant three-day training program. Funderburk participated in the multi-state Presidents-Elect Training Seminar in Nashville in March. Mid-South P.E.T.S. prepares upcoming leaders in Rotary's six districts in Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The training consisted of well-known exceptional speakers, informative roundtables and discussion groups, detailed district training sessions, fellowship and networking. The basic purpose of P.E.T.S. is to have the best prepared, most enthusiastic club presidents in the Rotary world. Annually, over 400 presidents-elect return home from Mid-South P.E.T.S. prepared to carry out their Rotary duties when they take office in July.

Rotary is a volunteer organization with over 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. The clubs conduct projects to address today's challenges—illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water, and



Jack and Marpet Funderburk present the work they have led the Seymour Breakfast Rotary Club to do in the Philippines. The Seymour Rotary Club is spearheading a project to feed 300 malnourished children there, and Jack and his wife (who is from the Philippines) have been there to organize the efforts.

environmental concerns—while encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations.

The Seymour Breakfast Rotary Club community projects include providing free dictionaries to all local third graders, awarding two college scholarships annually to Seymour area high school seniors, conducting an annual speech contest for high

school students, and contributing monetary support for the Seymour branch of the Sevier County Library. The club currently is conducting a feasibility study for a possible greenway park in the Seymour area. The club provided and maintains the "Welcome to Seymour" sign.

The Seymour Breakfast Rotary Club through the

years has also been instrumental in the foreign student exchange program, hosting numerous high school students from across the globe. Currently the club is engaged in a feeding program in Infanta Quezon, Philippines. In this project over 700 malnourished children are being fed a good meal every day for one year. The success of the feeding is

being monitored monthly by local doctors through the daycare centers where the feedings are taking place. All of the club's projects are funded by three fund raising efforts (an annual 5K race, a golf tournament, and this year's 4th annual motorcycle rally).

Seymour author a hit at Writers Conference

Seymour author Jean Leigh Claudette attended the Tennessee Mountain Writers Conference in Oak Ridge on March 30th and 31st and won first and second place in children's literature.

"Shrugs, Hugs and Other Valuable Things" placed second in the children's literature category. This book is a continuation on the lovable Mercedes and her funny solutions to her life.

"The Mystery of the Owl's Music" placed first in the children's literature category. It is a mystery adventure set in the woods on a summer night. It stars JD our secret agent from The Classified Files juvenile series. The book is for young readers and introduces them to JD and to Jim Ratty and his brother Donald. This was the 24th annual

TWMI writer's conference and was widely attended. There were sessions by accomplished writers in poetry, fiction, non-fiction, children's books, songwriting and by authors speaking on self-publishing.

Claudette is not only growing as an author but

is all over Seymour and Knoxville sharing her children's stories with local children, libraries, schools, bookstores, and writers clubs. The next event signing and selling will be April 14, 2012 at the Farragut Book Fest from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Seymour Cruise-Ins are back

Thanks to Seymour Pharmacy, Cruises are back on Friday nights at 7 p.m. behind Wendy's in Seymour. The first date was April 6 and the fun will continue until the last Friday in October. There will be live music by Steve. This is an open cruise in so bring what you got; bikes are welcome too. There will be a swap meet the last Friday of every month, so bring your extra parts. T-shirts coming soon! Call Dana at 865-680-9933 with any questions.



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Alpha Omega Pest Control opens for business

Sales@knoxfocus.com

Local resident Robert Apperson is saving the world...one bug at a time. For the past 11 years, he has worked for some of the best pest control companies in the area and earned 5 Presidents Club Awards for outstanding sales and service. Apperson, a devout Christian, felt 'led' to begin his own business earlier this year, and Alpha Omega Pest Control was born.

"I wanted to open a Christian, family-oriented business," Apperson, husband and father of three,

told *The Focus*.

As the company name implies, Apperson hopes to be the beginning and end of his clients pest control problems. However, he is no bug-busting beginner. He has attended the Tennessee Termite Apprenticeship School, completed a Purdue Pest Management Course, as well as, an AIB course, which deals primarily with commercial pest control.

Additionally, he has appeared on Fox 43, Channel 8, and Channel 6 as an expert in the field.

The company offers a

wide range of services and specializes in both commercial and residential pest control. They use quality, eco-friendly chemicals and are, of course, licensed, bonded, and insured. Additionally, to celebrate their grand opening, they are currently offering free termite inspections.

"Our goal is to offer people honest, cost effective service that will not break the bank," Apperson added.

For more information or to schedule service, please call 865-455-5435.



Robert Apperson of Alpha Omega Pest Control



From State Representative Harry Brooks

It is hard to believe that April is here already. Actually with the weather we have had this past month, it seems more like June. One item of interest that passed the House unanimously raises standards for those holding public office in Tennessee. This bill makes elected and appointed public officials ineligible for diversion for criminal offenses committed in their official capacity or that involve the duties of their offices. Pre-trial and judicial diversion are the processes in criminal law when a person pleads guilty to a crime and can later have the charge expunged, or removed, from their record following a period of probation. During the floor debate of this bill, a key question was asked. "Should legislators be held to a higher standard?" My vote is "Yes, most definitely." As elected officials we are honored to attach a title to our name. The title is enduring; attaching it to our name is temporary. We, as elected officials, should act in a manner that reflects positively on that title.

Continuing on that subject, I am pleased to announce that my campaign for another term, to be elected in November, 2012, received good news. I learned that I will not have an opponent in either the Republican Primary or the General Election this year. I have enjoyed the years I have been in the Legislature, and I look forward to two more years. My goal is to serve the people of the 19th District with integrity and responsibility. I respect the title of Representative and realize there are only ninety nine of us serving Tennessee's

Continue on page 2



Researcher and author George Barna

Expert on Christian

Research and the Church coming to Knoxville

Emerald Youth Foundation has landed nationally-known researcher and author George Barna.

To take advantage of this unique opportunity, Emerald Youth has created two events during Barna's May 4 visit to Knoxville.

He will be the guest speaker at Emerald Youth's prayer breakfast at 7:00 a.m. at the Knoxville Expo Center and deliver a challenging message - based on his book "Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions" - about why children should be a church's number one

Continue on page 2



At the new Harvest Park AT&T Store ribbon cutting, Knoxville Chamber Ambassadors and AT&T employees were joined by the following elected officials: Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, Sen. Becky Massey, City Councilman Nick Della Volpe, Rep. Bill Dunn, and Rep. Harry Tindell. The Store is located at 5429 Washington Pike in Knoxville.

AT&T celebrates opening of new high tech store in Knoxville

AT&T cut the ribbon at its high-tech 4,000-square-foot retail store at 5429 Washington Pike in Harvest Park in east Knoxville on Friday, March 30. The store relocated from 3001 Knoxville Center Drive and is nearly double in size. The Washington Pike store now offers a unique way for customers to interact with and shop for a wide array of communications and entertainment services including a hands-on demonstration area to engage customers and provide a "try before you buy" service

experience. The official grand opening is slated for Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 10 a.m.

"AT&T's investment in our Knoxville community, demonstrated by opening a new retail store in Harvest Park, builds on our reputation as a strong region for business investment," said Rep. Harry Tindell.

The new store showcases a wide range of home and wireless solutions, and includes a new tablet and emerging-devices "wall" to display the latest connected gadgets.

"AT&T has had a strong presence here for many years and we appreciate their commitment to our community," said Sen. Becky Massey.

Customers visiting the store can test drive various wireless data applications, including AT&T Navigator™ which provides GPS navigation with turn-by-turn directions, or AT&T Family Map, a family locator service designed to help give parents peace of mind.

"I'm glad to see businesses

Continue on page 2

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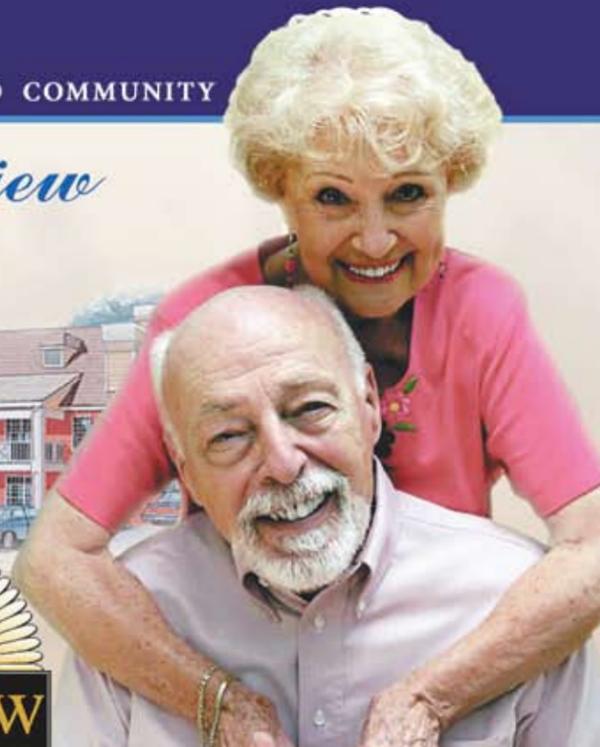
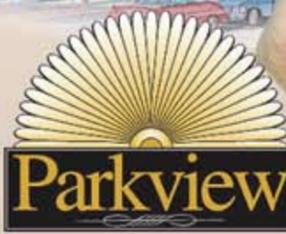
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Attention Veterans and Widows of Veterans: Ask about our Rent Assistance Benefits!

Directions: Take the Broadway Exit on I-640 and travel north. Just past Fountain City Park, turn left on Colonial Circle at stop light. Take immediate left into Parkview Fountain City.



Renowned Taxation Expert to Speak at UT's Knoxville Economics Forum

Competing strategies for addressing the country's long-term fiscal crisis will be the topic of discussion at this month's Knoxville Economics Forum, sponsored by the Department of Economics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Jane G. Gravelle, a renowned specialist in the economics of taxation, will be the keynote speaker at the Friday, April 20, event. Her talk is entitled, "The Long Term Fiscal Outlook: Are Tax Increases in Our Future?"

The forum will be at Club LeConte

atop the First Tennessee Building, 800 S. Gay St.

Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m., followed by an 8 o'clock program. Tickets are \$20, payable on the day of the event. Registration is also available at www.knoxvilleeconomicsforum.org.

Gravelle is a senior specialist in economic policy at the Congressional Research Service. She is an expert on the economics of taxation and fiscal policy.

She is the author of "The Economic Effects of Taxing Capital Income," and co-editor of "The

Encyclopedia of Taxation and Tax Policy." She is the editor of the "Tax Expenditure Compendium," which is published every two years by the Senate Budget Committee.

"We are excited about having Jane visit the Knoxville Economic Forum," said Matt Murray, UT professor of economics and director of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy. "Jane is one of the nation's leading scholars on federal fiscal policy. She will deliver a dynamic and engaging discussion with something for everyone."

The Knoxville Economics Forum

is a local, nonprofit organization founded in 2010. Its mission is to foster open and honest discussion of the most important economic issues in East Tennessee by inviting leaders in business, politics and economics to share their views. Past speakers have included Sen. Bob Corker; Dennis Lockhart, president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta; and Kelly King, chairman and CEO of BB&T.

For more information, please visit www.knoxvilleeconomicsforum.org.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Why [is it that] when people running for office get elected, they start being entertained, catered to, flattered by people who want something, start feeling more important than they really are, can't say "NO" to these social folk and forget what people want?

Take Fountain City Crematorium, [it] wasn't wanted by Fountain City residents, very near a large grocery store, across from eating places, the lake. What goes up must come down, yet members of City Council voted to let the permit stand. Shame on you, the ones who voted for it.

Why does the school system take 2/3 to 3/4 of the county budget? It has to be mismanagement. Look at Mr. McIntyre's salary of \$245,000. If the average family paid \$400 a year in county taxes, it would take 600 households to pay his salary. There must be one-hundred capable people, teachers, who would stand in line for this job at \$50,000 yearly, and the \$200,000 could be put back into the budget.

Kincannon stated that if the public understands they will accept it. Not so. People in public office have no idea how mad the American people really are. A change is coming. Look at California, they threw out their council and mayor, sued them, jailed some and fined some. Perhaps we will see men in office who care about the city and the people.

Elizabeth Steffaniak
Knoxville, TN

From State Representative Harry Brooks

Continued from page 1

population of over six million people. It is a privilege, and I am humbled to have that honor. I pledge to continue my work for the next term with diligence and faithfulness. Helping constituents with any issue you might have is my top priority. Please don't hesitate to call me to let me know how I can best be of service to you.

On another note, Secretary of State Tre Hargett is featuring a new program highlighting Tennessee companies with overviews of their products and operations. The program's goal is to raise awareness about companies that produce quality products, contribute to local communities and employ Tennesseans. April's theme is "Tastes of Tennessee." You can go to www.spotlight.tnsos.net to view the website or to nominate a company to be recognized in a later month. You may be surprised at the variety of products "made in Tennessee."

As we celebrate the most holy day of Christendom this season, I would hope that you remember that it is about more than bunnies and eggs as you reflect on the happenings of that day over two thousand years ago. I would encourage you to worship with your family and friends not only at Easter but throughout the rest of the year. Happy Spring; Happy Easter.

AT&T celebrates opening of new high tech store in Knoxville

Cont. from page 1

continuing to invest in our community," said State Rep. Bill Dunn. "These types of investments lead to jobs and more economic development for our community. This is great news."

"Our new Knoxville store redefines the sales experience by allowing our customers to test drive our products and services in an innovative way," said Alan Hill, regional

director, external affairs, AT&T Tennessee.

The new store is located at 5429 Washington Pike and is led by store manager Drew Porter, assistant store managers Shavone Lovell and Lenore Downer and a team of 7 knowledgeable sales consultants ready to assist customers — both business and consumer — with purchasing decisions and technical

support. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. The phone number is 865-971-1099.

There are 33 AT&T owned stores in Tennessee. AT&T's products and services are also available at a number of authorized dealer and national retail locations.

Expert on Christian Research and the Church coming

Cont. from page 1

priority. Barna will describe how he didn't just "miss the boat" in seeing children as the primary focus of ministry, he "missed the ocean." The annual fundraising event will also include the meaningful story of an Emerald Youth

alumnus; praise and worship music by the Emerald Youth choir; and the launch of an exciting new program, Emerald Youth Fellows, to serve Knoxville's urban high school seniors.

Following the prayer and fundraising breakfast, Emerald Youth will offer a

free special session with Barna designed specifically for pastors and Christian leaders. He will address America's worldviews and how churches can become more strategically involved in facilitating a Biblical worldview. The presentation will be from 8:30-10:00 am, also at the Knoxville Expo Center, and is open to any pastor and others in Christian leadership.

Barna has written 48 books addressing leadership, trends, church health and spiritual development. He founded the Barna Research Group and helped it become the nation's leading marketing research firm focused on the intersection of faith and culture.

Registration for both events is available online at www.emerald youth.org or by calling (865) 637-3227 ext. 105.

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Tracts #2 and 3 have a small amount of level, open grassland along the front. Tract #2, the largest with 9.81 acres, also has the oldest home built of logs in the 1800s, which is not in livable condition, as well as 2 small streams. **Tract #1** has 9.59 acres with small log barn. **Tract #3** has a large barn with the original logs inside. **Tract #4** has 5.53 acres with the old two-story farm home where Mrs. Clark lived. Home was built around 1900 with an old garage and corn crib. **Tract #7** has 5 acres with old farm house, not livable, an out house and little smokehouse shed. Great Selection of Antiques: Furniture, Glassware, Trunks, Tools, Horse-drawn Equipment and much, much more. MANY VERY UNIQUE ITEMS!

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Edward Hull Crump

The Boss

Part 3

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com



E. H. Crump posing with U.S. servicemen in 1944

COURTESY OF THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Henry Horton had won reelection as governor in 1930, but within days the landscape of Tennessee politics was forever altered. Both Horton and his closest political advisor, Luke Lea, were made politically impotent when Caldwell and Company, one of the biggest banking concerns in the South, failed. Rogers Caldwell had been very successful and was closely associated with Luke Lea, both politically and financially.

Rogers Caldwell had also done significant business with the State of Tennessee and when it became public knowledge that Tennessee had lost six and a half million dollars with the collapse of Caldwell and Company, citizens were naturally livid. Indignation meetings were held throughout the state and a committee was formed to investigate the ties between the Horton administration and Caldwell and Company. The legislature promptly initiated impeachment proceedings against Governor Horton.

For weeks there was only a foreboding silence from Shelby County as E. H. Crump held his tongue. With his usual impeccable sense of political timing, Crump announced the machine's own opposition to the Horton administration. Crump broke not only his silence, but also the tenuous alliance he had forged with Luke Lea and the Horton administration. Crump's announcement also meant the Shelby County delegation in the legislature would support impeaching Governor Horton.

Luke Lea and the beleaguered Henry Horton fought back, ruthlessly employing patronage and state favors to avoid having the governor impeached. Horton only barely managed to escape the humiliation of impeachment. Despite still clinging to his office, Governor Horton was a spent force in Tennessee politics.

After having served as Mayor of Memphis and Shelby County Trustee, Edward Hull Crump had withdrawn from electoral politics. Crump tended to this growing insurance empire and other business interests, all the while consolidating his grip on the political life of Memphis and Shelby County. In 1930, Crump ended his official electoral exile when he announced his candidacy for Congress.

Crump's announcement came as a surprise to incumbent Congressman Hubert Fisher. Fisher had first been elected to Congress in 1916 when then-Congressman K. D. McKellar had won

election as Tennessee's first popularly elected United States Senator. Fisher, a lawyer and former U. S. Attorney for the Western district of Tennessee, had quietly served in Congress for fourteen years. As the Tenth Congressional district was entirely composed of Shelby County, there was little doubt about Crump defeating Fisher should the Congressman be so foolish to run again.

E. H. Crump's decision to go to Congress caused a momentary breach in his friendship and political partnership with Senator McKellar. Hubert Fisher was growing increasingly deaf, to the point where it likely did impair his ability to serve in Congress, but he was also a warm personal friend of McKellar's and the senator resented Crump's rough treatment of the Congressman. Fisher wisely decided not to run again and Crump was elected to Congress without opposition.

The brief disagreement between Crump and Senator McKellar followed another spat between the two men. Crump had been highly annoyed when McKellar proposed to promote the Assistant Postmaster, who just happened to be McKellar's older brother, Clint, to the Postmaster of Memphis position.

The Boss decried the appointment of Clint McKellar as Postmaster of Memphis as "nepotism," causing Senator McKellar to retort Clint had served as Assistant Postmaster efficiently and honestly for years. McKellar pointed out that were Clint not his brother, there would be no question about his meriting the

promotion. While Crump's mastery of Shelby County and Memphis was unquestioned, Senator McKellar was the master of Federal patronage in Tennessee and insisted his brother receive the promotion over Crump's protests.

Both the Memphis Boss and Senator McKellar had similar personalities in several respects; both were highly sensitive to any real or imagined slight. McKellar especially could perceive any disagreement as being quite personal and both men had very dominant personalities. Certainly, both McKellar and Crump could handle their respective ends of any argument.

Perhaps wishing to smooth over his relations with McKellar, Crump joined hundreds of other Tennessee Democrats at an event in 1931 promoting the senator as a favorite-son candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1932. McKellar, highly pleased, thanked his friends for the honor, but used the occasion to announce his own support for New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt. Crump quickly followed suit and both the Memphis Boss and Senator McKellar attended the 1932 Democratic National Convention where they worked hard on Roosevelt's behalf. Crump was one of Roosevelt's floor leaders, while Senator McKellar helped to convince the Texas delegation to drop its support of fellow Texan John Nance Garner and back FDR, which they eventually did. Roosevelt, despite his sunny disposition, was very much a politician and made a clear distinction between those who had supported his candidacy prior to

the Chicago convention and those who supported him after he had won the nomination.

President Herbert Hoover, reviled by many Americans for his failure to successfully deal with the deepening Great Depression, proved to be an easy target for E. H. Crump, who possessed a remarkable knack for entertaining invective. Senator McKellar, who loathed Hoover, was even freer with his use of derogatory terms in describing the President and his failed policies.

To no one's surprise, Franklin Roosevelt defeated Hoover easily. Roosevelt's promise of a "New Deal" for the country was just as appealing in Tennessee as it was throughout the rest of the country. Crump's domain of Memphis was suffering terribly from the effects of the Depression.

As businesses and banks alike failed all across the country, Memphis was no exception. Between 1929 and 1933, laborers saw their wages fall fifty-five percent. Public school teachers were forced to accept a reduction in their own wages to keep schools open and finally had to endure the indignity of seeing their salaries paid in scrip by the local government. One national publication speculated in 1934 there were as many as thirty thousand Memphians on the New Deal relief rolls with a like number scabbling to make a living through selling pencils, matches, apples or anything else to feed and clothe themselves and their families. Another seventy-five thousand Memphis citizens were said to be subsisting on tenuous employment that paid only minimum

wages. That same national publication stated fully one half of Memphians lived on \$750 per year.

Congressman E. H. Crump and Senator K. D. McKellar faithfully supported the New Deal administration of Franklin Roosevelt. The two Memphis solons voted for virtually every measure sponsored by FDR and McKellar even frequently supported programs that were otherwise controversial in his native southland.

The 1932 election not only brought Franklin Roosevelt to the White House, but also solidified the power of the McKellar - Crump partnership in Tennessee. Luke Lea was desperately trying to cling to power in the wake of the fall of the House of Caldwell and Company. Governor Henry Horton, barely having escaped impeachment, was no longer a viable candidate to succeed himself and Lea frantically searched for a replacement. The fact he settled upon former Governor Malcolm Patterson was an indication of just how much his position in Tennessee politics had deteriorated.

Patterson had served two terms as governor before being driven from office over the assassination of his recent opponent in a primary election, Edward Ward Carmack. When

Patterson promptly pardoned the convicted killer of Carmack, the outrage of Tennesseans had caused him to retire. Patterson's attempted to regain his place in Tennessee politics by becoming a candidate for the U. S. Senate in 1916. Although Patterson managed to get more votes than incumbent Senator Luke Lea, he lost to Kenneth McKellar. Patterson had also been embarrassed by an episode that had been highly publicized when he was discovered drunk in a whorehouse.

In 1932, Patterson was a local judge in Shelby County and a changed man; once fond of the bottle, Patterson now claimed to have reformed and was a frequent lecturer on the evils of strong drink. Despite having the support of Luke Lea and Lea's publishing empire, Patterson made little impact on the gubernatorial race in 1932, running a poor third.

The contest was between Hill McAlister, making his third bid for the Democratic nomination for governor against Lewis Pope, a former official in the Cabinet of the late Governor Austin Peay. McAlister once again had the support of both Senator McKellar and Boss Crump. It was another close race for McAlister, but this time he won, once again getting heavy support in Tennessee's more urban areas.

Lewis Pope immediately complained he had been cheated out of the nomination and claimed McAlister's victory had only been accomplished through wide spread voter fraud. Pope fingered Crump, pointing to the huge majority in Shelby County for McAlister and charged Crump and the Memphis machine had fraudulently inflated the vote for Hill McAlister.

Pope declared he would not abide by the decision of Tennessee Democrats in the primary and would run in the general election as an "Independent". Most Tennesseans were not moved by Pope's charges of fraud nor were they especially interested in his condemnation of E. H. Crump and the Shelby County machine. Hill McAlister won the general election, giving both Senator McKellar and Crump a large say in the distribution of state patronage, while McKellar controlled virtually all the Federal patronage following FDR's election.

Governor McAlister quickly moved to remove the appointees installed by his predecessor Henry Horton and anyone with ties to Luke Lea was immediately displaced. All were replaced by McKellar and Crump loyalists.

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Kivett House, Tazewell

Endangered sites

I found it very sad to learn that the boyhood home of Estes Kefauver burned a few years ago. I would often drive by the Madisonville house when I worked in the area or visit his grave and home as an adult in the same community.

Kefauver grew up in the "boyhood" home which was built in 1846. Kefauver would go on to serve as Tennessee's noted senator for many years, and was a Vice Presidential candidate. Kefauver was a giant in national politics and, like Cordell Hull and others, is often overlooked now-a-days. Homes and places of historical importance need to be protected and preserved.

The same is true for the Graham-Kivette House in Tazewell. This beautiful rock home, built about 1810, survived a fire that more or less destroyed the rest of the town during the Civil War and was also used as Union Headquarters in that struggle.

I remember being there a few years ago, talking with the late John Kivett. John and I often talked or wrote each other about the town's history and we ventured out a couple of times to see some of the local sites, talk with others about relics and old tales, or walk up to the Breastwork Cemetery that overlooks the town.

Since John's death, the house remained empty and in need of repairs and the

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

structure has been added to East Tennessee's Endangered Heritage list along with the old LaFollette Post Office, Brushy Mountain Prison, Oak Grove School in Union County, the Alexander Inn in Oak Ridge, the Martin Mansion in Blount County, Quaker Valley in New Market, and other sites.

Brushy Mountain Prison sits empty and unused, guarded by one guard at the entrance. There's no decision yet as to what to do with the huge, historic facility that once held infamous prisoners like James Earl Ray. The state apparently is offering it to the county there, but the upkeep and restoration would be expensive.

Knox Heritage and the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance are working with other groups to bring attention to the endangered historic places such as these. You can Google both places or call 865-523-8808 for a complete list of those places needing attention, complete with a map of the locations, and how you can get involved.

You can also take a drive and take a look. Many of the endangered places are privately owned or owned by a local historical society, so look from the outside or ask permission.

It's tough to be a student in today's public schools. Yes, kids must deal with social pressures, bullying, and home problems as they try to succeed in the classroom. However, what causes most consternation is the never-ending string of tests that students must take during their years in K-12.

Students begin the test circuit as early as the third grade. From that point on, every student in grades 3-8 is subjected to yearly T-CAP Achievement Tests. Long before the exam is given, schools begin sending home "strategies" of taking the test. Lots of sleep, exercise, and practice problems at home are suggested. In the classroom, teachers pour on the practice tests to ensure that students are familiar with the layout of the tests and the kinds of questions and problems that make them up. By the time the test week is finished, school personnel, parents and children are exhausted mentally, physically, and emotionally.

In the 5th, 8th, and 11th grades, students are given the TCAP Writing Assessment. The youngest write a narrative (story); middle school students write an expository (explanation) paper; the high school students write a persuasive (argumentative) essay. The child is expected to write a completed rough draft within a limited time period, usually 20-30 minutes. Teachers are to have portfolios for students with several "practice" essays of the appropriate kind for the grade.

During the 4th, 8th, and 12th grade, students are to take the NAEP exam. This one



By Joe Rector

measures student knowledge in math, reading, and science. Again, teachers administer practice tests throughout the year to prepare their students for the test that is to come.

Eighth graders also take the Explore test. It's the middle school version of the ACT exam that is mandated by the state of Tennessee for most students. Tested areas include math, English, reading, and science. As sophomores, students take the PLAN test. You guessed right. It's another exam that tests the same four areas. During the junior year, students can take the PSAT. It's a practice test to get teens ready to take the SAT exam the following year. Of course, the ACT has been added as a graduation requirement for Tennessee high school seniors. Vocational students can opt to take the WorkKeys exam instead.

For high school students, these tests are in addition to the EOC (End of Course) exams that are administered during the last week of each semester.

By the time a student exits the doors of public schools, he or she is exhausted from the onslaught of exams that systems and states require. The bigger question is what have students lost as the result of being constantly tested? Also, how valid are the scores on some of the required exams?

The writing assessments are serious for teachers, but not necessarily for kids. Teachers are evaluated based on the success of their students. However, only marginal weight is placed on the scores of the test, so many students simply

don't try to do well. Besides, how realistic is it to expect students to write well in such a short amount of time? On one occasion a student received a grade of 3, which meant he needed remedial help in writing. The problem was that he failed to complete the paper in the short time period. How valid was this grade? The same student made a perfect score on the SAT, went to a prestigious college in the northeast, and chose to become a teacher. All that, but he was a failure on the TCAP Writing Assessment.

This idea that all students must take the ACT is another ridiculous idea that only looks good on a superintendent's goals and objectives list. In reality, many students who have no intentions of attending college put little or not effort into the test. The scores are skewed as a result. Just like the EXPLORE and PLAN tests, the ACT adds costs per each one taken to the school budget. In many cases, it's a waste of money that could be spent elsewhere.

The big question is when will we allow kids to be kids? Don't hand me the hogwash about American students falling behind those in other countries. U.S. public schools educate the masses. When we begin to restrict schools to the few brightest kids as other countries do and then record their scores, America will rank with the best. Our children's education should include more than the basics. It's important to include art and music, and the classroom is the ideal place for conversations and the sharing of ideas. Like the song by Billy Dean says, "Let them be little 'cause they're only that way for awhile." Let's give them a better education than one that revolves around tests.

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Easter and The Masters stir memories of family



By Richie Beeler

This past weekend I participated in one of my absolute favorite traditions of the year. I watched the final round of The Masters with my brother, cousin, and best friends at my house on Clapps Chapel Road. I moved there four years ago. I hope to live out my days there. I always knew I would end up there.

This year, as in several times past, Masters Sunday was also Easter Sunday. For some, this might seem an awful contradiction that people would indulge in celebrating a sporting event on the day we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. But for me it is a sweet mixture that evokes memories of special times gone by. And of family.

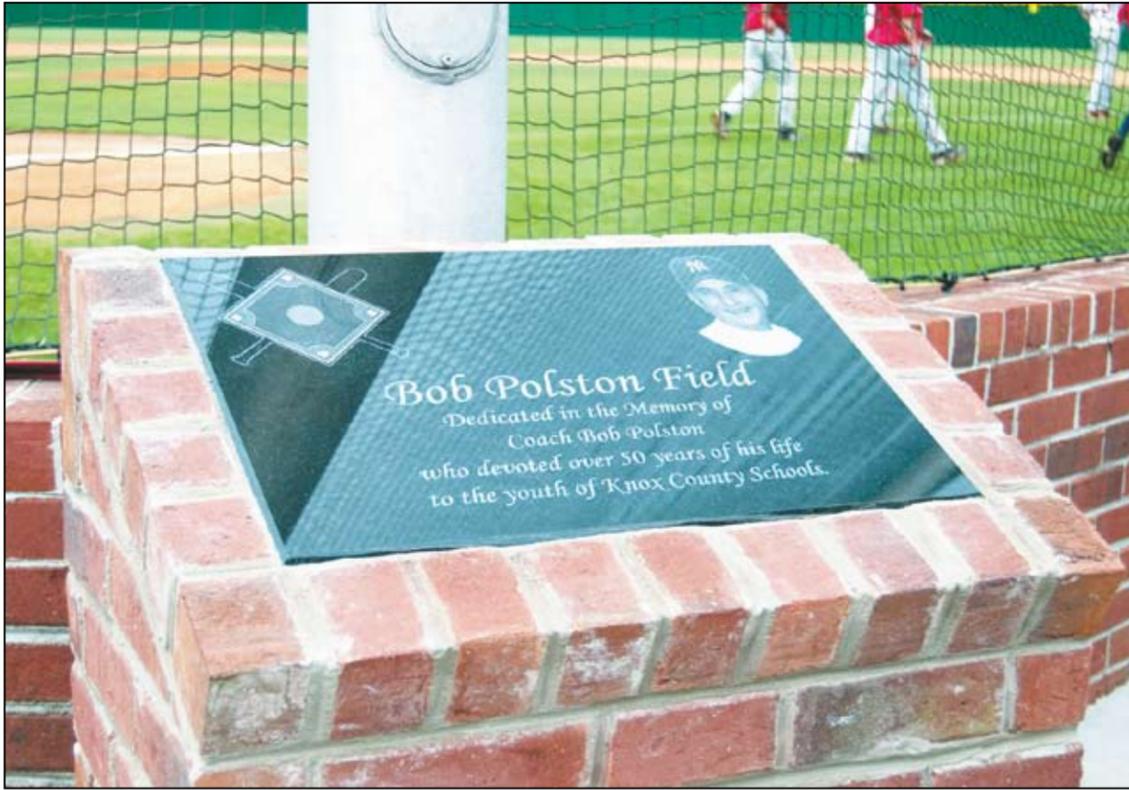
When I was a kid, Easter was a special day for my family. We would gather at my great-grandparents' home. In some years as many as 60 people would find their way to the four-room house on Clapps Chapel Road for Easter dinner. After lunch was over the kids would have a gigantic egg hunt in the yard.

On one particular Easter Sunday, I recall diligently searching to beat my cousins Todd and Tracy to the prize egg, while my uncles were in the house glued to the TV watching something called The Masters. On that Easter Sunday, Doug Sanders faded down the stretch, enabling Tommy Aaron to capture his first and only Masters title. It is to this day my most vivid memory of Easter - and my first memory of the Masters.

Like this years Masters, it is a memory born right here on Clapps Chapel Road. Scarcely a mile from where I live is the spot where the

Continue on page 4

Baseball field dedicated to Coach Polston



Halls High School recently dedicated its baseball field to the memory of Bob Polston. Polston, who worked as a coach and administrator in Knoxville Schools for nearly 50 years, died in August. His son Doug has coached the Red Devils since 1988. This monument was unveiled before the Red Devils' 7-6 victory over Morristown East on March 31.

By Ken Lay

The Halls High School baseball field now has a new name.

It was recently dedicated as Bob Polston Field recently before the resident Red Devils outlasted Morristown East 7-6 in a game on Friday, March 31.

Polston, father of Halls High baseball coach Doug Polston, coached baseball and football at Rule, Austin-East and East High School.

Bob Polston, who was named KFL Coach of the Year four times (1969, 71, 73, 76) remained active in Knox County athletics after his coaching career.

He served as athletic director for the Knox County School System until he retired in 2004. Bob Polston died in August

Continue on page 2

Nighthawks Land in Knoxville

By Curtis Trotter

College basketball has crowned its champion. Baseball is in full swing, and the Knoxville Ice Bears are skating around in the playoffs. So what's the football fanatic to do besides watch UT spring practice and the upcoming NFL draft? How about some live, hard hitting action 'indoors' on the pro level right here in Knoxville. Yes, that's correct. Indoors!

Arena league football is back in Knoxville just in time to satisfy the hunger of the game for the football faithful.

The Knoxville Nighthawks, who are a member of the Professional Indoor Football League (PIFL), will battle with teams from the south region that boast talent once seen on the college gridiron nationwide. Currently, the PIFL consist of the Columbus Lions, Alabama Hammers, Richmond Raiders, Albany Panthers

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PHOTO BY ADAM SULLIVAN.

Kelvin Thompson celebrates a third-quarter touchdown as the the Nighthawks attempt to rally from a deficit.

Eagles join Interscholastic League

By Ken Lay

Gibbs High School had eight wrestlers named to the All-Knoxville Interscholastic League team recently.

The Eagles occupied more than half of the team's 14 slots after a successful 2011-12 campaign. Joey Smith (106 pounds), Trey McAuley (112), Austin Griffith (120), Wilson McAuley (126), Logan Young (138), Andres Leyva (152), Caleb Wood (195) and Raul Leyva (220) all received county-wide postseason honors.

"I'm beyond proud of these kids," said Gibbs coach Tim Pittman, who has built a powerhouse program in Corryton. "These kids have poured their heart and soul into wrestling and this is the best team that we've ever had."

"It's great to see these kids recognized for all their hard work because wrestling is the toughest of all

Continue on page 4

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Kentucky's blueprint for success has a green tint

Once again Kentucky has found a way to get to the top of college basketball. Do it with players who are much closer to a pro contract than they are a diploma. That's the blueprint for success in the Bluegrass State.

But don't just give Coach John Calipari and the Wildcats credit for beating everybody they played this season en route to winning their eighth NCAA title, give them credit for beating the system, or a system that needs to be adjusted for the betterment of the college game.

Kentucky isn't the only institution of higher learning that's going after "one and done" players. It is just getting the most of them, by far. How Teflon John is doing it could be a big-time sports news item for another day. After all, his resume includes two previous jobs (Massachusetts in 1996 and Memphis in 2008) where his teams' Final Four appearances were vacated

for violating NCAA rules violations. Calipari wasn't implicated in either case. Maybe he just didn't get caught. Seven underclassmen from Calipari's first two Kentucky teams entered the NBA draft. As many as four off this season's championship team, including Anthony Davis, the national player of the year, are expected to trade books for big bucks this June. Who can blame them? They are the best in what they do.

They don't have to have a college degree, either, to play in the NBA. So why are they in college? Years ago, a high school basketball phenom could go straight to the NBA. But starting in 2006, the NBA began requiring its draft entrants to be 19 years old and a year out of high school. NBA commissioner David Stern is seeking to increase it to a two-year requirement. That would help.

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said recently he would like to see players stay in the NCAA for three years before making the move to the NBA. His reason, he says, is not for the "lottery busts" but to prevent "ruining kids' lives."

College basketball, from a fan's standpoint, is one of the greatest sports in this country. Team rosters do not need to be turned upside down annually, as they can be under the current system. The sport needs stability.

Interest in March Madness seemed to be down a little this year. Kentucky entered the tourney as the No. 1 overall pick and pretty much breezed through the field. Each time an opponent would get close, the Wildcats would snarl and pull away. Even the veteran and experienced team Kansas put on the floor in the finals couldn't match Kentucky's young but talented team.

Still, there was something about this year's ending that didn't seem right. From a distance, Kentucky's championship seems hollow, like it wasn't earned the old fashion way.

The NCAA has a system in place to promote academic success and penalize teams who fall short in this area. It is called Academic Progress Rate. The APR, instituted in 2005, is a metric tool that monitors college athletic

teams in moving student-athletes towards graduation. Teams that fail to achieve an APR score of 925 - equivalent of a 50 percent graduation rate - may be penalized with the loss of scholarships.

Starting with the 2008-09 school year, bans from post-season competition were added to the penalty structure. In fact, the Connecticut men's basketball program recently was the first to receive that penalty as the Huskies will not be allowed to play in next season's Big East Conference or NCAA tourneys.

The NCAA does adjust APR, on a student by student basis, in two circumstances - when a player transfers with a high grade point average, or leaves for a professional sports career while still in good academic standing.

It should be noted the Kentucky men's basketball program's most recent APR score equaled Vanderbilt as the best in the SEC.

Hopefully, the Wildcats have been doing particularly well in math. They're going to have a lot of money to manage.

Gibbs beats Union Co in District match

By Ken Lay

Gibbs High School baseball coach Geff Davis knows he can count on Matt Pack to get his team out of jams.

And that's just what the senior right-hander did on Monday, March 2.

"Matt's a guy who wants to pitch all the time," Davis said after watching the Eagles reliever retire all seven hitters he faced in Gibbs High's 5-3 District 3-AA victory over Union County before a packed house at Steve Hunley Field. "Matt's gotten us out of some jams this year and I'm sure that he'll get us out of a few more."

The final score may have been close but Gibbs came out hot early, plating three runs in the bottom of the first. Eagles shortstop Adam Saah led off the frame and was hit by a pitch. He stole second and advanced to third, one out later, on a bunt single by Taylor McMurray. Saah scored when Pack, who began the game playing first base, reached on an error by Patriots shortstop Aaron Tipton.

Gibbs extended its advantage to 2-0 when Cade Davis reached on a fielder's choice to score McMurray. Pack also came home on the play on a throwing error by Tipton, his second miscue of the inning. Pack's run made the score 3-0.

Eagles starting pitcher Seth Kennard was sharp through the first three innings. He surrendered just two hits and faced the minimum of nine batters. Union County got a leadoff single from Dillon Fields in the first. And a second-inning hit from Emmitt Turner. Fields was erased when UCHS catcher Joseph Houser hit into an inning-ending double play. Kennard, the Eagles left-hander, picked Turner off for the first out of the top of the second. "Seth threw really well for three innings," Davis said. Kennard, however, found himself in trouble in the top of the fourth. He walked Fields to

open the frame. Tipton reached on an error to put runners on first and second before the Patriots pulled a double steal to land both runners in scoring position.

Houser struck out and Turner flew to second before Pats' pitcher Jesse Buckner walked to load the bases. Kennard would escape without damage as he induced an inning-ending flyout by Landon Muncey. Kennard, however, wouldn't get out of the top of the fifth. The Patriots would pull to within 3-2 on a two-run single by Tipton, who scored on a two-out hit by Houser. Gibbs had a pair of errors on the play, which chased Kennard from the contest. Pack entered and got Turner to ground out to retire the side.

The Eagles regained the lead with a pair in the bottom of the frame. Again, Gibbs was aided by some shoddy Patriots defense. UCHS committed three errors in the inning and a total of six in the contest. McMurray had a sacrifice fly that scored Saah with the go-ahead run. Gibbs got some insurance when Brad Cottrill scored after Pack reached on an error. "We came out and got ahead of them and I think we got a little satisfied," Davis said. "I was proud of the kids for fighting back after they tied it."

Buckner, who pitched a complete game, giving up just four hits, truly deserved a better fate. Pack said he felt for Buckner, but wasn't about to relinquish a hard-fought victory. "We needed this," said Pack, who struck out four of the seven batters he faced. "I feel bad for [Buckner], but I want to win. We don't need to be losing any more district games."

The Pats and Eagles closed out the two-game series Tuesday in Maynardville and Gibbs (5-7 overall, 4-2 in the district) routed UCHS 11-1. Andrew Willis struck out six in a complete-game five-inning victory. McMurray had three hits in the second game against the Patriots. Cade Davis and Austin Breeden had two each.

Nighthawks Land in Knoxville

Cont. from page 1

and the Louisiana Swashbucklers. Former players from Ohio State, Vanderbilt, Southern Mississippi, Tennessee, Carson-Newman and Tusculum are all represented in the Nighthawk royal blue, green, and silver uniforms that are donned at the Coliseum on Saturday nights. With the season well under way and a disappointing 0-3 start for Knoxville, hopes are still high for this upstart venue that is sure to entertain all the way to the closing horn. Head coach Chris MacKeown, who has been on the arena league circuit with the AFL, and the af2 leagues, certainly knows what it takes to build upstart teams. Leading teams like the Colorado Crush, Amarillo Dusters, Austin Wranglers, Columbus Destroyers, Louisville Fire, Cincinnati Swarm, well you get the point, to play-off action has been a common theme for the forty-two year old Dayton, OH native.

"I just love a challenge. I have been with so many start-up teams, it's hard to remember," said the mentor. "Arena football is a game set to entertain, but winning is entertaining

as well. That's what we plan to do here." MacKeown's job is made easier by his staff of well proven assistant coaches that consists of former Alabama Crimson Tide National Champion Tommy Johnson (92'), line coach Greg Cotton, and Arena League veteran special teams coach Steve Smith.

Former Vol kicker Alex Walls can be seen booting kick-offs through the uprights from the opposite end zone during these contests on any given Saturday. Walls, a current associate at Home Federal Bank, likes the transition to the indoor game. "I enjoy these games. It gives me more opportunities to kick. The indoor climate never changes, and conditions are perfect," Walls continued. "We just need to learn to quit shooting ourselves in the foot. We are young, but it can all be fixed."

Former Carson-Newman lineman Shane Canterbury anchors the offensive line at a towering 6' 7" 320 pounds. The former WWE strongman is optimistic about his squad. "We are not going to give up. These three games we've had are stepping stones for us. We need to focus on fixing these mental mistakes that keep bothering us. It's great to see all these kids out here," Canterbury told

The Focus.

The kids Canterbury were speaking of were hold-overs from the days youth football league action that the Nighthawks have up-started as well. Nighthawk Account Executive, Dan Milas told *The Focus* that the new youth league is something that they hope will grow as the sports makes its mark in the Knoxville market. "We have about 160 youths involved in a league we have set up. It's going to be an exciting thing for their kids as they actually play on our field, with the same rules implemented. It's just a neat way of introducing the arena game to today's youth. They really enjoy it. Seeing those kids out there bumping each other and running into walls as well is something to see. Parents just love the interaction and the excitement on their children's faces," Milas said.

Media and Public Relations director Jordan Halverson told *The Focus* that the personal aspects of the game can be expected at each contest. "This facility we play in offers a personal atmosphere. It truly is 'up close and personal' with the fan. So personal in fact, we've had a couple of players end up in a couple people's lap," Halverson continued. "There

is no bad seat in this facility. Fan interaction is constantly at a high level. If a ball goes into the stands, they go home with it. How cool is that?"

All games can be heard on Tennessee Sports Radio 1180 AM during the season.

Coach MacKeown will have some time this week to regroup with his squad as the team will face a bye week in the schedule. "I think some time to rest and heal will do this team some good," MacKeown explained.

The Nighthawks will entertain the Albany Panthers Saturday, April 14. Kickoff is set for 7:00 p.m.

Baseball field dedicated to Coach Polston

Cont. from page 1

and members of the Halls Community approached Doug about dedicating the field in his father's honor.

"A member of the community came to me with this idea," Doug said. "And I got donations from as far away as Illinois from people who didn't even play for him."

"I knew that that night would be emotional for me and it was. This is a fitting tribute to a great man."

Bob never coached at Halls High but spent the later years of his life at the school's baseball diamond. He dragged the infield, mowed the grass and could always be found tending to the pitcher's mound after games. He also was there to

encourage players. Doug noted that his father wouldn't much care for having the field named in his honor.

"If he were here, he'd scoff at this," Doug said of his father, "But this is a great honor for a man who helped a lot of kids. He was a coach for 21 years and an administrator for 28

years."

Bob Polston often sat behind home plate at Halls. A monument in his honor now has a home there.

"His buddies really wanted to do this for him and I'm glad they talked me into this because that is a beautiful monument," Doug said.

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Ken Sparks, More than a Coach



Dr. Mike Boyd, Senior Pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, and Ken Sparks, Head Coach of the Carson-Newman Eagles. Photo by Don Hall



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

The task was daunting. It was 1968, and he was a 22-year-old senior set to graduate from college. He was hired to be the new high school football coach. But, this was not just any coaching position, and time would

prove that he was not just any coach. Gibbs High School was the smallest of the Knox County Schools. At that time, city and county schools were separate systems. The rural school did not even have a football team. In fact, it had been nine years since the Gibbs Eagles had played football.

Robert (Bob) Dagley, who was the assistant principal at the time, remembers how football started at Gibbs. "It was Mr. Clendenen's idea," he said. The late Max Clendenen was the former Gibbs agriculture teacher who later became principal, dedicating more than thirty years to the school. According to Dagley, Clendenen came to him one day and broke the news that he wanted to bring football back to Gibbs. Dagley was familiar with the coaching profession. Before becoming assistant principal, he was the basketball coach at Gibbs; and people in the community still have fond memories of him. I remember Dagley leading our small school to a spectacular season in the mid-sixties. "We only lost two games that year," he told me. But, that is another story for another day. Dr. Mildred Doyle, for whom Doyle High School (now South Doyle) was named, was the Superintendent of Schools during that time. "She always

liked to give young people a chance," remembers Dagley. Clendenen and Dagley selected Sparks to make football a reality at Gibbs. "It was unreal. No one wanted to come and start the program," Dagley said. "Ken became the first coach since J. A. Beeler," he added. With quarterback Johnny Bean, the first-year coach—straight out of college—took the challenge. It would have been a sizeable task for even a veteran coach: no established team, no marked field on which to practice, and all "home" games played "away" at other schools' stadiums. I recalled the marching band practicing on a sloping field near the highway that year. "That was the practice field," Dagley said.

After my brother reminded me that Frank Dalton played for Sparks at Gibbs, I gave him a call. Without hesitation, the 1969 Senior Campus Favorite was eager to share his memories of Sparks. "Everybody who wanted to try out for football was to report to the gym," Frank said. "We noticed a young man standing over by the wall, but we thought he was a new student. Instead, it was the new coach," he added. "Coach Sparks would not tolerate any profanity, and anyone who used it had to run through the tires," Frank said unequivocally. "He always said that a smart person could find a better word to use to express his anger," Frank said of Spark's philosophy. Though young, the coach who grew up in South Knoxville (from second grade on) had plenty of leadership and skill to coach the Eagles in Friday

night football games. It was not surprising that he also started a chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) at Gibbs. When I read in the Gibbs yearbook that the Coach taught business education classes, such as typing and economics, I remembered hearing that former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman once won a typing contest! It was interesting to see business classes paired with a football coach, as business education was also my area of teaching certification. But, I do not recall one football player in my typing classes at the university!

After two years at the helm at Gibbs, the Coach who had played single wing blocking back and defensive back at Young High School in South Knoxville left the high school playing field to coach at the college level. He traveled to Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tennessee, where he earned a Master's degree while coaching quarterbacks and receivers. Many have watched from afar as Coach Sparks climbed the ranks to join the elite of the coaching world. Sparks spent a year as head football coach at Morristown East High School. Later, he returned to his C-N alma mater where he had played wide receiver; this time, his position was offensive coordinator and track coach. In 1977, Sparks became the head football coach at Farragut High School in West Knoxville, Tennessee. This is where Sparks and Dagley met up again. From their Farragut days, Dagley remembers Bill Bates as a standout player who also played for The University of Tennessee Volunteers and had a successful career with the Dallas Cowboys; he

remembers Sparks having the football players take ballet classes to help their coordination and balance; and he remembers this Coach who cared so much about the players that he took them to visit Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary to impress on them the importance of staying in school and on the right path to a successful life.

Sparks returned to Carson-Newman in 1980 as the head football coach. This likeable coach has become the face of football at the Christian college in Jefferson City, Tennessee. I wonder if Coach

Sparks, himself, ever imagined he would be where he is today. It is quite fitting that the Ken Sparks Athletic Complex is named for the coach who is now entering his 32nd year of leading young men in football—and life. I had the privilege of talking to one of those young men about Sparks.

Anthony Toribio played for Sparks at Carson-Newman from 2004-2008 before heading to the NFL. He played briefly for the Miami Dolphins and the Green Bay Packers before becoming a Kansas City Chief. Though he is years removed from campus life and miles away from the small college with a serene setting, this giant defensive tackle/nose tackle had no problem remembering in detail Sparks' influence on him. "I had never been around anyone like Ken Sparks who was so concerned about my personal life. He is all about leading young men to God. I will always thank him," Toribio said. No. 98 comes back to visit the Christian Coach during every off-season. As in Anthony's case, Sparks is the kind of coach for whom a mother would want her son to

play. Toribio's mother is the one who swayed him to change his first commitment and instead sign with Carson-Newman.

Former Knox County Superintendent of Schools Allen Morgan, who is also a C-N graduate and was recently appointed Carson-Newman Athletic Director, is already familiar with the head football coach's reputation. "Obviously, Ken Sparks has made a tremendous impact for thirty-plus years at Carson-Newman in the lives of young men and women, particularly those he has coached. More importantly, he has made an impact in their spiritual life. Ken will not take credit for anything; he gives all the credit to God," Morgan told me.

On the Sunday Ken Sparks was a guest at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, he brought over one hundred players on the football team with him. I was impressed with the players' dress and behavior as they filed out of the sanctuary. To have that many young men get up, get dressed, and loaded on two chartered buses is no small feat. It requires even more discipline to travel from one county to another on a rainy Sunday morning in time for the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Senior Pastor Dr. Mike Boyd got a chuckle from the congregation when he shared something his sons told him one day after he had made a comment. "You need to change your stinking thinking," they said. Boyd was taken back a bit until he learned from whom they had heard those words—Coach Sparks!

This all-time winningest coach in NCAA Division II and third in total wins among active coaches in all divisions of the NCAA is set to win game number 300 when the season

starts. Coach Sparks has received some well-deserved honors. He is a member of the South Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame, the NCAA Division II Football Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Hall of Fame, and the Knoxville Hall of Fame. Who could have known that the coach who started his career under the worst possible conditions would rise to such success in his profession! Sparks certainly made his mark early in life. This beloved coach sets a great example for young men, and parents surely appreciate him for it.

Sparks will be guest speaker at the Clear Springs Baptist Church at 8518 Thompson School Road in Corryton, Tennessee, phone 865-688-7674, April 15, with Sunday School starting at 9:00 a.m. To contact Coach Sparks or to learn more about this humble, award-winning coach who knows that winning souls is far more important than winning games, visit www.cn.com.

Coach, here is a special invitation for you. The freshman class during your first year are now known as the Gibbs High School Class of 1972 and will be celebrating their 40th Class Reunion with a covered-dish, April 14, 5-9 p.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 7535 Maynardville Highway (just past Hardee's). Contact Linda Harrell Tunstall for more information at tunstalllinda@aol.com or 865.986.4565.



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Hawks outshoot Devils in brief game

By Ken Lay

The Hardin Valley Academy boys soccer team had a short night Tuesday.

The Hawks recorded a 1-0 District 3-AAA Northern Division victory at Halls in a match that was called just after halftime due to storm threats. The game was delayed after the second half kickoff due to thunder in the area and was suspended a short time later with the Class AAA defending state champion Hawks declared the winners.

The match was declared official at the start of the second half.

Athletic events are normally delayed due to lightning. Lightning, however, never struck at the Halls soccer complex. Fans and coaches were also baffled because the Red Devils baseball game across the parking lot wasn't delayed.

"Baseball never paused," Halls assistant coach Bill Warren said. "By the time they canceled the game, we would've been done if we would've kept playing."

Red Devils head coach Scott Rhea said he wasn't bothered by the

shortened game.

"Now, they've changed the rule and they clear the field when there's thunder," Rhea said after watching his squad fall to 0-2-2 overall and 0-1 in district play. "I'm not upset about this."

Hardin Valley (4-2, 2-0) took the lead when Brandon Roy scored the lone goal of the match in the 31st minute.

The Hawks outshot the Red Devils 7-6 but Halls had some opportunities.

Red Devils forward Shane Feltus, who enjoyed most of his squad's scoring opportunities, missed a chance to tie the game when hit the crossbar on a free kick late in the first half.

"Shane had some chances," Rhea said. "We lost [top scorer] Wade Collins [to graduation] last year and Shane has pretty much taken his place and wears his number."

Rhea also had high praise for goalkeeper, Casey Kitts, who stopped six of seven shots that he faced.

"When Casey is on his game, he's good and he was good tonight."

Cont. from page 1

high school sports."

Pittman, who was recently named Prep Xtra Coach of the Year for the fourth time at Gibbs, has built the Eagles' program from the ground up with the help of assistants Bill Smith, Brian Griffith and Joe Reep. Reep coaches the Eagle Talon Middle School program and Pittman said that has helped the high school team enjoy its recent success.

"We have middle school wrestlers coming into the youth program and now, we have depth," Pittman said.

That wasn't always the case for the Eagles. Pittman took over the program in 2000-01 after serving as an assistant coach to the legendary Chris Vandergriff at Halls and a brief stint as head coach at West High.

During the early days in Corryton, Pittman always coached some talented wrestlers. Until recently, however, the Eagles didn't always have the depth to compete as a team.

"Now, we have 45 kids in our program and we have the depth to compete," Pittman said.

Many of the Gibbs grapplers who

received postseason honors this season will move on. Pittman said, however, that others will step in.

"This is a great senior class and we're going to lose some tough kids," he said. "But our eighth graders [in the Eagle Talon Program] are impressive.

"We'll be able to compete at a high level and I can't wait for the start of next season. I'm jacked up about it."

Other wrestlers to earn all-KIL

included Halls 132-pounder Joe Fox, Webb's Matt Slutzker (145), Central's Maurice Grimes (160), Halls High's Connor Rohrbach (170), Fulton's Steven Wilson (182) and Farragut junior heavyweight C.T. Leavell.

Jones named KIL Coach of the Year: Central High School coach Ben Jones was named KIL Coach of the Year in his second year with the Bobcats.

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Easter and The Masters stir memories of family

Cont. from page 1

little four-room house sat. The house where my great-grandparents built the legacy they would leave to our family - and to an entire community.

Ion Verlin Clapp and Edna Waller Clapp never made a lot of money. They spent their life together in a little two-bedroom house, which as recently as my first Masters memory had no indoor bathroom. They raised eight kids in that house. And through the sheer forces of love and family, it would one day make room for 50 to 60 kids, grandkids, inlaws and outlaws every Christmas and Easter. In the mid 1970s, our family finally grew so large that our Christmas Day celebration was moved to the clubhouse at the Gibbs Ruritan Park.

My great-grandfather was a painter - a tall, lanky athletic man who loved to play ball, have a game of canasta, shoot pool - and gamble a bit. Maybe a bit too much at times. But he was adored by his children until his death in 1981. My great-grandmother, or Mamaw Edny as we called her, had a wit and sense of humor that was positively legendary. She always had a rhyme or a joke or a funny song for every grandkid that would climb up in her lap. Some of them were the kind you had best not repeat in Sunday School - though some of us did anyway.

Mamaw Edny raised eight kids on a meager budget. She taught them the values of thrift, perseverance, humor - and cleanliness. One of my favorite of all Mamaw's sayings had to do with the relationship between poverty and hygiene:

"You can be poor, but you don't have to be nasty," was her motto.

Mamaw and Papaw's legacy they left through their eight children is simply remarkable. Every single one of them, without exception, went on to live successful, productive lives. They remained close throughout their years, though only four of them remain with us. But perhaps the most amazing thing about the Ion and Edna Clapp clan, is that it still bears a distinct family identity in a culture where families are in crisis, and extended families are practically extinct.

And oddly enough on this Easter and Masters weekend, I am reminded that one of the ties that has always bound our family together - is golf. Every Fourth of July, for as long as I can remember, the Clapp family has gathered at a local course for an annual event known as the Clapp Invitational. Some call it the Clapp Open - but if you ain't a Clapp, you will need an invite.

The Clapp tournament has evolved into a family ritual that now takes place every year on the day of our family reunion. It is a rite of passage for the youngsters in the family - now the great-great-grandkids - to play in their first event. The golf is followed by dinner at the Ruritan clubhouse.

Much like the dinners that took place on Easter Sundays years ago while kids gleefully hunted eggs, and grownups watched golfers compete for the game's biggest prize. At a little four-room house on Clapps Chapel Road. The road on which I live.

I always knew I would end up there.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Easter Green

I sometimes feel that my essays arrive too late. I write them the week before they're published and I hope they're still pertinent the next week. With this essay I'm safe because my topic is the green of spring, and it's all around us. I love the *new green* of spring with a hint of yellow which signifies new growth and new life. As I was selecting a tie the other morning I noticed a preponderance of green. Men don't have as many embellishments as our ladies. However, ties are an area where a man can express a sense of style or sport a splash of color. Perhaps style doesn't have cosmic

significance, but I believe taking the trouble to look neat and professional is important in patient care. Why am I attracted to green and why do others prefer blue or red, etc? Some years ago it was popular to have a color analysis. This presupposes that you're not color blind as 7% of men in the US are. I wrote an essay once about color blindness so I won't repeat myself other than to retell my father-in-law's story. Nelson had the most common (red-green) type of color blindness and was once asked, "What's red look like to you?" The ever philosophical Nelson replied, "Well, what's it look like

to you?" Some things are only known by the comparison to a standard. I'm glad that I perceive the full human color spectrum. I say human because other animals don't see the same things we do. The specialized cells called cones in our retinas allow us to see the color spectrum represented by the mnemonic Roy G Biv - Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet - which I taught my kids long ago. Dogs have fewer cones in their retinas than humans and only the primary blue and yellow color photo-receptors. The world looks differently to my dog, Jack, than it does to me. Actually, we visualize only a small percentage of the entire electromagnetic spectrum. As I sit on my porch and write, photons of energy from the sun bounce off the key board and the objects around me, stimulating the cells in my retina. The neural signals are then sent to my brain and I see. I can also feel the warmth of the sun carried in the far infra red spectrum, analogous to the glowing embers of a

fire. And if I'm out in the sun too long the ultra violet end of the spectrum will blister my skin. Scientists use specialized instruments to analyze the electromagnetic spectrum. X-rays (CT), Magnetic fields (MRI) and even ultrasonic beams (sonograms) extend our vision of the body and the universe. I've actually seen a picture of an atom taken with an electron micrograph. I'm sure the ancient Greek Democritus, who imagined a fundamental building block of matter which he said could not be cut (a-tom), would be amazed to see this image. And now we know that atoms are made of ever smaller building blocks. As far as we can see, ever smaller particles emerge until the laws of physics break down among meaningless sub-atomic particles and energies. Quantum mechanics describe this realm beyond our vision. Yet, this reality enables our computers, cell phones and the internet to function. To a Christian, Easter is the most important time of the liturgical year. It's

symbolic of new life and a celebration of the Resurrection. The only aspect of Easter (and spring) that I don't care for is the confusing Easter Bunny and the artificial green filler in Easter baskets. Somehow this grass always escapes the baskets and finds its way into every nook and cranny of the house. I'm sure I'll still be finding the darn stuff this Christmas. Jesus once told a story about the wind and how no one knew where it came from. Well, we now understand that the wind and our weather is a part of atmospheric effects driven by solar radiation. I feel the effects of the sun's radiation and understand that it enables life on our planet and allows me to see the trees bent by wind. Scientists can even explain the physics of vision, but they can't write an equation for beauty or explain what the Romantics called the *sublime*. I don't know why I'm drawn to the color green or why I like contemplating the limits of our understanding and vision. Perhaps, I'm like the moth at the back porch

light seeking warmth and Light. The great Church father Augustine said in the opening lines of his Confessions, "Our souls remain restless until they rest in thee, Oh Lord." Perhaps that's it with me. The philosopher William James is credited with the perspective of pragmatism. He concluded that the rational person is free to choose a faith perspective if it works for him and there's no incontrovertible evidence that it's untrue. The visions of science and faith make the world and life more wondrous for me now, and there is the hope of then.

Doctor Ferguson is accepting new patients. His office is next to Fort Sanders Hospital.

For appointments call Keesha at 865-522-0326.

Do you have a question for Dr. Ferguson? Please e-mail him at jferguson@summithealthcare.com.

Haslam Proclaims April Child Abuse Prevention Month

Last Monday Gov. Bill Haslam proclaimed April "Child Abuse Prevention Month," joining other states and organizations around the country in promoting child abuse awareness and prevention strategies. "Acts of violence and neglect against children are intolerable," said Children's Services Commissioner Kathryn O'Day. "It is the collective responsibility of all Tennesseans to keep our children safe, and it can be as simple as lending an ear to a stressed mother or learning to spot the early warning signs of abuse and neglect. Everyone's participation is critical to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development." Child abuse occurs when a child is injured or put at risk of harm as a result of neglect or mistreatment. Abuse includes physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or psychological harm. Last year, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services investigated more than 60,000

reports of child abuse and neglect. Tennessee law requires anyone with direct knowledge or suspicions of child abuse or neglect to report it to the Department of Children's Services or law enforcement. Identifying the signs of abuse is the first step in helping an abused or neglected child. Common symptoms include malnutrition, poor hygiene, extremes in behavior, age-inappropriate knowledge of sex and unexplained bruises, burns or welts. To report abuse and neglect 24 hours a day call Tennessee's child abuse hotline at 1-877-237-0004. When calling, be prepared with information including the names of the child and the abuser, as well as their relationship and location. For more information on how to prevent child abuse and neglect, visit www.childwelfare.gov/preventing. For more information on the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, visit www.tn.gov/youth.

Knox County Health Department Hosts \$10 Rabies Vaccinations Clinics

Protect your pets without busting your budget. Knox County Health Department and the Knoxville Veterinarian Medical Association will still be offering rabies vaccinations for only \$10 on the first two Saturdays in May - May 5 and 12 - from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at 34 Knox County schools. "Many people don't realize that when an unvaccinated pet comes in contact with a rabid animal it can spread the disease to its human family," said Martha Buchanan, MD, Knox County Health Department director. "That's why rabies vaccination is a public health priority. Rabies is almost always fatal in

animals and humans." Vaccination against the disease is very effective. Tennessee and Knox County laws require all dogs and cats three months of age and older to be vaccinated against rabies, a virus that attacks the brain and spinal column. If untreated, death can occur within days of the onset of symptoms. The best way to prevent rabies is to make sure pets get their vaccinations and avoid contact with stray and wild animals. That includes pets kept indoors, which can accidentally encounter wild animals such as bats. At the vaccination clinics, all pets must be restrained:

dogs on a leash and cats in carriers or pillowcases (a pillowcase is actually preferred because the vaccine can be administered through the cloth). People with aggressive or unruly dogs, or who are otherwise unable to control their dog, may leave the pet in the car and ask for assistance at the registration desk.

May 5:

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Continued on page 2



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Faith

Outward Spiritual Discipline #3:

SOLITUDE

We have been examining spiritual disciplines in this series of articles. The next outward spiritual discipline I want to mention is that of solitude. Solitude is different from meditation (meditation is classified as an inward discipline and we addressed this already). When people think of solitude, they may think of loneliness. While it is good to have alone time, God does not desire us to be lonely. We were made for community. So how does solitude work?

Solitude is planned times for spiritual reflection and discernment in quietness. Today, it is hard to find a quiet place. Perhaps we, as a society, have filled our day with noise to cover pain in our lives. To be quiet means to think and reflect. For many of us, that is difficult. We don't like what we see or hear. But God may be trying to break through your heart with a special word that can only be heard in a quiet place.

I find it interesting that solitude and silence are closely connected. You can get alone for a walk in the mall, but you are not in a quiet place. You can be alone in the woods, but you may be listening to an I-pod or mp3 player. Turn the music off. Get to a place where you can be alone for a few hours with no distractions or interruptions. This is not the time to read a

book (even the Bible) or to pray (prayer and study is part of meditation, which is an important discipline, but it is different from solitude).

In the silence, you will be able to hear God in a fresh way. Keep a pad of paper and a pen nearby because God will speak. I have never had God verbally talk to me, but He has spoken to me in my heart and mind. Jot down what you are thinking and feeling. Perhaps some secret sin will be exposed in the silence. You might be reminded by God of something you need to do, a relationship that needs to be repaired, a situation that is awaiting your spiritual gift, a friend who needs a word of encouragement from you, be it a note, a call, or a text. Just be still and listen.

I want to close with a few possible steps to aid you in the discipline of solitude:

Take advantage of the "little solitudes" that fill our day (a lunch break, getting up early before anyone else is awake, or on the drive to work).

Develop a "quiet place" that is designed for silence (a place inside or outside your residence, or a park).

Discipline ourselves so that we don't talk so much and listen more.

Live a day without any words (try to do this when you are not around many people so they won't think you are being rude).

Several times a year, withdraw for half a day for the purpose of solitude and writing down impressions and thoughts from the Lord (a reorienting of your life's goals).



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

Pray Ye, One for Another

As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet. "A voice of one calling in the desert, Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation." Luke 3:4 -6 NIV We would like to encourage the body of Christ to pray for one another. Salvation: Ann, Tony, Luke, Rick, Matt, Tina, Nina, Lois, Everet, James, Amber, Tracie, Randy, Richard, Brandon, Roger, Lindsay, David, Travis, Charles & sons, Protection: C.J, Jose, Cade, Aidan, Elijah, Blake, David, Miguel, Weslin, Cooper, Matthew, Kyliegh, McGinnis fam, Allen fam, U.S. Military Peace & Strength: Pat, Angel, Brenda, Bobby, Vanessa, Melissa, Angela, Gloria, Jay, Pat, Holly, Linda, Doyle, Doug S, Carol S, Marty S, Matthew, Angela & fam, Woods fam, Hester fam, Lasley fam, Staley fam, Johnson fam, Branch fam, Closer Walk: Archie, Jessica S, Jeff, Charity, Haylee, Frankie, Lorie, Hanna, Patricia, Bobby, Lauren, Rodney, Taylor, Scott, Christian fam,

Seymour fam, Blessings: Dan, Pat, Joy, Tim, Diane, Eric, Scott, Karen, Connie, Sara, Ricky, Brenda, Ronald, Fayola, Sandra, Tasha, Frances, Judy, Josh, Melissa, Buddy, Pacer, Tricia, Lucy, Benny, Blanch, Elizabeth, Ronald, Hettie., Hepperly fam, Richardson fam, Brooks fam, Dearing fam. Stair fam, Haynes fam, Healing: Jordan, Shelly, Holden, Karen, Scott, Destiny, Michael, Ricky, Donna, Merle, John, Mike, Stacy, Hal T, Kristen, Vickie, Brian, John, Reba, Patty, Judy, Elzora, Josiah, Adams fam, Deliverance: Marc, Cynthia, Mike, Eddie, Travis, John W, Larry W, Sherry, Amanda, Bonnie K, Bradley, William K, Napier fam, Unspoken: Tim, Julie, Lea, Jim, Josh, Debbie, Marsha, Shirley, Frances, Rick, Linda, Stacy, Guidance: Joe, Laura A, Chris, April, Trey, Mary, John S, Dennis H, Howard, Tony, Tammy Deonna, Dominique, Sandra, Barbara G, Frankie, Justin, Jewell, Lauren, Taylor, Tee, Emily, Mike, Scott, Hutchison fam, Fernandez fam, Mike, Leah & kids, Kairo Torch Ministries, Stair fam, Taylor fam, God's Church, Would you like to be added to the prayer list? Call 865-766-5051, Text (ONLY) 865-951-8197, or e-mail Vance@PrayYeOneForAnother.org.

Church Happenings

Clear Springs Baptist Church

An Old Time Gospel Singing will take place this weekend at Clear Springs Baptist Church. Everyone is invited to attend. Times are Saturday, April 14 at 7 p.m., Sunday, April 15 and Monday, April 16 at 6 p.m.

Colonial Heights Kid's Closet at 6321 Chapman Highway will hold its spring consignment sale Friday, April 13 10 - 7 and Saturday 8-noon. Clothing, toys, furniture, baby items, maternity, teen sizes and much more.

KFL Outreach

Ministry Presents

The Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon (KFL) will meet April 10, 2012 at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway, at noon. Craig H. Price, the Director of Parks & Recreation for Hamblen

County, will be the guest speaker. You may view his complete Bio at <http://kfl-luncheon.com>.

Seymour First Baptist Church

Rummage Sale for Missions is scheduled for Saturday, April 21. The church is currently collecting donated items for the sale. To schedule pick up or delivery of items small and large, please call the church office at 577-1954.

South Knoxville Church of God

Adult Bible study is Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. in our fellowship hall, with light refreshments available during this service. Our GZ students meet at the "Barn" on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for 6th through the 12th grades. The children's Kid Zone meets at

7 p.m. on Wednesdays for grades K-5th. Please come and join in all that the Lord has for you at the South Knoxville Church of God.

The South Knoxville Church of God is located approximately 1 mile off Chapman Highway at 5623 Magazine Road. For further information, please call 573-4141.

*Have a special event coming up? Share it with your community! E-mail your church announcement to staff@knoxfocus.com today! Listings are considered as space is available, on a first come first served basis. **Camps, festivals and sales are considered advertisements; contact sales@knoxfocus.com for information on how to list these.***

Michael & Delilah Kitts



In Concert Singing Your Favorite Gospel Songs including "Everything I Need"

When: Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Where: New Beverly Baptist Church
3320 New Beverly Church Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918

Info: Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor
865-546-0001 or reveddie@newbeverly.org
www.NewBeverly.org

Directions: I-640 to Exit 8. Go north on Washington Pike to Greenway Drive light (Target). Turn left. Church is 1/4 mile on the right.

**Don't miss Michael and Delilah in Concert!
No admission charge, but a Love Offering will be taken.
Don't Miss It!**

Rabies Vaccinations Clinics

Cont. from page 1

Gresham Middle
Halls Elementary School
Inskip Elementary
New Hopewell Elementary
Northwest Jr. High
Powell High School
Rocky Hill Elementary
South Doyle High
Sunnyview Elementary
West High School
Beaumont Elementary

May 12:

Anderson Head Start Center
Bearden High School
Brickey Elementary
Carter Middle
Cedar Bluff Primary
Chilhowee Elementary

Christenberry Elementary
Copper Ridge Elementary
Gibbs Elementary
Hardin Valley Elementary
Karns Intermediate
Mount Olive Elementary
Norwood Elementary
Ritta Elementary
Shannondale Elementary
West Hills Elementary

Clear Springs Baptist Church
Choir & Orchestra
OLD TIME GOSPEL
Singing 2012

Saturday, April 14 - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 15 - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, April 16 - 7:00 p.m.

Clear Springs Baptist Church
8518 Thompson School Road
(865) 688-7674
www.clearspringsbaptist.net
Rev. Jerry Vittatoe, Senior Pastor
Mike Tipton, Director of Music

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Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. · Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Where Christ is Making a Difference in Our Lives and in Our Community



1950

Here I am again, delving into the past. The reason for that is I was rummaging in my "box of potpourri" and came across some items I don't need and some that I cannot bear to part with. This will be a short column because I am just using some items of interest--well, they are interesting to me and I hope the one I am writing about today will be interesting to everyone who is reading this. In the year 2000 my graduating class had our fiftieth reunion. Here are some thoughts about the year 1950:

President: Harry S. Truman
 Vice-President: Alben W. Barkley
 Historical Snapshots:
 The first color TV sets entertain viewers. The new Cadillac features a curved one-piece windshield. Drive-in movies are so popular their numbers have doubled in the past year.

Anniversaries:
 100 years ago, California became the 31st state in the union.
 50 years ago, Hawaii officially became a territory of the United States.
 The value of a dollar:

Coca-cola--five cents
 Bayer Aspirin--fifty-nine cents
 Vaseline--79 cents
 Bicycle--\$44.95
 Trivia:
 "Mona Lisa" and "Goodnight Irene" are musical hits.
 "The Gun Fighter" and "Broken Arrow" are in the movies.
 "South Pacific" and "Guys and Dolls" are on Broadway.
 The Milton Berle Show and Six-Gun Playhouse are on TV.
 And on this date:
 Morgan Fairchild, the actress was born on February 3. Bill Murray was born on September 21. Markie Post was born on November 4.
 Well, these facts really took me back in time. You will have to remember that these facts were popular in the area where I lived, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They probably would be different for other parts of the country. But, we've come a long way, baby!
 Thoughtforthe day: Life can be only understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards. Soren Kierkegaard, Danish author and philosopher
 Send comments to rosemerrie@att.net. Thank you.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

House to Home

Oriental antiques

This week I would like to talk about Oriental arts and antiques and its basic vocabulary and to touch on areas we will be learning about in many future articles. As the Orient itself is so large, I will briefly break down the basics by nationality.



By Carl Sloan

Let's start with Japan. Here art and religion go hand in hand for the most part with Shinto Buddhism and the cultures of that nation. The Chrysanthemum is considered sacred and reflects heaven and even, in later times, the emperor himself. You will see the chrysanthemum motif of a round flower, usually pink with many fine petals, appearing on pottery, costumes, architecture and even in government documents. Other motifs of Japan are the white stork or heron, warriors of the Samurai clan, spiritual wise men and wedding scenes.

Japanese art tends to reflect the delicate beauty of nature and spirituality. Their pottery is categorized into several styles that you will need to know. Ages of items found today are generally from modern times - which to Japan is 1920 to present. Before that the so called last dynasty was called Meiji (mee -gee) which goes from 1890 to the 1920s. Meiji era antiques are very collectible and can command a superior price. Types of Japanese pottery and china are often based on the area that they were made. Nippon simply means "Japan" so on modern chinaware labeled Nippon it is the country. Moriage (Mor - ee- ahgee) is a particular area in Japan and often increases a piece's value when marked on Nippon china with an M. Styles of pottery are called names by patterns.

The Imari style generally shows women, people and common scenes such as a Pagoda or small bridges, usually in red and black. This was a popular export item even to the Americas in the 18th century. Satsuma and royal Satsuma style pottery are covered with crowded scenes of warriors or wise men in panels and many times are gilt. These figures will look as they are conversing and telling a story which is actually the case. Chinese art has some motifs in common with Japan, but also has its own style. Here motifs go by the Jasmine flower, warriors, scenes of common folks and nature scenes. Here the tiger, dragon, bull and carp are seen, as well as the pearl and moon which represent the earth and universe. Both Japan and China are famed for their carving of ivory, wood and jade as well as fine silk with tiny stitches called blind stitches as it was hard wear on the eyes to produce. Oriental art is usually



This fine gilded Nippon vase is late Meiji era to early Modern 1915-1920 and sold recently at auction for \$144.75 and I believe to be a great investment.

fine art though now can be mass produced. I highly recommend investing in hand painted fine Japanese art pottery such as Nippon 1900-1930 as these items are selling cheaper than before and that will surely change in the future, in my opinion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sterchi News
 The next PTA meeting is Monday, April 16 at 6:00.
 Congratulations to Sterchi's top AR point earners for the third nine weeks: Jeremy Parrott, Amani Patel and Olivia Sharp.

Captain W. Y. C. Hannum Chapter meeting
 The Captain W. Y. C. Hannum Chapter #1881, United Daughters of the Confederacy will meet at the Green Meadow Country Club in Alcoa on Saturday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. Brunch will be served at 10:00 followed by the program and business session. The program will be "Civil War Music & History of Musical Pieces" presented by Conny Ottoway. Visitors are welcome to attend.

Cost of Brunch is \$15.00. For reservations or more information, please contact Elaine Clonts Russell, 865-980-6346 or Debra Wilson, 865-856-9300.

ETTAC: A Sense of Darkness, a dinner in the dark
 If you ever wondered what it would be like to be blind and try to eat at a restaurant, the East Tennessee Technology Access Center will offer you a chance to do so. Come explore your other senses and share fine food, fellowship, and entertainment. Music will be provided by Emmanuelle Lo, a twelve-year-old nationally recognized singer and songwriter who is blind and who expresses her gifts through her music.

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine will hold its annual open house Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The free event will take place, rain or shine, on the UT agricultural campus, located on Neyland Drive. Children are encouraged to bring their stuffed animals to the Teddy Bear Clinic for veterinary students to examine. Guests will learn about dog bite prevention and tour exhibits featuring small animal medicine, large animal medicine, community organizations, and pet rescue groups. The anatomy lab with various skeletons and plastinated specimen is always a crowd favorite. Canine parade of breeds and dog agility demonstrations are scheduled

throughout the day. Guests can also enjoy learning about various cat breeds. Due to construction and expansion of the equine and large animal hospitals at the UT Veterinary Medical Center, there will not be equine or farm animal parades of breeds this year. No registration for individuals is necessary. Please do not bring pets to the open house. Groups of 15 or more are asked to visit the "frequently asked questions" section of the website at www.vet.utk.edu/openhouse for further guidelines. The self-guided tour begins at Hollingsworth Auditorium and continues through the Veterinary Medical Center. The veterinary open house is held each year

to better acquaint the public with veterinary medicine and services provided at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, which was established in 1974. Visit www.vet.utk.edu/openhouse for additional information. One of 28 veterinary colleges in the United States, the UT College of Veterinary Medicine educates students in the art and science of veterinary medicine and related biomedical sciences, promotes scientific research and enhances human and animal well-being. In addition to the programs of the College of Veterinary Medicine, the UT Institute of Agriculture also provides instruction, research and public service through the College of Agricultural Sciences and

Natural Resources, the UT AgResearch system of ten research and education centers and UT Extension offices in every county in the state.

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 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
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Slow Cooker Beef Pot Roast

- 2 to 3 lb pot roast
- 1 dry pkg Good Seasons garlic dressing
- 1 dry pkg Italian or zesty Italian dressing
- 1 can beer (not dark)

Place one envelope of dry mix in bottom of slow cooker. Place meat on top and sprinkle with other packet of dressing. Pour beer over all. Let cook 8 to 10 hours on low. You may thicken juices to make a great gravy. Just mix 2 TBSP flour with 1.2 cup cold water until smooth. Pour juices into a sauce pan and stir in flour mixture. Bring to a boil, stirring. Serve with mashed potatoes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cont. from page 3
The Sense of Darkness dinner will be held Thursday, May 3rd from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Knoxville at The Foundry, 747 Worlds Fair Park Drive. To reserve a seat, please call (865) 219-0130 by April 30th.

Fontinalis Club meeting
Fontinalis Club will meet on Thursday, April 14, 2012, at Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, 5364 N Broadway. Board Meeting: 9:30 a.m., Coffee Hour: 10:00 a.m., and General Meeting: 10:30 a.m. The speaker, Juanita Vann, will present "Culture- What Is It? Where Can I Buy It? When I Have It, How Do I Use It?" Club members will have lunch at The Chop House following the meeting.

Reservations for the May Spring Installation Luncheon will be accepted at the meeting. Deadline for reservations is May 4th. Payment in advance is appreciated.

Fountain City Business and Professional Association meeting
The FCB&P will meet Wed. April 11, at noon at the Central Baptist Church in Fountain City. The month's speaker is National Speaker and Author, Brian Hilliard. He will speak on "Building a Word of Mouth Business Through Social Media."

KAUL workshop
The Knoxville Area Urban League is holding a workshop on "How to Take Control of Your Job Search," Thursday, April 12, 2012, 9-11 a.m. To register or for more information, call 865-524-5511.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
How can you bring joy, peace and spiritual growth to others? Volunteers are needed to help with our patients in the Knoxville area. Enrich YOUR life while enriching others in your community. Training provided. Call Smoky Mountain Hospice (Knoxville) today 673-5877 or 800-358-7844.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Volunteers Portable Moving and Storage, hereby publishes notice, as required by Tennessee Self-Service Storage Facility Act (TN Stat. 66-31-101- 66-31-107) of a public sale of the property listed below to satisfy a landlords lien. All sales are for cash to the highest bidder and are considered final. Volunteers Portable Moving and Storage reserves the right to reject any bids, Auction is to be located at: 10155 Gallows Point Drive Knoxville, TN 37931 and will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday April 24, 2012

Bell, Jim 8039B110: Hill, Penny 106B110: Howell, Brian 198B110: Newman, Charles 245B110: Summers, Jessica 36A110: Contents include but not limited to: Household items, books, exercise equipment, stereo equipment and more

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Colonial Heights Kid's Closet at 6321 Chapman Highway will hold its spring consignment sale Friday, April 13 10 - 7 and Saturday 8-noon. Clothing, toys, furniture, baby items, maternity, teen sizes and much more.

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1 Knoxville in bloom

April 9

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Market Square Art Fair

One of Dogwood Arts Festival's most cherished traditions, the Market Square

WHERE: Market Square, Downtown Knoxville
WHEN: April 13 - 15
TIME: Friday & Saturday: 10 am - 8 pm and Sunday: 11 am - 5 pm
HOW MUCH: Free

every corner, from street performers to a children's stage to an all-day

Art Fair transforms downtown Knoxville into a lively street fair with high-quality arts and crafts booths, demonstrations, entertainment, and festive food.

lineup of bands on the Market Square stage. In addition to Market Square's own selection of unique cafés and eateries, Art Fair-goers will have their pick of a wide variety of food vendors.

An event the entire family will enjoy, the Market Square Art Fair showcases the original work of more than 70 local and regional artisans. Taking place in the heart of downtown Knoxville, this juried event brings together a range of talented artists and artisans who will be on hand to share their wares with the community. Live entertainment lies in wait around

Market Square, located in the center of downtown Knoxville, was the site of the city's original marketplace, established in 1854. With the Art Fair, Market Square's identity as the city's communal centerpiece carries on into the 21st century.



**April 6, 2012 -
March 8, 2013**

Founded in 2007 by Edward Mannis and

Bart Watkins, Art in Public Places Knoxville began as a dream between two friends who were also Board Members of Dogwood Arts. Both men are avid appreciators and collectors of art. Through their travels they had seen impressive public

Continue on E6

Save this Spring with the 2012 Ridge Card!



The 2012 Ridge Card's Price is \$99⁹⁹ + tax.

Benefits include a complimentary round of golf the day of purchase and then 20% off any regular priced green fee and cart fee.

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Historic Homes of Knoxville Spring Bus Tours on April 14

Visit Multiple Public Historic Homes during the Dogwood Arts Festival

As an Official Activity of the Dogwood Arts Festival and in celebration of the wonders of springtime and the rich heritage represented in the six historic homes located within Greater Knoxville, two three-hour bus tours will be offered on Saturday, April 14, 2012. The Morning and Afternoon tours feature a step-on tour guide who

will discuss points of interest and history as well as highlight historic landmarks in and around Knoxville. The tours stop at each historic home for approximately 50 minutes, allowing guests to tour the homes, grounds, and gardens.

The Morning Tour, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., begins at Blount Mansion, 200 W.

Hill Avenue (www.blountmansion.org) and includes visits to Marble Springs Historic Farmstead (www.marblesprings.net), and Crescent Bend House & Gardens (www.crescentbend.com)

The Afternoon Tour, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., begins at James White's Fort, 205 E. Hill Avenue (www.jameswhitesfort.org) and includes visits to Mabry-Hazen House (www.mabryhazen.com) and Ramsey House Plantation (www.ramseyhouse.org)

Free parking is available at both Blount Mansion for the Morning tour and James White's Fort for the Afternoon tour. A one hour lunch break is scheduled between the Morning and



A visit to the Mabry-Hazen House will be part of the Afternoon Tour this Saturday.

Afternoon tours for guests who may wish to attend both tours. Seating is limited and reservations are required. The cost is \$20 (plus fees) per person per tour. Proceeds from the tour will be dedicated to a fund for marketing and promoting the Historic Homes of Knoxville. To make reservations, please call 865-523-7521 or visit www.KnoxTIX.com. For additional informa-

tion on the Historic Homes of Knoxville, visit www.hhknoxville.org. This tour is generously sponsored by Knoxville Tours.



A visit to the Crescent Bend House will be part of the Morning Tour this Saturday.

Well maintained and updated. Hardwood floors, stainless apps, updated baths, light fixtures, paint and much more. Den with fireplace, fenced back yard and two car garage. Ready to move into! Mls 789213 \$159,900



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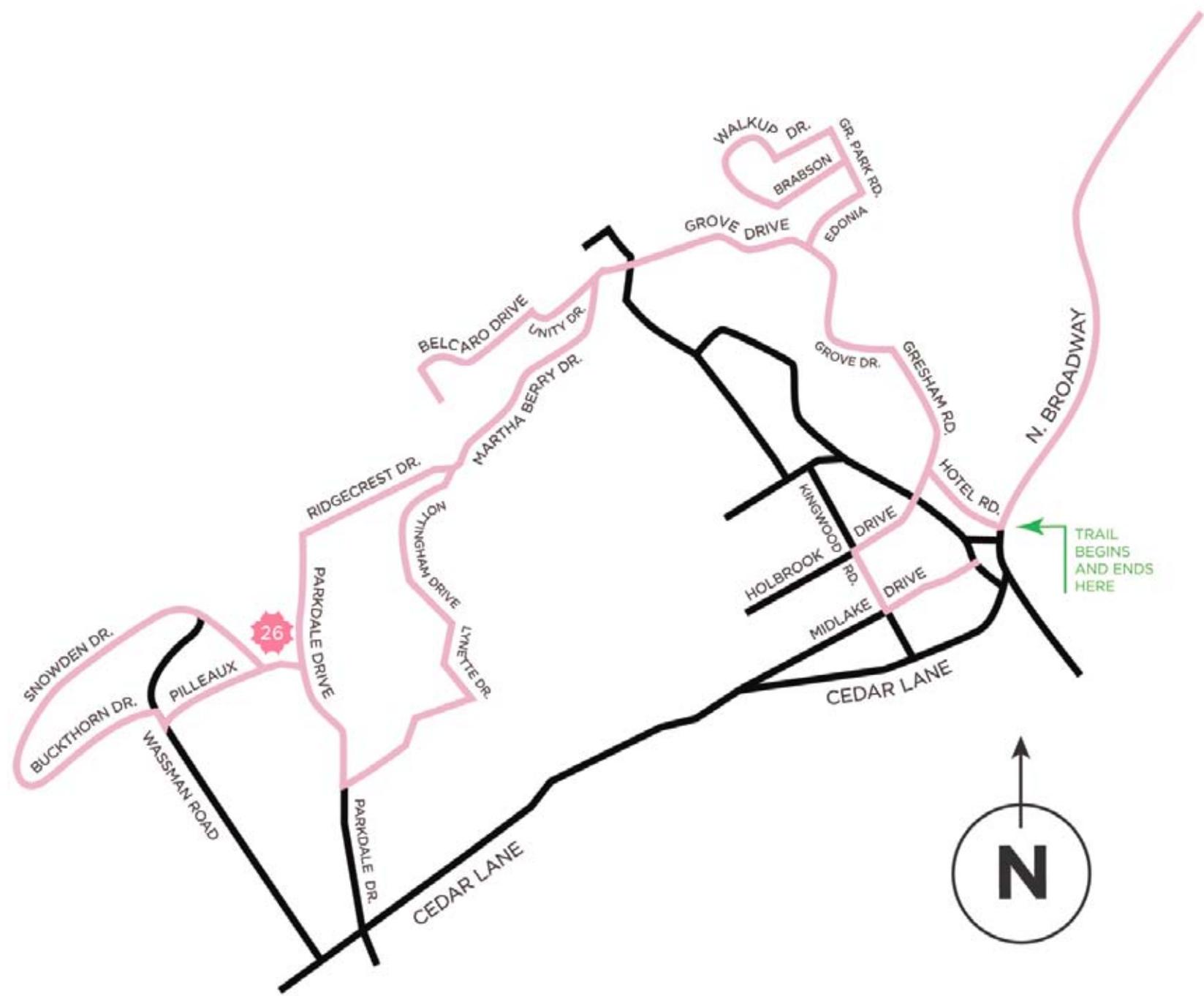
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FOUNTAIN CITY (WEST)

TRAIL BEGINS AND ENDS AT HOTEL AVENUE/WEST SIDE OF BROADWAY

* Note that the bloom graphic on the maps denote Featured Open Gardens as detailed on Page 8

The Purple Leaf

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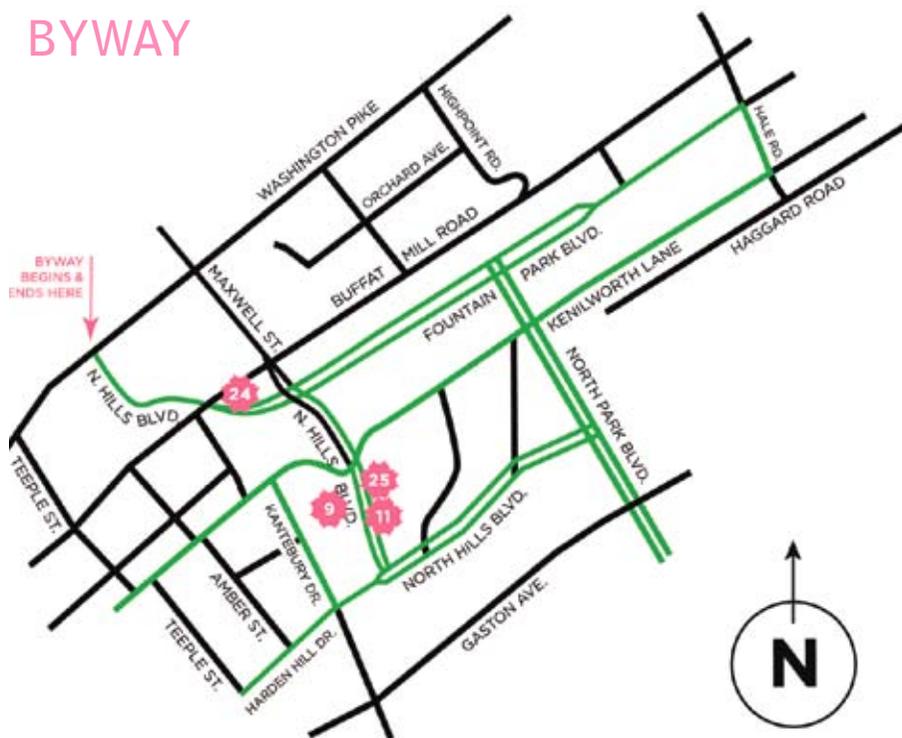


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Art in Public Places

Continued from E2

art work exhibited in cities throughout the country and recognized its transformative power to express the soul of a city, enliven the streetscape, and contribute to civic pride. They also believed that large-scale, outdoor art work helped identify a place as an arts destination, thus supporting the entire creative culture of that city. So, why not Knoxville?

Today, no matter whether you are one of the 2.5 million residents and visitors passing through the McGhee Tyson Airport, or the 13 million that LIVE,

WORK, and PLAY in downtown Knoxville throughout the year, your path will be graced by masterful sculptures by contemporary artists showing in Dogwood Arts' featured exhibition, Art In Public Places Knoxville. The exhibition presently on view in Downtown Knoxville and McGhee Tyson Airport is an interesting and inspirational collection of works by sculptors from the Southeast region and from across the nation and was selected and awarded by internationally acclaimed sculptor, John Henry.

Legend of the Dogwood

As a child I heard this tale, Long ago during the days that Jesus was here on earth in the form of man there were many dogwood trees. The dogwood was comparable in size to the oak tree and other monarchs of the forest.

Because of its firmness and strength it was selected as the timber for the cross, but to be put to such a cruel use greatly distressed the tree.

Sensing this, the crucified Jesus in his gentle pity for the sorrow and suffering of all said to it: "Because of your sorrow and pity for My sufferings, never again will the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth it will be slender, bent and twisted and its blossoms will be in the form of a cross two long and two short petals.

"In the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints brown with rust and stained with red and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see this will remember." ~ Author Unknown

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Letter to the Editor

An error was made in the information given to *The Focus* concerning the "Mystery Painting" awarded Best of Show at Ftn. City Art Guild's Spring Show. There is no mystery at all.

The photographer who took the photo which I, Sarah Weber, used as inspiration for my painting "Walk This Way" has traveled extensively. She has much knowledge about the animals she photographs and can readily identify most of the wild animals of Africa.

She explained the differences between hippos and rhinos. Hippos travel in packs of 10 - 40 and do not come out of the water during the daytime in order to protect their skin from sunburn and to avoid contact with predatory land animals. At nighttime they come out of the water to graze along the river banks. They have a rounded back.

Rhinos travel in pairs, sometimes with a calf, preferring the bush country. They have a definite raised spine.

So, according to the survey, 90% of those questioned identified the rhinos correctly.

Sarah Weber



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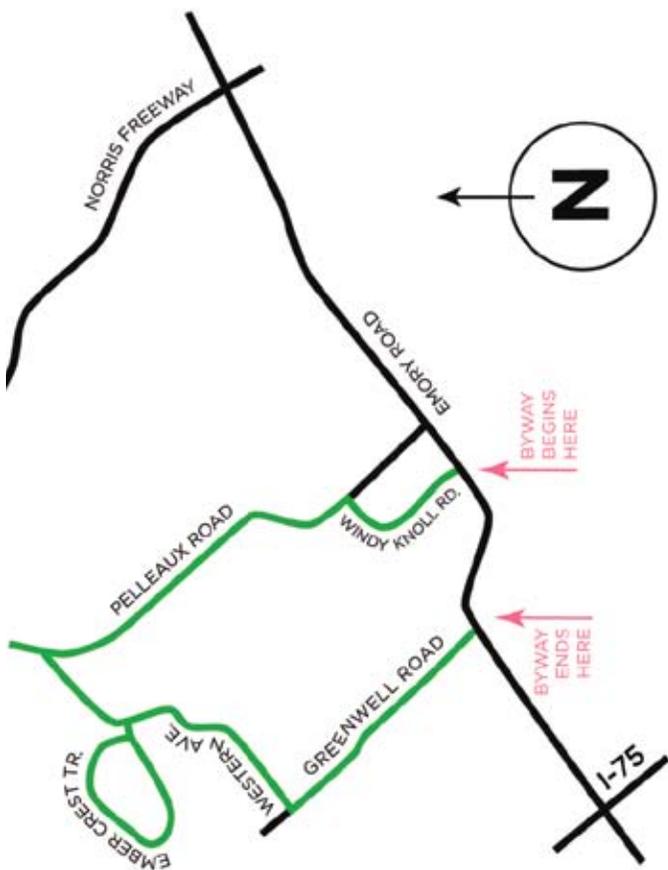


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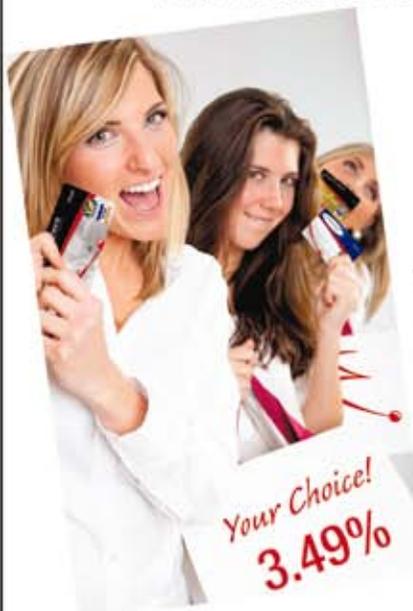
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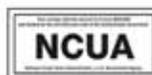
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FEATURED OPEN GARDENS in this week's issue:

Fountain City (West)

RESIDENTIAL CAMERA SITES

Open April 11-30 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily

26. Doug and Oda Wyatt

5901 Parkdale Road, 37912 (Ft. City-Panorama)

North Hills Garden Byway

RESIDENTIAL OPEN GARDENS

Open April 11-30 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily

9. Lloyd Ronnie King

1629 North Hills Boulevard, 37917 (North Hills)

11. Kevin Fincher & Jonathan Repass

1624 North Hills Boulevard, 37917 (North Hills)

RESIDENTIAL CAMERA SITES

Open April 11-30 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily

24. Stephanie and Art Clancy, III

1816 North Hills Boulevard, 37917 (North Hills)

25. Patrick O'Laughlin & Nicole Houle

1628 North Hills Boulevard, 37917 (North Hills)

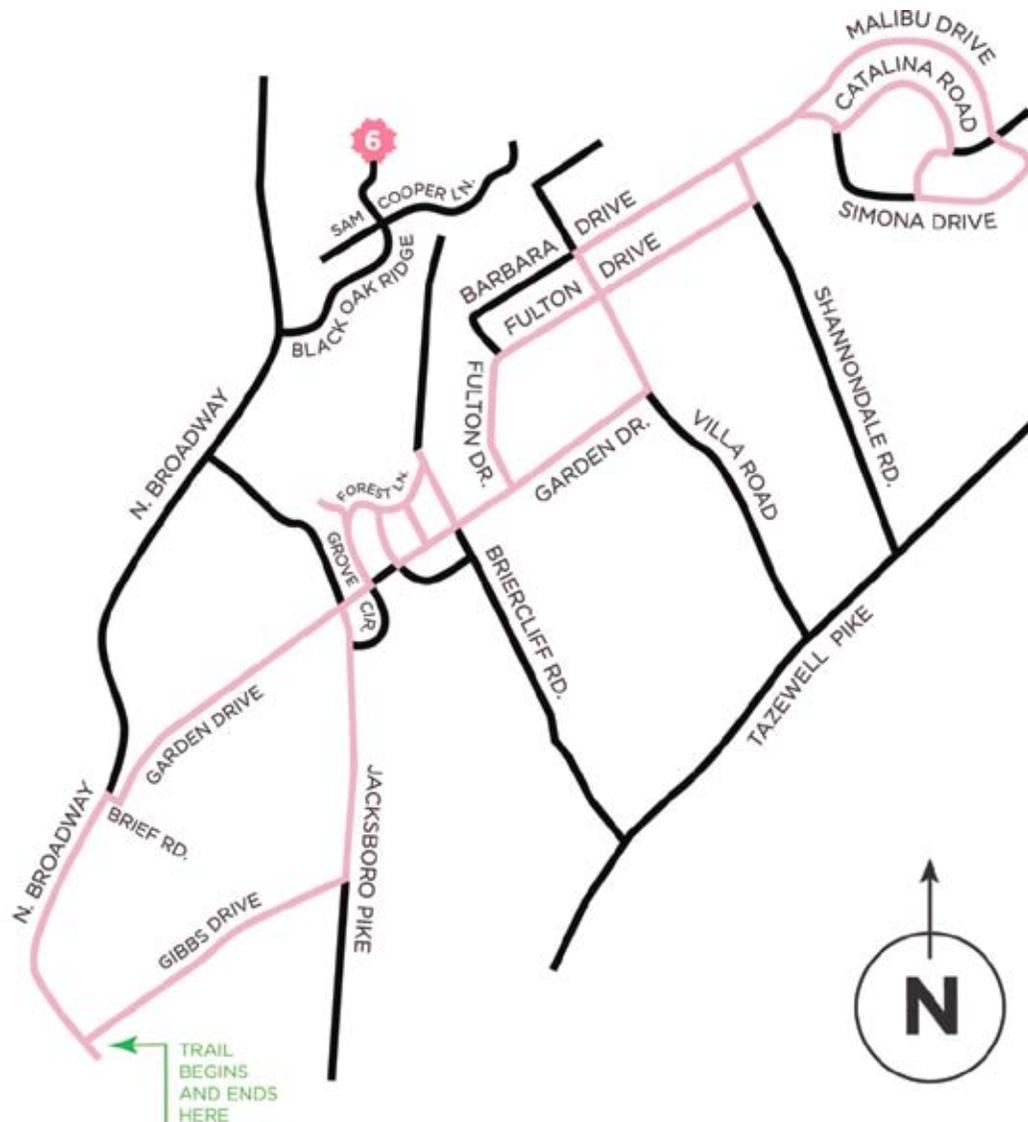
Fountain City (East)

RESIDENTIAL OPEN GARDENS

Open April 11-30 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily

6. Bill and Ginger Baxter (many varieties of dogwood)

3901 Sam Cooper Road, 37918 (Fountain City)



FOUNTAIN CITY (EAST)

TRAIL BEGINS AND ENDS AT GIBBS DRIVE



Trail and Garden maps courtesy of Dogwood Arts Festival. Dogwood Arts Festival is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to help support arts education in our schools, promote the visual and performing arts, and to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of our region.