



# The Knoxville FOCUS

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MONDAY  
December 3, 2012

**FREE- Take One!**

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## FOCUS Weekly Poll\*

**In your opinion, should the federal income tax rate be raised at this time?**

**YES 18.62%**

**NO 81.38%**

Survey conducted November 29, 2012.

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

# Safety a factor in proposed JWPE

By Tasha Mahurin  
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

The list of officials and organizations opposed to the proposed extension of the James White Parkway continues to grow. To date Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, Knoxville Vice-Mayor Nick Pavlis, the Urban Wilderness Arts and Trade District, Ijams Nature Center, the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, and the editorial board of

the Knoxville News Sentinel have all expressed opposition to the extension.

According to a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which both TDOT and the Federal Highway Administration signed off on in September, if the plan to extend the James White Parkway from Moody Avenue to the intersection of Chapman Highway and Gov. John Sevier Highway is executed, more than 60 homes and as many as five businesses would be

impacted. However, the statement also maintains that if no action is taken, increased traffic and air quality concerns along Chapman Highway would continue to rise.

While the majority of the opposition to the proposed extension has been related to its potential impact on South Knoxville's Urban Wilderness Project, safety is a concern for those who support the extension.

TDOT tabulated crash rates for Chapman Highway

from the Sevier/Knox County line northward to the Tennessee River for a 3-year period from 2007 to 2009. Overall, there were a total of 1,243 crashes over the three year period, which resulted in 10 deaths and 466 injuries

The majority of crashes occurred during the evening commute period between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Information gathered during the study indicated based on the types, locations, and severity of the

crashes, that they were overwhelmingly contributed to by the number of traffic signals and relatively high volumes of traffic carried by the roadway, which results in congestion and backups at each light, especially during peak travel times.

"Crash rates and severity of crashes along portions of Chapman Hwy are substantially higher than statewide averages for similar roadway types," TDOT spokesman Mark Nagi told *The*

**Continued on page 4**

## Congressman Duncan to Chair Sen. Alexander's 2014 Campaign

Sen. Lamar Alexander told members of the Republican State Executive Committee Saturday that Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr., will chair his 2014 re-election campaign.

Alexander said, "Jimmy Duncan is a strong conservative voice for fiscal discipline. I am grateful that he will chair my campaign and that so many of the state's other Republican leaders will be honorary co-chairmen."

"Our country has serious problems to solve," Alexander said. "We must fix the debt and move more decisions out of Washington. We must find better ways to help Americans move from the back of the line to the front in our struggling economy. It is time to stop making speeches and to start getting results."



Sen. Lamar Alexander announced that Congressman Duncan will chair his re-election campaign at a press conference in Alcoa Saturday.

## Powell High School teacher named as State Ambassador

By Tasha Mahurin  
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Kristy Starks-Winn, an English teacher at Powell High School, was one of fifteen teachers selected by the Tennessee Department of Education to participate in the new Rewards Schools Ambassador Program.

The fifteen teachers named to the Reward Schools Ambassador Program each come from 2012 Reward Schools, the top 10 percent of schools in Tennessee for performance and progress, and will work with neighboring schools in each region to improve student achievement and reduce achievement gaps.

"The Reward School Ambassadorship is a humbling honor. I could never have earned this position without the hard work and support of the staff and administration of PHS," Starks-Winn told *The Focus*.

The new program enlists highly effective teachers from the state's top schools to share best practices and help improve student achievement across the state.

"I'm excited about this new challenge, and I'm looking forward to bringing our school's best practices to other schools in the state of Tennessee," Starks-Winn added.

All teachers who earned an overall "5," the top score on Tennessee's teacher evaluations—were nominated by their schools and selected for this year-long, paid position through a competitive application and interview process. Reward Schools whose nominees were selected into the ambassador cohort will also receive a \$20,000 grant to further their educational programming.

"There are schools in Tennessee that have shown impressive growth and reached high levels of performance thanks to their effective approaches to instruction and training. We want to make sure that other schools can learn from what's working for them," said Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman. "It's in the best interest of Tennessee students that our schools and districts share this kind of information and knowledge. The department is doing more to facilitate opportunities to learn from each other."

# Comcast Christmas at Chilhowee Lights Up The Holidays

A forest of lighted trees floating on a lake welcomes visitors to Chilhowee Park, where guests can celebrate the holiday season as part of "Christmas in the City."

Presented by Comcast, the winter wonderland at Chilhowee Park featured musical performances, free pictures with Santa Claus, hot cocoa and more for children of all ages on its opening night last Friday.

The Park is open to nightly self-guided driving tours through January 1, 2013.

Other sponsors for



Comcast Christmas at Chilhowee Park include WVLTV Channel 8, Knoxville News Sentinel, Q93.1 FM, Krispy Kreme, Kroger, Rita's and the Salvation Army.

Additional upcoming "Christmas in the City"

activities include the annual Downtown Parade and a window-decorating contest.

On Friday, Dec. 7th, the WIVK and McGhee Tyson Airport Christmas Parade will run through the streets of downtown Knoxville

beginning at 7 p.m. One of Knoxville's favorite Christmas activities, the parade will consist of decorated vehicles and floats, marching bands and dancers, and a special appearance from Santa Claus himself.

More than two dozen downtown businesses have decorated window displays that the public can vote on through Dec. 14. To see a directory of participating businesses, a map and to vote, please visit the City website at [www.cityofknoxville.org](http://www.cityofknoxville.org).

# McMillan Questions Lack of Driver's Ed Programs

By Focus Staff

East Knox County's member of the Board Of Education, Mike McMillan, is wondering why some high schools offer driver's education while others do not.

"I got interested in this and started getting some questions from parents in the district," McMillan explained. "It's kind of difficult to explain that yes, there

is a driver's ed program at Gibbs High School, but there isn't one at Carter High School."

McMillan says that about half the high schools in Knox County have a driver's ed program while the remainder don't. McMillan said it is his understanding when the schools were facing cutbacks the administration allowed individual principals to determine whether they would

have driver's ed or the money would be spent elsewhere.

"Very frankly, I don't think principals should be deciding whether they have driver's ed in their particular school," McMillan said. "You end up with inequities, as we have in East and Northeast Knox County."

McMillan went on to say he believed curriculum and fundamental courses should

be within the purview of the Board of Education.

"I've written the Superintendent about this and I want more information," McMillan said. "I expect to raise this matter before the Board. It's just not right that some schools have driver's ed while others don't. And it surely doesn't need to be at the whim of a principal."

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# Celebrating the mystique of December



By Richie Beeler

If you read this column with any regularity, you know that I am unabashedly in love with the fall season. Watching autumn come to its unofficial end every Thanksgiving is a rather melancholic affair around my house. Recently I wrote an article praising the glory of the season, and in particular pointing out the many unparalleled virtues of the month of October. I still maintain it is the greatest month on the calendar here in East Tennessee. But it isn't the only one I find worth writing about.

Despite my love of October and all that comes with it, I must admit there is something uniquely wonderful about December. Why, it's Christmas of course, you must be thinking. Well...yes and no. To be sure the Christmas season (which now begins at Thanksgiving) is unlike any other time of year. It carries with it a certain warmth, depth of emotion and sentimentality that definitely set it apart. But it isn't just Christmas that

makes December special in our part of the world.

It is the first true month of winter in our region. While the season doesn't officially begin until the winter solstice around December 21st, meteorological winter actually starts on December 1st. Of course around here, the start of winter doesn't always equal cold, which I'm sure you know if you're reading this on Monday or Tuesday. But for the Great Tennessee Valley, December generally means the first opportunity for an exciting phenomenon we occasionally experience - snow.

Yes, it can snow in November, and even October as we recently found out. In fact one of the biggest and most paralyzing snowstorms ever to hit Knoxville came on November 21-22, 1952 when a 24-hour record of 18.2 inches of snow covered the city. But such events are extremely rare, and most natives know that the first legitimate chances at snow for the area are not going to come until the calendar flips to December.

Though we often associate December with cold weather, the month has produced surprisingly few memorable snow events. Both January and February are historically snowier, and March has seen

considerably more big snows. But it isn't just the onset of winter that makes December exciting. There's another element that has a strange but mystifying effect. The darkness.

December is the darkest month of the year. Even in places like East Tennessee, where the effects of time zones allow daylight to last longer in the evening, the dark is difficult to escape as the winter solstice approaches. The morning daylight created by the return to standard time in early November has also receded. But while darkness might seem a depressing specter at other times of the year, it carries with it a certain excitement in December.

There is something exhilarating about seeing street lamps adorned with red and green already spilling their light onto the sidewalks when the work day comes to a close. Trees and shrubs adorned with festive lights dot the cityscape, and then the country lawns, on the commute home. And hearth light, not sunlight, warms the house.

December is the time when people gather indoors. The almost simultaneous arrival of cold and darkness puts many outdoor activities on hiatus. What results is often a

more intimate, personal type of conversation and camaraderie than might be found on the golf course or at the lake. Family and friends seem to take on their most heightened level of importance.

As December enters its final days, so also does the year. This turning of the calendar often invokes in us deep feelings of personal reflection. It is at this time of year that we ask the questions, 'who am I' and 'where am I going.' More often than not, such questions evolve into January resolutions. They can, if applied in the right way, even produce lasting life change.

To the ancients, December brought with it the festivals of the winter solstice. And though it took place at the darkest time of the year, Yule - as the Celts referred to it - was not a celebration of death, but of life.

These ancient peoples knew that once the darkness reached its peak in December, the sun would faithfully begin his journey back to them, bringing the promise of spring and the hope of life renewed. Much like the hope brought by the light that pierced the darkness of a Bethlehem night more than 2,000 years ago.

And that is the hope December is all about.

## FOCUS Weekly Poll

**In your opinion, should the federal income tax rate be raised at this time?**

**Yes 18.62%**

**No 81.28%**



By Age	Yes	No	Total
18-29	[None]	100.00%	1
30-49	11.86%	88.14%	59
50-65	21.94%	78.06%	196
65+	17.74%	82.26%	265
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.62% (97)</b>	<b>81.38% (424)</b>	<b>521</b>

By Commission District	Yes	No	Total
1	30.00%	70.00%	30
2	19.64%	80.36%	56
3	24.00%	76.00%	50
4	20.51%	79.49%	78
5	23.44%	76.56%	64
6	16.36%	83.64%	55
7	14.29%	85.71%	77
8	8.47%	91.53%	59
9	17.31%	82.69%	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.62% (97)</b>	<b>81.38% (424)</b>	<b>521</b>

By Gender	Yes	No	Total
Unknown	11.11%	88.89%	18
Female	18.18%	81.82%	264
Male	19.67%	80.33%	239
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.62% (97)</b>	<b>81.38% (424)</b>	<b>521</b>

Survey conducted November 29, 2012

# A Christmas Wonderland for Children

The days of fall are fleeting, and harvest festivals are wrapping up for another year. Rocky Top has sounded a final time in Neyland Stadium, and the recent Thanksgiving weekend continued the tradition of parades, family dinners, and Knoxville's Fantasy of Trees.

This year marked the 28th Annual Fantasy of

Trees which benefits the East Tennessee Children's Hospital. Hundreds of volunteers and corporate sponsors transformed the Knoxville Convention Center into a children's fairyland filled with a forest of glistening trees and twinkling lights.

Many trees were decorated by school children from Luttrell to Loudon. The "forest" was dimly lit except for the tree lights and a big, beautiful carousel. There was plenty to see, such as the gingerbread village and magnificent fireplaces; and there was plenty to do in the activity areas where children could make an

ornament, decorate cookies, or have their face painted. The professional displays provided scenic backgrounds for family photos - making the perfect Christmas card. It was delightful just to stroll through the trees and enjoy all the festive sights and sounds of Christmas.

The Fantasy of Trees has become a family tradition for many. One mother we recognized told us she started bringing her son when he was in a stroller. We saw her son, now a handsome young man, with his lovely wife. As we left the building, we saw a young couple with their darling twin daughters and two precious newly adopted daughters. They even brought the grandparents along. The mother told me that she still has ornaments that she made at the Fantasy of Trees! I do not know how the adopted daughters from a foreign country celebrated Christmas,

but the Fantasy of Trees is a great place to start making a memory for this year's Christmas! I imagine there will be four "special" ornaments on this family's Christmas tree this year!

While the event is fun and festive, the underlying goal is to raise money for Children's Hospital.

The Fantasy of Trees event, including the sales of those beautifully decorated trees, ensures thousands of dollars to help the very youngest among us. It seems fitting that the Christmas season, which celebrates the birth of a baby born in Bethlehem, is started each year by Knoxville's Fantasy of Trees—with children as the center of its mission.

There are many opportunities during the coming weeks to enjoy the Christmas season, and many of them are free. Though the spirit of Christmas lives in our hearts all through the year, church programs



2012 Fantasy of Trees

and nativity pageants are, also, wonderful ways to celebrate the Christ child's birth. Spend time with family and

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# Publisher's Positions Whatever Happened To Equal?



**By Steve Hunley,  
Publisher**  
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There was a time when the word "equal" predominated the political landscape. It may have been surpassed in recent years by the word "transparent," but one still hears "equal" every so often. Of course now it seems when one hears the word "equal" being applied to a group or special interest, it has less to do with genuine equality than it does in providing superior rights.

The school system is supposed to provide **equal educational opportunities** for all students.

During a recent meal with East Knox County's Board of Education member, Mike McMillan, I was shocked to discover that not all high schools in Knox County are offering driver's education.

Apparently a few years ago the school system was having yet another of its regular financial crises and some schools dropped the driver's ed program. This decision was left in the hands of each high school principal, each of whom had the authority to determine if the money used to fund driver's ed would be better spent elsewhere.

Only half of the high schools in Knox County are now offering driver's ed; Carter, South-Doyle, Karns, Powell, Bearden and West don't have a driver's ed program any longer. Farragut, Austin-East, Central, Halls, Fulton, Gibbs and the Hardin Valley Academy all have driver's ed courses.

However, despite the supposed financial crisis having ended, none of the driver's ed programs were restored at the various high schools.

In fact, since that time, the school system has received significant increased revenues. The last was a windfall of some \$14 million, which the Board of Education spent in one meeting. Nobody I know seems to know if there has been any discussion about restoring the driver's ed programs at ALL high schools.

The Superintendent asked for a significant tax increase this year, but there was nothing in his budget or a word spoken about restoring driver's ed at all our high schools.

The schools are spending over half a billion dollars every year now, yet apparently only half of our high school principals run their schools effectively enough to manage a driver's ed program. The others are either not that efficient or don't think having a driver's ed program is all that important.

Frankly this is a decision above the pay grade of a high school principal. This is a decision that should be made by the Board of Education. Obviously equality

doesn't exist when some high schools have driver's ed and some don't. If you're unfortunate enough to live in South Knoxville, your child doesn't have the option of taking driver's ed while in high school. On the other hand, if you are fortunate enough to live in Farragut, you're in luck and your child would have no need of a private driving school class.

With all the impassioned rhetoric about "enrichment" and a host of similarly impressive sounding terminology, some folks have evidently forgotten the need for some courses which are just fundamental. Regardless of how much children learn, how much good does it do them if they don't know how to drive? Many youngsters want and need part-time jobs to be able to afford their automobiles and insurance, as well as require a vehicle to continue their education.

A legitimate driver's ed course helps youngsters to learn to drive safely and has the extra added benefit of reducing already high

premiums for insuring them as drivers. For those parents unlucky enough not to live in the right community, they must resort to private driving schools to derive the benefit of reduced insurance premiums. Yet, those parents are paying another \$350 - \$450 out of pocket for something parents in other parts of Knox County get for free. That is a fact that the Superintendent and Board ought to remember when they are asking the County Commission to jack up the tax rate. The increased taxes wouldn't even be equalized when some parents are paying for the cost of their child's driver's ed course, while other parents are not.

For anyone wanting to take the position that it is different from school to school: do you really imagine for a moment if Austin-East had no driver's ed program while other high schools did, would there not be an outcry about discrimination and inequality? Of course there would be and there should be.

We haven't reached the

point in our society where everyone can get about on a bicycle. Pretty much everyone drives these days. As long as half the high schools in Knox County have a driver's ed program and half do not, the school system is not fooling anyone about equality. Once the special ed children are subtracted from the basic courses, there is likely no other course through which virtually every child will pass through besides driver's ed.

Many parents may likely presume driver's ed isn't being offered at any high school in Knox County. It's time for the Board of Education to start doing its job; individual principals shouldn't be determining what courses are offered at their respective schools. The Board needs to change its policy. It's all or nothing at all.

That is, if you actually believe in true equality for everyone.

## The Art of Polling

**By Steve Hunley,  
Publisher**

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Polling voters is oftentimes an inexact science. If anyone doubts that, they have but to look at the polls conducted during the recent election. Polls forecast much closer races in many instances throughout the country. For instance, just before the election, internal polls had Congressman Allen West leading by five points; he lost, albeit it narrowly.

I could just as easily cite any number of other polls which had it wrong; but there were also competing polls that got it right. In an age where just about everybody has a computer, we find that many of those same folks are online touting their own opinions on blogs, threads and the like. I don't spend a lot of time reading such things, but friends will occasionally point something out to me and I am frequently amused by the dark theories espoused by some folks who apparently have a lot more time on their hands than I do.

For those folks who think

*The Knoxville Focus* polls are published to push any particular agenda, sorry to tell you, you're dead wrong. Nobody has been more surprised than I have been by the poll results time after time. When *The Focus* posed the question about nonpartisan elections in Knox County, a very good friend of mine told me he thought the results would show broad support for the idea. I scoffed that while that might be true for folks inside the City of Knoxville, I didn't believe for a moment the people in the county precincts would buy into it. Boy, was I wrong! I was stunned by the results of the poll, but the results were published for all to see.

Like any other human being, I can guess what the results might be, but again, I could be right and sometimes I can be wrong. Whether my guess is correct or my reaction is surprise, the results are always published.

Engaging the public should be the responsibility of any good publication and *The Knoxville Focus* is committed to doing just

that. The poll has proven to be an extremely popular weekly feature of *The Knoxville Focus* and we try and ask questions that are of interest to readers, as well as timely.

Far too many people in this country and county are disengaged and don't participate. The recent mayoral election in the City of Knoxville amply demonstrated the continuing drop in voter participation. The number of people voting in city elections has steadily declined over the years to the point where it has become all too easy for campaigns to target voters. The recent presidential election demonstrated a similar pattern with both the Obama and Romney campaigns targeting the so-called "swing" states and little else. Both campaigns poured in considerable resources and tens of millions of dollars to influence undecided voters. Likewise, the mayoral election in the City of Knoxville saw record expenditures, except perhaps for the first mayoral campaign of now-Governor Bill Haslam.

The mayoral election

also featured the novelty of forums all across the City of Knoxville. The forums became something of a laughingstock despite the good intentions of some who proclaimed these forums would generate more interest and higher voter turnout. The forums occurred in just about every imaginable form and it soon became clear every special interest and neighborhood group sought to legitimize their own existence by hosting a forum. The faces were startlingly similar at just about every forum and by the time it was done it was clear to just about any thinking person, the first ten would have sufficed. Not only did it not increase voter turnout and participation, but may have had precisely the opposite effect in turning people off.

Involving folks in participating in elections, public questions, and our community is a good thing. Asking folks their opinion is a step, hopefully, toward increasing participation. *The Knoxville Focus* has devoted a lot of attention to South Knoxville since acquiring the South

Knox-Seymour Times and will continue to do so. The question of extending the James White Parkway is a hot topic right now in South Knoxville and apparently there are quite a few folks who feel strongly about it one way or the other.

Yet, there appear to be some self-appointed folks who have designated themselves the high command in South Knoxville. As far as I know, none of these self-appointed guardians are originally from South Knoxville; they just settled there. Naturally, hailing from other points in the country, they seem to believe they are far smarter than the native South Knoxvilleans in whose midst they live.

Most of these folks seem

to be good government proponents on the face of it, but they operate their own neighborhood associations like dictators, banning their own members from their own online forums. The leadership of these neighborhood associations never seem to change and they clearly don't welcome outside opinions, even those from residents in the communities they claim to represent.

When polling results don't conform to our own thinking, it is all too easy to reject the poll as biased or somehow defective. Evidently it doesn't occur to some there are other people in the world and our own opinions don't always reflect the thinking of the majority.

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# FOCUS MORE ON Seymour & South Knox

## Gov. John Sevier Hwy. development update

By Tasha Mahurin  
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Over the past several months, South Knox County residents have continually expressed frustration related to the commercial construction taking place along Gov. John Sevier Hwy. which is designated as a 'scenic' by the state and zoned for agricultural development.

The issue was brought to the forefront when Ricky Adams, who owns the property at 3210 W. John Sevier Highway, began commercial construction on the property. Adams, represented by attorney Arthur Seymour, had previously requested a land use designation that would allow for a potential rezoning of the property. MPC has recommended that until such time that a zoning overlay is adopted; additional commercial land use plan designations and zoning within the corridor are not advisable due to the public's interest in preserving the scenic nature of the highway.

Gail Wood, who owns the adjoining property, says the commercial construction has negatively impacted both her property value and peace of mind.

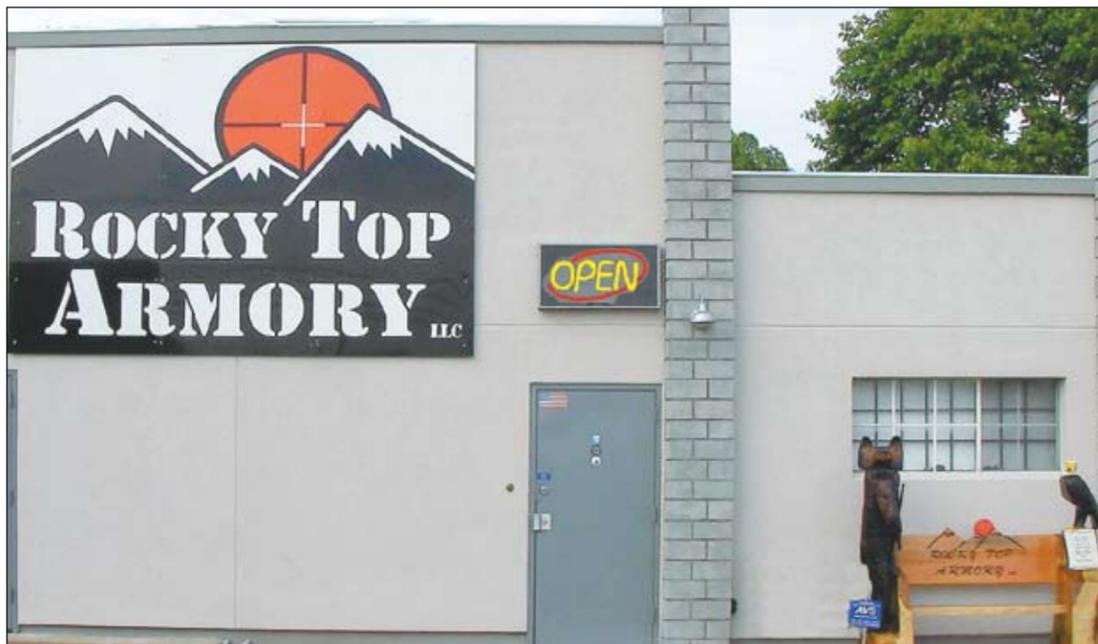
"My property values have been negatively impacted, and I can see and hear John Sevier traffic now," she told *The Focus*.

Although he was previously given the green light from the county for the construction, earlier this month, Knox County Codes Enforcement served Adams with a Notice of Violation. The notice gave Adams until November 26 to remove all equipment from the property so that the county could perform a re-inspection on November 27.

Additionally, Adams is being fined \$50 per day for every day he remains in violation. "The other issue here is the county permit process... One of the big problems in my case is that Engineering gave Adams a Permit that noted the property zoning was Agricultural, and the future intended use as Commercial. The permit was in violation of the County's own rules," Wood added.

At the November 19 Commission meeting, South Knox Commissioner Mike Brown related that he had spoken with Arthur Seymour and it was his understanding that Adams did not plan to challenge the Notice of Violation and that Adams had decided to rent out the property as a residence. Seymour could not be reached for comment.

The South County Sector Plan remains under debate among Knox County Commission.



Rocky Top Armory, LLC is located at 10924 Chapman Highway, Seymour, TN 37865.

## Gun store looks to expand in Seymour

Rocky Top Armory, LLC a Unique Gun Store in Seymour has now been open for two years. Owner Chris Clepper says, "The response to us opening here in the South Knoxville-Seymour area has been tremendous. We are now seeing customers coming from many miles away to purchase firearms from us. Our customers have been very pleased with the variety of our firearms and the quality of our services."

An Indoor Shooting Range is in the plans to be built in 2013. Clepper says, "One thing every customer tells us is that they want an indoor shooting range in South Knoxville-Seymour. Rocky Top Armory, LLC has the location, we have the plans, and we have the staff. What we need are a few additional investors and then South Knoxville-Seymour will have an indoor shooting range. If you want a solid return on your investment consider investing in a known money maker and give us a call. There are only a few slots left."

Rocky Top Armory, LLC has in stock more than 500+ firearms, from AR-15, (Colt, Bushmaster,

Armalite, Palmetto Armory) AK-47, Glock, Smith & Wesson, Springfield, Rock Island Armory, Diamond Back, Taurus, Bersa, Mossberg, H&R, F&N, Remington, Marlin, and many others. Rocky Top Armory, LLC also custom builds ARs to your specifications.

Another service that Rocky Top Armory, LLC is to sell your guns and ammo on consignment. They can sell one gun or your entire collection. If you want to receive the most cash for your guns this is the best way to get it. They sell to the public and we sell on Gunbroker.com. Rocky Top will also buy your gun and pay more for it than ANY pawn shop will pay. They check ALL guns for being stolen and also accept FFL transfers at a reasonable fee.

Rocky Top Armory, LLC also has an on-site gunsmith to repair any gun.

Rocky Top Armory, LLC can be contacted at (865) 573-7924, on the web at [www.rockytoparmory.com](http://www.rockytoparmory.com), on facebook at [www.facebook.com/RockyTopArmory](http://www.facebook.com/RockyTopArmory).

## Safety a factor in proposed JWPE

**Cont. from page 1**  
*Focus*.

Traffic safety was one of the concerns identified by the Chapman Highway/James White Parkway Task Force first appointed to study the issue. After identifying the basic issues and transportation needs in the Chapman Highway corridor, assessing various options/solutions to those problems, and gathering input from the public, the majority of Task Force members believed that there was both a purpose and a need for extension of the James White Parkway south from Moody Avenue to Governor John Sevier Highway. They also stated that safety of the transportation system could be enhanced by creating a divided highway with full access control. However, due to the potential environmental impacts, an EIS study was requested by

officials and approved in 2005, with a final draft completed earlier this year.

"The Task force identified the need from increasing demand for a better commuter route for the fast growing areas of southern Knoxville County and the Seymour portion of Sevier County which could be addressed by the James White Pkwy," Nagi explained.

TDOT has scheduled a public meeting to be held at South-Doyle Middle School

on December 6, at 5:00 p.m.

While those opposed to the extension have garnered a great deal of media attention regarding the matter, those who would like to see the project come to fruition have also contracted TDOT for more information.

"Individuals have communicated asking how they can make their approval known about the project. They have been directed to make written statements

via the comment sheet available at the meeting or to write in to the address below after Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> post marked by Jan. 4, 2013 to make their opinion part of the official record," Nagi explained.

Those comments can be mailed to: Public Hearing

Comments, ATTN: James White Parkway DEIS, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 700, James K. Polk Building, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0332.

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Seymour Christmas Parade kicks off with two Grand Marshals

Join the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) on Saturday, December 8th at 4:00 p.m. for the 19th Annual Seymour Christmas Parade. This year's parade will feature two Grand Marshals, WBIR's Darin' Erin Donovan and Kelsie Jones. The parade route begins at Valley Grove Baptist Church and will head east following the southbound lanes of Chapman Highway, where it ends in the Seymour Kroger parking lot. Spectators can view the parade at any point along the south side of Chapman Highway.

It's not too late to register your group, club, or organization for the parade. Stop by SVFD's station one at 101 Ford Hill Lane to pick-up registration forms; they can also be dropped off at the station or mailed in. The cost is only \$20 per float, vehicle, motorcycle, or group of walkers and \$10 per animal. This year judging will take place along the parade route instead of before.

The Seymour Christmas Parade is sponsored by the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department and is a not-for-profit community event. All the proceeds of the parade will benefit needy families in the Seymour area. If you have any questions, please contact SVFD at (865) 573-7475 or stop by station one.

**Happy Holidays!**

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PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Knox County Commissioner Dave Wright and Knox County Parks and Recreation Director Doug Bataille met with other community partners at Mascot Park to thank EXEDY America Corporation and First Choice Community Credit Union for their donation of two basketball goals at the park.

## Knox County thanks community partners for basketball goals

On Tuesday, Knox County Commissioner Dave Wright and Knox County Parks and Recreation Director Doug Bataille met with other community partners at Mascot Park to thank EXEDY America Corporation and First Choice Community Credit Union for their donation of two basketball goals at the park. These goals are part of the only all-age access basketball court in Knox County, which make it easier for kids of all heights and sizes to get out and exercise.

"On behalf of EXEDY America Corporation we hope that our contribution

will benefit all surrounding families who have allowed us to continue to do business in this community for over 18 years," said Human Resources Assistant Manager Ben Metz.

"We are so happy to have been involved in the Mascot park project this year and pleased to have donated the basketball goal to the community of Mascot," said FCCCU Chief Executive Officer Mike Hayes. "As a community credit union we strive to help our communities be a better place to raise our children and also be proactive in their health and

safety."

Mascot was named one of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities target areas by the Knox County Health Department. For over two years, Mascot has received support and encouragement to improve the overall health of its community by eating healthier, creating better places for play and becoming more active. The issue of limited resources for recreation and exercise was addressed with a new park plan from the East Tennessee Community Design Center after meeting with the Greater Mascot Area Community Group.

Along with the donations

from EXEDY America Corporation and First Choice Community Credit Union, other groups involved in the park improvements include: Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities, Knoxville Area Coalition on Childhood Obesity, East TN Children's Hospital, East Knox County Elementary School, East Tennessee Community Design Center, Greater Mascot Area Community Group, Girl Scout Troop 20553, Knox County Health Department, Knox County Sheriff and Knox County Parks and Recreation.

## Local REALTOR Achieves National Recognition



Patrick F. Michael

Patrick F. Michael with Wood Agency Realtors has been awarded the Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES) designation by the Seniors Real Estate Specialist Council of the National Association of Realtors.

Patrick F. Michael joins a select few real estate professionals in North America who have earned the SRES designation. All were required to complete a comprehensive course in understanding the needs, considerations, and goals of real estate buyers and sellers aged 55 and older.

The SRES Council, founded in 2007, is the world's largest association of

real estate professionals focusing specifically on representing senior clients.

Michael has been an affiliate broker with the Wood Agency for more than 16 years and also holds designations as a Historic Home Specialist and an Accredited Buyer Representative.

The Seniors Real Estate Specialist Council may be contacted at SRES@realtors.org or by visiting the SRES website WWW.SRES.ORG.

Patrick F. Michael can be contacted at Wood Agency Realtors 865-577-7575.

## Q & A with Anita Lane

Tasha Mahurin discusses Knoxville's hospitality industry and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce with Hampton Inn & Suite's general manager Anita Lane.



Anita Lane

Last week we discussed Knoxville tourism with Mayor Tim Burchett. As someone inside the industry, what brings people specifically to Downtown Knoxville for an overnight stay? (i.e business, sports, recreation)

Truly, all of the above are good business draws for our Downtown hotel. We're blessed to be located right between the University of Tennessee and the Downtown business district so we have a bit of all of the above mentioned during the normal year. We are primarily a business hotel during the week and then host a bit of group business on the weekends such as weddings, sports groups, event groups, etc.

What sets Hampton Inn & Suites apart from other downtown hotels?

A number of things make us different in our market. For starters we're a small hotel with 85 guest rooms so we're able to deliver a level of service that many consider to be more individualized. We're also the first Green certified hotel in Knoxville so you know we care about our community. We're the only hotel with microwaves and refrigerators in every guest room and we're also the only hotel with Whirlpool suites in Downtown Knoxville. 30 of our 85 guest rooms are actually studio suites so we can offer more room to accommodate families or folks who just like to spread out a bit more. Finally as a focus service hotel we are all running the hotel together as a team so any member of our Hampton family can help you with any question or concern you may have. We like to say we're in the hospitality industry not the hotel business and we try to live that out as a hotel family every day.

You were recently appointed to the board of Visit Knoxville. What do you hope to contribute to Visit Knoxville and their mission to promote the area?

Since our first actual board meeting isn't until next week it's hard to know yet what work needs to be done to support Visit Knoxville. My hope is that we'll learn more about that work from our Board chair, Bo Conner and the organization president, Kim Bumpas, in our first meeting. As far as the overall mission is concerned I think it will be easy to help contribute since I spend a large part of my day talking to folks who AREN'T from Knoxville. I trust that once I know what work needs to be done I'll be able to find a part of that work which I can be passionate about.

Speaking of promotion, you also now chair the membership committee for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of East Tennessee. Give our readers an idea of the scope of the Hispanic business community in our area, and opportunities that exist within the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Quoting specifically from our HCCET material I can tell you this... "According to a recent study released by the University of Tennessee, Tennessee

**Continue on page 4**

# Parkview Senior Living

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3. Convenient to the park

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Sensibly designed with the active senior in mind, Parkview, an independent living community, offers the opportunity for residents to enjoy life to its fullest. Whether it's enjoying all the activities and amenities or finding a quiet place to reflect, Parkview has thought of everything.

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.

Parkview

Parkview Fountain City, 5405 Colonial Circle, Knoxville, TN 37918, 865-687-0033, www.pvseniorliving.com



Passport Homes resident Danielle O'Brian and her small son accept a box with all the supplies for a Thanksgiving dinner from Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) administration and staff. Each year, KCDC administration donate a turkey to each property, and property staff bring in the fixings for a complete Thanksgiving dinner. In addition, O'Brian received food for her small children, including oatmeal, jello and pudding.



Ann Wallace from the Redevelopment Office spoke to the public on form-based code during a public meeting last Thursday. She went over proposed changes to the administration section of the form base codes for the City of Knoxville. This would impact the existing Administration Section of the South Waterfront Form Base Development Code and future Form Codes for the City of Knoxville, such as Cumberland Avenue. The next step in this process will be to bring the proposal to MPC for a recommendation to City Council.

Photo by Dan Andrews.

## Knoxville Has Stronger Recovery Than Most, Report Says

The Brookings Institute, a private nonprofit group that conducts independent research, released a report last week that found Knoxville to be one of three cities in the country to have fully recovered from the recession.

The report, called "Global MetroMonitor 2012 Slowdown, Recovery, and Interdependence," identified seven world regions, including 76 U.S. metro areas. In addition to Knoxville, Brookings found that Pittsburgh and Dallas have also recovered.

"This is a great indicator of how Knoxville is doing when compared to other cities nationwide," said

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero. "While we are elated about the findings of the report, we know there is still work to be done to grow and attract quality jobs to our area and we are working hard with our many partners to accomplish that."

The report looks at 2011-2012 data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita and employment change, among other factors. There were 300 metropolitan areas worldwide that were analyzed.

To see the study in its entirety go here: <http://www.brookings.edu/about/programs/metro/global-monitor-2012>.

## Too many throw aways

We're a blessed nation. Even truer, we're a spoiled nation. No other country has it quite as good as we Americans do. Part of that has to do with our personal possessions and how we deal with them. Nothing seems to last anymore.

At one time in another universe, folks got along with one pair of shoes. As kids, Jim and I wore orthopedic shoes. Mother and Daddy scraped up the money for them with the understanding that we boys took care of the shoes. Our clodhoppers were polished on Saturdays for church the following day. Woe unto the boy who tramped through water or mud that stained or damaged the leather.

Oh, we had canvas tennis shoes, and when they became too worn or short, the toes were cut from them so that they could serve for summer. Older pairs of shoes saw after-school duty.

These days, we throw shoes out like empty tin cans. If they aren't in style or don't feel good, out they go. I'm ashamed to admit how many pairs are in my closet. Perhaps I could have them re-soled when holes appear, but shoe repair stores are rarer than hen's teeth.

The same holds true for clothes. As a kid, I had a couple of pairs of jeans, maybe a pair of dress slacks, and a few shirts. I'd wear those clothes until the next school year. If a hole in the knees developed, a patch was sewn over it.

These days, most of us have more clothes than we need. I'm no different. A dozen pairs of slacks, four pairs of jeans, and shirts for all seasons stuff my closet. Do I need all these things, especially since I no longer have to show up at a place of work? NO! Still, I buy at least a couple of new shirts each year, just for a change. The old are thrown out or given to a charity.

I bought a Pathfinder in 1987. To this day, it still sits in my driveway and hauls me to the golf course and to the home improvement store. The interior is rough, and just the other day, the headliner came loose. I drive that old vehicle because it runs well, and since it's filled with so many memories, I simply can't let it go.

I've also owned a second car...several times. I believe I'm on my fourth one. Just like lots of folks, I change cars too often. One was a truck that guzzled too much gas. Two others I passed along to my children, and just recently, I replaced one give away with a sedan. Somehow, we Americans think it's okay to just throw away cars when they no longer appeal to us and trade them with for newer, flashier ones.

Amy and I built this place we call home back in 1978. Over the years, we've added rooms as our family has grown and porches as our desire to sit outside has increased. It's home to us, and although the place isn't stylish or filled with the most updated items, we love the way it fits us like a favorite pair of shoes.

My parents built their home in the early 1940s and even made the blocks for the house after a day of work. They planned to stay there forever and did until their time on this planet was up. Today, people buy starter homes with every intention of buying at least a couple bigger ones in the future. It's hard to sink roots deep when folks move so often.

We throw away too many things. It makes our lives more complicated and eats up resources. That worries many people. What concerns me even more is the having the same attitude about our relationships. We jump into them much too quickly, only to find ourselves discarding them when they don't work or fail to live up to expectations.

Our existence in this life can be more pleasant and more meaningful if we just quit throwing things away. Keeping them, taking care of them, and being thankful for them will provide more available cash, more stability, and, in the end, more contentment.

## Long-standing mental health centers plan merger

The Helen Ross McNabb Center, Inc. (HRMC) and Fortwood Center, Inc. of Chattanooga, Tenn have signed a letter of intent to merge. The merger is contingent on the State of Tennessee Attorney General's approval.

HRMC and Fortwood are long-standing community mental health centers in Tennessee. Fortwood has operated as a community mental health center since 1946 and is a prominent nonprofit in the Chattanooga area. The organization has provided outpatient mental health services to both children and adults during its existence.

"Fortwood plans to merge its operations with the Helen Ross McNabb Center because we are similar in our service organization and delivery. We also share the same mission which will allow a smooth transition for the more than 1,000 children and 2,000 adults served annually by Fortwood," according to Fortwood President/CEO, Earl Medley.

Helen Ross McNabb Center will

continue providing mental health, substance abuse, housing, psychosocial and expanded behavioral health services in Hamilton County. Through the merger Fortwood aims to continue its mission and expand needed services in the region.

"The Helen Ross McNabb Center is pleased to announce its planned merger with Fortwood. Under Earl Medley's leadership, Fortwood is recognized for providing quality care to its neighbors in the Chattanooga community," says Andy Black, HRMC CEO/President. "The Helen Ross McNabb Center plans to add services that will enhance the continuum of care historically provided by Fortwood."

Fortwood's Board of Directors believe that the merger will provide a strong platform for growth in the future for providing timely access to care and the best treatment and support possible for seriously emotionally disturbed children and mentally ill adults in the community.

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# Robert Rice Reynolds of North Carolina

Pages from  
the Political  
Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

In a time when the South had some of the most flamboyant politicians in the country, few exceeded Robert Rice Reynolds of North Carolina for his flair. Over time, Reynolds's penchant for flair degenerated into buffoonery, a condition few politicians can successfully survive. Bob Reynolds was from Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina and soon was widely known as "Buncombe Bob" for more than his home. Reynolds was frequently married and flirted with fascism in a region that was perhaps the least isolationist in the entire country.

Reynolds was born June 18, 1884 and began practicing law in Asheville. Reynolds was the prosecuting attorney for Buncombe County from 1910-14 and the experience only whetted his appetite for higher political office. Reynolds sought the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina in the 1924 primary but lost. Undeterred by his defeat, Reynolds was soon campaigning for the United States Senate two years later against incumbent Lee S. Overman, the first person ever to be popularly elected to the Senate from North Carolina. Senator Overman easily defeated Bob Reynolds, but Reynolds proved to be quite persistent. Overman died suddenly on December 12, 1930 and former governor Cameron Morrison was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Morrison was a stately man and, while not born to wealth, had married a widow who was quite wealthy. Morrison was a man of distinguished appearance with the courtly manners expected of a successful Southern politician. Bob Reynolds saw his opportunity and when Morrison came up for election in 1932, Reynolds challenged him for the Democratic nomination. Bob Reynolds had been preparing for another bid for public office long before the 1932 senatorial primary. Reynolds loved to travel and he regularly sent back colorful post cards from various cities across the globe to literally thousands of friends and acquaintances across North Carolina. Virtually nobody gave Reynolds much of a chance to upset Senator Morrison in the primary, but the crafty Reynolds, styling himself as "Our Bob" rather than "Buncombe Bob", proved to be an exceptional political showman at a time when many North Carolinians were suffering extreme deprivation due to the Great Depression.

The opportunity for Bob Reynolds to reach his goal of being elected to high office in North Carolina had



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Senator Robert Rice Reynolds with his young bride Evalyn McLean

its origins four years earlier. Furnifold M. Simmons was North Carolina's senior United States Senator and the leader of the political machine that had been the strongest force in state politics. Simmons had refused to back the Democratic presidential nominee in 1928, Governor Alfred E. Smith, a wet, New York Catholic who was unpopular in much of the South precisely because of his religion and stand against prohibition. Simmons's defection and support of Republican Herbert Hoover proved to be a fatal political mistake. Simmons was defeated in 1930 by Josiah W. Bailey, but Simmons was still in office when President Herbert Hoover nominated a North Carolinian to serve on the Federal Power Commission. Hoover's nomination of Frank R. McNinch, a loyal member of the Simmons machine who had also left the Democratic Party to back Hoover, proved to be wildly unpopular with most North Carolina Democrats. Senator Simmons naturally supported McNinch, while Senator Overman died of a heart attack before expressing his own opinion publicly. That left Cameron Morrison in the uncomfortable position of coming out against McNinch's nomination and McNinch was a personal friend of Morrison's as well. Senator Morrison, in office for merely a few weeks, announced he would support McNinch's appointment, which weakened him considerably in the coming election.

Morrison had attracted two other opponents in the Democratic primary besides Bob Reynolds, but all supported prohibition save for Our Bob who perversely loudly denounced prohibition as a failed experiment. Reynolds also contrasted being a "poor" man against the wealth of Senator Morrison's wife. Although Morrison had a reputation as an indefatigable campaigner, the tobacco-chewing senator soon found himself decidedly on

the defensive.

Bob Reynolds campaigned in a worn out Model T and deliberately wore suits of clothing that had seen far better days, yet another contrast to the wealthy Senator Morrison. Reynolds cleverly utilized a few props for his speaking engagements, one of which was a menu from the restaurant of Washington's elegant - - - and expensive - - - Mayflower Hotel. Senator Morrison lived at the Mayflower while in Washington, D. C. and at every campaign event, Reynolds put on his theatricals - - - and played every part personally - - - giving a vivid account of Senator Morrison being chauffeured to his luxurious suite at the Mayflower to put on evening dress before descending to the dining room where the senator proceeded to gorge himself on the costly items on the menu. Reynolds read out every single item on the Mayflower's dining room menu, not neglecting to include the price of each item. Reynolds carefully went through breakfast, lunch and supper with glee, giving his listeners the impression Cameron Morrison did little but eat while in the nation's Capitol. Another prop used by Bob Reynolds was a jar of caviar, which he pulled out for his audience to see; Reynolds went on to famously explain caviar was "fish eggs," not failing to describe them as "red Russian fish eggs at that" and noted a jar of caviar cost two dollars each, a princely sum at the time. Reynolds would then denounce wealth and promise to increase taxes on the wealthy and corporations, while doing all he could to help the ordinary citizen.

Senator Morrison badly underestimated Bob Reynolds and the appeal of the campaign being conducted by Reynolds. Morrison remained in Washington, supremely confident of his own success and only returned to North Carolina as the first

primary drew near. Bob Reynolds was confident of his success and he proved to be quite right; he actually lead the first primary by more than 13,000 votes, stunning just about everybody in North Carolina. Despite having trailed Reynolds in the primary, Senator Morrison firmly believed he would prevail in the run-off election. Again, he was deluded, as Bob Reynolds won with more than sixty-five percent of the vote.

"Buncombe Bob" went to Washington and for a time was an astoundingly popular figure in North Carolina. He handily survived an attempt in part instigated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to defeat him in the 1938 primary. Politically, Bob Reynolds managed to accomplish what none of the political establishment could; over a period of a few years, Bob Reynolds became a figure of derision and ridicule, if not outright embarrassment to North Carolina. Bob Reynolds was soon making speeches on the floor of the United States Senate praising the effectiveness of the fascist dictatorships in Italy and Germany. Senator Reynolds claimed it would be "foolish" to oppose Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini and asked his colleagues why it would not be better to "play ball" with the two dictators.

Bob Reynolds was soon a spokesman for isolationism and the South was a region where most all its public officials were staunchly internationalist in outlook. Reynolds affiliated himself with disreputable and racist individuals and organizations, some of which were virulently anti-Semitic.

In 1941 Bob Reynolds became the Chairman of the Senate's Military Affairs Committee. It was also the same year Reynolds married his fifth wife. The fifty-seven year old senator married nineteen-year-old Evalyn McLean, the daughter of Edward and Evalyn

McLean. Edward McLean was the former publisher of the Washington Post newspaper and Mrs. McLean was famous for her ownership of the fabulous Hope diamond. The two had a daughter, but the marriage was to end in tragedy as Evie McLean Reynolds died from an overdose of sleeping pills. Whether or not Mrs. Reynolds intended to kill herself is a subject of debate, but it left Bob Reynolds with a four-year-old daughter to rear.

Senator Reynolds wanted to run again in 1944, but the people of North Carolina had grown tired of the man many referred to as the "Tar Heel Fuhrer." Former Congressman and governor Clyde Hoey, probably the most popular politician in the state announced he would seek Bob Reynolds's Senate seat. Bob Reynolds eventually concluded he could not defeat Hoey and retired.

Reynolds attempted to keep himself busy with practicing law and purchased a huge farm in Maryland, but the role of squire did not interest him for long. By 1950 many thought Bob Reynolds wanted to attempt a political comeback and Senator Clyde Hoey eyed him warily. Reynolds did become a candidate for the Senate again that year, but he chose to run for North Carolina's other Senate seat, which was up due to the death of Melville Broughton. Reynolds faced interim Senator Frank Porter Graham and successful attorney Willis Smith in the primary and after making an initially spirited effort, "Our Bob" quickly concluded

whatever appeal he once had with his fellow North Carolinians had rapidly diminished.

While he kept up the pretense he was a serious candidate until the first primary, Bob Reynolds was shrewd enough to realize he was finished in politics. That fact was confirmed by the election returns and Reynolds only won ten percent of the vote.

Bob Reynolds retired and spent his remaining years with his young daughter. The two traveled extensively and the girl was the heir to the once enormous McLean fortune. Apparently Bob Reynolds was a doting father to his young daughter and even more indulgent after his son and namesake was killed in a car accident.

Reynolds tried to keep up his interest in current events and was always happy to provide a statement or quote for anyone interested enough to ask his opinion. The former senator remained gregarious, friendly to one and all right up until his final illness. Reynolds was suffering from bladder cancer and doctors tried to save him by removing part of his bladder. The operation proved to be too much for Reynolds's weakened state and he died February 13, 1963.

For those interested in further reading about Bob Reynolds, Dr. Julian M. Pleasants has written a truly excellent biography entitled "Buncombe Bob: The Life and Times of Robert Rice Reynolds."

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## Q & A with Anita Lane

*Continued from page 1*

has the third fastest growing Hispanic population in the country and represents one of the fastest growing consumer markets in the United States. Latinos represent 4.6 percent of Tennessee's population, according to the 2010 census, up from 2.2 percent in 200. Even though the growth rate was very high, the number of Hispanic persons is still much lower than the national average 16.3 percent. This growth has driven a sharp increase in the number of Hispanic owned businesses. These businesses have been drivers of job growth in a difficult economy and represent one of the best opportunities for new jobs in the Region. HCCET has a great opportunity to support and promote Hispanic businesses and forge strategic relationships between Hispanic and mainstream businesses and government agencies seeking minority vendors, subcontractors and employees."

I would like to submit that I have actually agreed to Co-chair this membership committee with a long-standing member of both the Hispanic and business community, Mario Navarro. Mario owns and operates several businesses in this area and is in fact, opening a new restaurant in West Knoxville next week. His new Shrimp, Oysters and Beer restaurant is yet another example of a small business owner who has chosen to invest in our great community.

What I love about organizations such as HCCET is that folks like Mario and I have the opportunity not only to get to know each other and support each other's businesses but that we can work together toward a common goal of expanding this amazing organization and creating new relationships within our community.

**Is community involvement something you've always been passionate about or has your career led to community involvement?**

The latter would be more true to my story. I've always felt strongly about service and really believe that if we all serve each other then the world is made a better place but it wasn't until I worked in the hospitality industry that I got to live and breathe service every day. I was actually sort of "raised" professionally by Ken and Tammy Knight who currently run the Crowne Plaza hotel so I had great professional examples of folks who believed in giving back. When I took this position about 4 ½ years ago I stepped into a situation where I have an owner in Shailesh Patel who also believes in giving back so he has encouraged me to participate in leadership programs and develop skills that will allow me to serve the larger community. I wake up every morning feeling blessed to have an amazing family, specifically a fantastic husband and two really special kiddos, and to have had support from so many people to reach this point in my career. I am blessed to be the leader of 25 of the best folks you could ever meet in your life and showing up and developing them is a both a privilege and a responsibility that I take to heart. When you have this many blessings in your life it's the most natural thing in the world to be passionate about serving the community and contributing to helping others.

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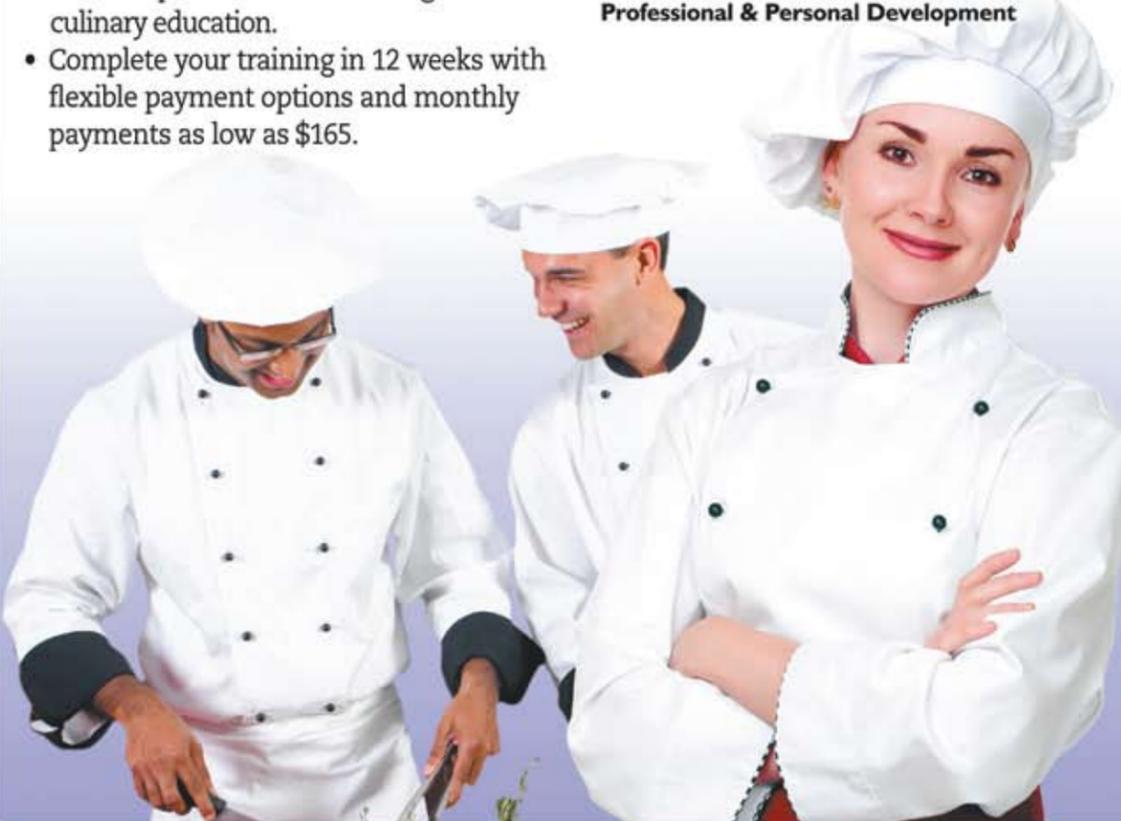
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# Back To The Top: Webb Secures Another State Championship

By Alex Norman

In 2011 the Webb Spartans dreams of a three-peat fell short in the state semifinals.

There would be no such disappointment this time around.

On Thursday, November 29th, the Spartans (11-1) blew out Evangelical Christian School 47-14 in the Division II-A Blue Cross Bowl in Cookeville. It is the sixth state championship in school history.

"Our expectations are great," said Webb head coach David Meske. "Maryville has great expectations, so does Alcoa, so does Ensworth... and we want that, and we don't shy away from them."

Midway through the first quarter the Spartans struck first, on their opening drive of the game. Webb went 80 yards on 13 plays, with fullback Robby Strachan punching it in from 8 yards away for

the touchdown and a 7-0 lead.

The Spartans got a huge effort from Strachan. He gained 132 yards on 18 carries, with two touchdowns thrown in for good measure. Strachan also converted 5 out of 7 extra point attempts. This performance, which earned Strachan the Offensive MVP award in the title game, came as no surprise to Meske.

"He's been good for

us all year," said Meske. "Robby has great speed. He's 190 pounds and a big running back. All three of our backs (Strachan, Todd Kelly Jr., Aaron Blance) have the potential to score."

And in the title game, they did just that. Kelly, who won the Division II-A Mr. Football Back Award this season, scored twice and had 118 yards rushing.

Blance scored once

and gained 81 yards on the ground. The potent wing-T offense racked up 406 yards on the ground against the outmatched Eagles defense.

Evangelical Christian came into this game with a pretty flimsy resume. Their 6-6 record (which includes two playoff game victories) might have led some to believe that this would be an easy game for the Spartans. Meske wouldn't allow his team to

be overconfident.

"We talked about that," said Meske. "In 1996 we won the state championship by beating Goodpasture. The year before they had been 15-0. No one gave us a chance, but we won. At any time, if you are not prepared, you'll get beat."

Following their coaches direction, the Spartans led 27-0 at the half. ECS was never able to post a

**Continue on page 2**

# Fulmer to be honored at NFF Awards Dinner

At the annual National Football Foundation awards dinner, to be held Dec. 4 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City this year, former Tennessee head coach Phillip Fulmer will be honored as a member of the 2012 College Football Hall of Fame Class.

Fulmer, named to the Hall of Fame Class in May, became the 22nd former UT player or coach to earn enshrinement. Fulmer is the first Vol gaining entry into the College Football Hall of Fame since offensive guard Chip Kell in 2006.

"Many people have come together to support this year's event, and their efforts promise to make the event a celebration for the ages. We thank them all," NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell said. "As a bridge between the regular season and the bowl season, the NFF dinner provides a unique setting where we briefly set aside intense rivalries to join together to celebrate our sport. If you're passionate about college football, there will be no better place to be on December 4."

One of the central highlights of the evening is the induction of the 2012 College Football Hall of Fame Class. This year's class stands among the greatest of all-time, encompassing



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Former UT football coach Phillip Fulmer is pictured with daughter Allison at the 2011 Dancing with the Knoxville Stars competition.

11 All-Americans, one unanimous First-Team All-American, three multi-year First-Team All-

Americans, two members of national championship teams, five conference player of the

year honorees, five members of conference championship

**Continue on page 2**

## CAK wins bitter-sweet second title

48-14

By Ken Lay

**COOKEVILLE**---Christian Academy of Knoxville football coach Rusty Bradley had a bitter-sweet celebration Friday night.

"I'm happy to see these kids win another State Championship," Bradley said after his Warriors defeated Milan to win a second consecutive Class 3A Championship at Tennessee Tech University's Tucker Stadium. "But I'm sad because this is the last time that I get to coach this senior class."

"I love these guys so much. But they'll move on and we'll have some new kids to develop and hopefully, we'll get back here again."

CAK (14-1) had a relatively easy time handling the Bulldogs for the second straight year on the TSSAA's biggest stage.

The Warriors scored first when Charlie High connected with Davis Howell on a 15-yard scoring strike with 4 minutes, 42 seconds remaining. It was the first of six touchdown passes for High, CAK's senior quarterback,

**Continue on page 2**



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# Coaching changes – the fewer the better

University of Tennessee football fans haven't had many dealings with head coaching changes over the years. We're finding out now

how fortunate we were for so long.

For 32 years, from 1977 through 2008, two former Vols – Johnny Majors and Phillip Fulmer – guided UT through one of its most successful eras in the history of the storied program.

Since then, Tennessee has had two coaches outside “the UT family” – Lane Kiffin and Derek Dooley. Kiffin lasted one season, leaving to take his “dream job” at Southern Cal. Dooley, unable to produce enough wins in three seasons, was fired two weeks ago after that embarrassing loss at Vanderbilt.

With the program down and again needing a new coach, it's a critical time for Tennessee football.

For many fans, changing coaches can be an exciting time at first. But it can become frustrating, if the

process drags out. A wish for a special coach may or may not come true.

My memory on this subject goes back to 1964. UT football was going through some difficult times. Doug Dickey, an assistant coach at Arkansas, was hired to replace Jim McDonald, who had filled in as an interim coach for one season. Bob Woodruff was UT's athletic director and Dickey had been Woodruff's quarterback when he coached Florida.

Long known for its precision single-wing offense, Dickey ushered Tennessee into the T-formation era. After a 4-5-1 record the first year, Dickey got the Vols rolling. His 1967 team was crowned national champion by Litkenhous. His 1969 team also won a Southeastern Conference title, but his coaching career at UT ended on a sour note as there was strong speculation he would be leaving for his alma mater as the Vols played and lost to Florida 14-13 in the Gator Bowl. Not long after the game, Dickey's departure became official.

Woodruff surprised many when he promoted 28-year-old Bill Battle

as Dickey's successor, making him the youngest head coach in the nation. He also was from Alabama – unquestionably Tennessee's chief rival in 1970. A former Crimson Tide player coaching the Vols didn't sit too well with a lot of Orange and White fans, but the handsome and classy coach would become a favorite over time.

Battle won right away with the talented players left behind by Dickey. And as fate would have it, Dickey had to bring his Gators to Neyland Stadium that first season. UT players and fans welcomed their old coach back, then spanked him 38-7. One of the most gratifying victories I have enjoyed over the years as a Tennessee fan, I might add.

Battle went 11-1, 10-2 and 10-2 those first three seasons, then the record started going down, down, down. Tennessee's 6-5 mark in 1976, coupled with Majors' national championship season at Pitt, made Woodruff's selection a no-brainer. It was time for Johnny to come marching home. In making the announcement, Chancellor Dr. Jack Reese said,

with tongue in cheek, that Majors was hired after a long, extensive, nationwide search.

The former UT hero didn't win right away. He got to 8-4 in his fifth season and snapped Tennessee's 11-game losing streak to Alabama in 1982. What a great afternoon that was! Legendary coach Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide had come to Knoxville ranked No. 2 in the nation.

Majors won his first of three SEC titles in 1985, capped by his most memorable victory as UT coach, that 35-7 romp past cocky and favored Miami in the '86 Sugar Bowl. Remember fans lining Alcoa Highway and cheering the team's return home?

There was still another bump for Majors to overcome – the Vols lost their first six games of the 1988 season, then won their last five. They didn't get to go to a bowl, but that turnaround sparked back-to-back SEC title campaigns and Tennessee won no less than nine games each of Majors' final four seasons, including the Miracle at South Bend in 1991, a 35-34 come-from-behind win over Notre Dame. I watched a replay of that

game for the umpteenth time just the other night. For me, it never gets old. “It's good ... no, it's no good,” exclaimed John Ward, describing Notre Dame's field goal attempt on the final play of the game – his most famous mistake and best-ever correction.

Majors' 16-year tenure, unfortunately, came to a controversial end in 1992. Fulmer coached the first three games of the season when Majors was hospitalized. Some said Majors came back too soon. After winning his first two games back, the Vols were 5-0 and ranked No. 4 in the nation. But Majors then lost three straight SEC contests to Arkansas, Alabama and South Carolina and it was announced he would not be retained in 1993.

I really don't know what happened. I heard some say Fulmer maneuvered behind the scenes to take the job, threatening to leave if he didn't get it. I heard others say Majors complained too strongly and to the wrong people about his displeasure with his contract. I do know I hated to see Majors go, and particularly have to

leave the way he did.

Fulmer picked up where Majors left off and took the program even further, winning the national championship in 1998. He was two quarters from returning to another BCS title game in 2001 but saw his Vols fall to LSU 31-20 in the SEC finale. Talk about a mood swing. Just the week before, we had seen Tennessee, a 17-point underdog, beat No. 2 ranked Florida 34-32 in The Swamp.

After back-to-back 10-win seasons in 2003 and 2004, Fulmer suffered his first losing season in 2005 (5-6). He came back to go 9-4 in 2006 and 10-4 in 2007, including a fifth trip to the SEC title game. But when his team struggled and attendance declined in 2008, athletic director Mike Hamilton made a decision I didn't agree with then and even more so now, when he announced, following a loss at South Carolina, Fulmer would not return in 2009.

That set the stage for another coaching change and another and now another. Oh my.

## CAK wins bitter-sweet second title, 48-14

**Cont. from page 1**

who was named the game's most valuable offensive player.

The Class 3A Blue Cross Bowl Championship was the culmination of a big week for High, who was named the classification's Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Back for the second consecutive year.

He completed 35 of his 42 pass attempts and had 461 yards. He threw for six touchdowns and ran for another. He also became Tennessee's all-time passing leader in the midst of last week's championship game.

The Bulldogs (12-3) answered CAK's inaugural score with a touchdown of their own when Arkel Coleman evened the game at 7-7 with a late first quarter 1-yard run.

The Warriors went up 14-7 early in the second stanza when High threw his second TD pass.

This one was a 4-yarder to Franklin Murchison.

Milan took that blow

and again knotted the contest when quarterback Caleb Powell threw a 74-yard bomb to Cam Warden.

From there, the Warriors dominated things. They would add two more touchdowns before halftime to take a 27-14 lead. Murchison's second touchdown reception, a 44-yarder, made it 21-14 with 8:16 left in the second frame. CAK later took a 27-14 lead when High connected with Whitaker Cunningham from 50 yards out.

The second half was all Warriors as CAK's defense stifled Milan's rushing attack. The Bulldogs' opening drive of the second half was stopped when Cunningham intercepted a Powell pass.

Milan's second possession of the half ended when the Warriors made a fourth-down stop. The Bulldogs went three-and-out early in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, the

Warriors' offense continued to click. Josh Smith, a senior and University of Tennessee commitment, caught a 6-yard touchdown pass with 8:41 remaining in the third quarter.

Howell, who became the national career receptions leader Friday night, had a 9-yard scoring reception late in the frame before High closed the scoring with a 14-yard run early in the final stanza.

The second title was a sweet one for the Warriors, who also had postseason victories over District 4-AA foes Loudon, Kingston and Alcoa (which avenged CAK's lone loss of the season) before outlasting Elizabethton in the state semifinals on the road.

“This feeling never gets old,” Bradley said. “I was really proud of the way our guys handled being defending champions.”

## Lady Devils get big win in home opener

**By Ken Lay**

Halls High School's girls basketball team opened the District 3-AAA portion of its schedule with a 68-16 victory over Karns Tuesday night at Halls High School.

The home opener for the Lady Devils was over in a hurry.

“It's always good to get a win and it's always good to get a district win,” Halls coach Randy Moore said. “I thought our girls played

good tonight. They played hard.”

The home game might've been just what the doctor ordered for the Lady Devils as they had perhaps their best shooting night of the season.

“We shot the ball well tonight and we haven't been shooting very well,” Moore said.

Halls had three players post double figures in the scoring column. On this night, it was the

underclassmen that provided the bulk of the scoring punch.

Sophomore center Kaitlyn Cantrell led the Lady Devils with 17 points. Sophomore guard Daniele Beeler added 13 points and converted three 3-point shots. Freshman guard Taylor Moon finished with 11 points for Halls.

Emily Partin and Lindsey Hitch scored four points each for the Lady Beavers.

## Back To The Top: Webb Secures Another State Championship

**Cont. from page 1**

serious challenge.

“The keys to the game for us were the way we played on the line of scrimmage, our kickoff coverage never giving (ECS) them great field position, and how we contained their quarterback (Brent Rooker),” said Meske. “We made sure he stayed in the pocket, because he is a great runner.”

Rooker threw for 298 yards, but was ineffective running the football, accounting for -5 yards on 13 carries.

Webb's Brant Mitchell was named Defensive MVP. He led the Spartans with 10 tackles, 4 of the solo variety.

The Spartans finish the season on a 10 game win streak, with most of those games not being close on the scoreboard (the Spartans outscored opponents by around 30 points a game this year). But it was the one game they lost that gave Webb the motivation they needed in 2012.

Back on August 18th, the Spartans fell to Alcoa 14-7. The Tornadoes, a perennial

state championship contender, would go on to have another terrific season, earning the top ranking in the state in Class 3A before falling to the eventual state champions from CAK in the quarterfinals.

“That was a tough loss, and we played to win,” said Meske. “But that made us a better team. The kids on our roster that didn't have experience got some in that game. That is a very physical team and we played right with them.”

## Fulmer to be honored at NFF Awards Dinner

**Cont. from page 1**

teams, two NFF National Scholar-Athletes, seven first-round NFL Draft selections and the winners of the Heisman Trophy, the

Maxwell Award, the Davey O'Brien Award, the Jim Thorpe Award and the Outland Trophy.

The 2012 class includes Charles Alexander (LSU), Otis Armstrong (Purdue),

Steve Bartkowski (California), Hal Bedsole (Southern California), Dave Casper (Notre Dame), Ty Detmer (BYU), Tommy Kramer (Rice), Art Monk (Syracuse), Greg Myers (Colorado State), Jonathan Ogden (UCLA), Gabe Rivera (Texas Tech), Mark Simoneau (Kansas State), Scott Thomas (Air Force), John Wooten (Colorado) and coaches Phillip Fulmer (Tennessee), Jimmy Johnson (Oklahoma State), Miami [Fla.] and R.C. Slocum (Texas A&M).

The College Football Hall of Fame class headlines

the event while 15 of the current game's brightest stars will collect \$300,000 in scholarships and vie for the coveted William V. Campbell Trophy, endowed by HealthSouth, as the nation's top scholar-athlete.

Fans can watch a live stream of the NFF Annual Awards Dinner, starting at 8 p.m. ET, and the morning press conference, starting at 9 a.m. ET, on ESPN3 and the NFF's homepage at [www.footballfoundation.org](http://www.footballfoundation.org).

SPN's Rece Davis will emcee the event, and NFF

Board Member and New England Patriots owner Robert K. Kraft will provide the welcome address. NFF Board Member and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones will introduce the college coaches in attendance.

Tennessee highlights from the past 55 years of the event

10 Years Ago, 2002 - Reggie White, Tennessee defensive tackle, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

15 Years Ago, 1997 - Tennessee All-American QB Peyton Manning claimed the William V.

Campbell Trophy.

25 Years Ago, 1987 - Hall of Fame inductees included Tennessee halfback Johnny Majors, Georgia QB Fran Tarkenton, and Southern California guard Mike McKeever.

40 Years Ago, 1972 - Tennessee end Boyden Wyatt was among the Hall of Fame class of 22 inductees.

45 Years Ago, 1967 - Tennessee guard Nathan Dougherty, LSU halfback Abe Mickal, and Texas A&M back Joel Hunt were among the night's Hall of Fame inductees.

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# Halls wrestlers look to return to prominence

By Ken Lay

Halls High School's wrestling team has high hopes for the 2012-13 season.

But that's nothing new. "We want that district title and we want that region title," Red Devils coach Shannon Sayne said. "We want to compete at the state level and anything less than that is unacceptable."

"We've discussed that with our kids and we've told them that if they aren't on that same page then they don't need to be in the room."

Sayne recently opened his seventh season as Halls coach. Upon taking over the Red Devils' program, Sayne guided Halls to three consecutive district championships. The Red Devils, however, have not won a conference title in three years.

"We won three district championships the first three years that I was here and we got spoiled," Sayne said. "It spoiled me."

"This year, we went back to Square One and our guys have really gotten after each other in the practice room and that's exciting to see. We started rebuilding in our youth program."

Top returners this season include: Connor Rohrbaugh (a senior who wrestles in the 170-pound weight class and finished fifth in the state tournament last season); Tanner Justice (a 106-pounder who is a two-time state qualifier); Joe Fox (a sophomore who competes in the 138-pound division. He was a regional finalist and state qualifier last season).

Other key returners include Evan Huling (113), Eric Brady (who will compete at either 120 or 126), Calvin Giles (126) and Andrew Kitts (145).

All of those athletes narrowly missed the state tournament last season and will certainly be hungry after falling one match short of the big stage.

"Last year was kind of disappointing but those guys came back and started working out early," Sayne said.

This season, the Red Devils, who finished second in the district and third at the regional dual meet, have perhaps the deepest squads in Sayne's tenure.

"The beauty of this is that we have depth and a lot of it," Sayne said. "We're especially deep at our lower weights

and we've had wrestle-offs every week.

"They kids know that they have to work hard or they'll lose their spots."

Halls has a group of battle-tested veterans but Sayne said that he's looking forward to seeing contributions from a talented crop of newcomers.

"We have some good freshmen and sophomores who haven't broken into the lineup and they'll get their chances," Sayne said.

One newcomer to watch is sophomore 113-pounder Cameron Belcher.

"Cameron has had to compete against a couple of strong guys and he'll get his shot," Sayne said. "He's a really tough kid and he's going to surprise a lot of people."

## Strong defense lifts Lady Demons over Bearden

By Ken Lay

Halls Middle School's girls basketball team used a stellar defensive effort to notch a 37-12 home victory over Bearden in a Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference game Tuesday afternoon.

The Lady Demons held the upper hand throughout the contest and really put things away in the second half.

Halls opened an early 10-4 lead and just kept building its advantage. The Lady Bruins enjoyed some modest offensive success in the second quarter. Bearden scored have of its points in that frame and trailed 18-10 at halftime.

After the break, the Lady Demons really turned up the defensive

heat, holding the Lady Bruins to just two points (and no field goals) over the last 16 minutes.

While the Lady Demons clamped down defensively, they got plenty of offense. Five Halls players scored in the contest.

Halls eighth grade wing player Leah Sohm matched Bearden's total offensive output with 12 points. Lady Demons guard Rachel Drumheller added eight points. Seventh grader Griffen Parker, a guard, scored five points and had the game's lone 3-pointer.

Meanwhile, Jalayah Manning and Alanah Story each scored six points for the Lady Bruins, who managed only a pair of free throws in the second half.

## Huge second half lifts Bruins to victory

By Ken Lay

It took a while for Bearden Middle School's boys basketball team to find its stride Tuesday night.

But once the Bruins got rolling in the second half they would cruise to a 47-34 Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference victory at Halls.

"Our effort was up and down in the first half," said Bruins coach Ben Zorio. "I thought Halls came out and was hot early from the perimeter."

"In the second half, we got our transition game going and we were able to score."

Bearden (4-0 overall, 2-0 in conference play) and the Demons played a virtually even first half with the Bruins clinging to a 17-16 halftime lead. The Bruins opened an early 11-6 only to see the Demons storm back. Halls actually led 16-15 before Bearden scored the final points of the half.

The Bruins, however, wasted little time seizing control of the contest after the break with center Tony Scott and guard/forward Johnny McHenry providing the biggest offensive sparks.

Scott scored 14 of his game-high 16 points after halftime while McHenry had 12 following the break. The Demons shut him out in the first half.

"Tony gave us a big game with 16 points and 12 rebounds," Zorio said. "Johnny came up big in the second half after an up-and-down effort in the first half. He had four steals and three assists in the second half alone."

"We got a big effort from our post players in the second half and now, I think our kids understand that they have to bring their A-game every night. We showed that we can play with anybody when we play the way that we're capable of playing. We need to play 24 minutes like we played in the second half."

Halls, which trailed 11-6 after the first quarter, got 13 points from center J.T. Freels. He scored six in the second stanza to keep the Demons within striking distance.

Bryce Hodge finished with 11 for Halls. He scored seven of his points after halftime.

## Holiday 'Staycation': UT Has Plenty of Activities to Fill the Free Hours

As the fall semester comes to a close at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, there are still plenty of activities to fill your free time during the holiday season. Here are some events you won't want to miss:

### Clarence Brown Theatre

Since 2005, Clarence Brown Theatre has presented "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens' classic tale of a life redeemed, every holiday season. This year, director Casey Sams is switching things up a bit. The revamped production features new costumes, a new set, musicians on stage and snow.

Sams and the designers have set the story inside a snow globe.

"That means there will be lots of snow for the set," Sams said.

The play opened Friday, Nov. 30, and runs through Sunday, Dec. 23.

See <http://www.clarencebrowntheatre.com> for show times and ticket prices.

### UT School of Music

The holidays and music are strongly linked, and UT's School of Music will host two events to showcase its

talent and celebrate the holidays.

"Jazz for Tots," a charity event for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Campaign, will feature jazz ensembles performing holiday classics. It begins at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2, in the James R. Cox Auditorium in the Alumni Memorial Building. For admission, bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to the Toys for Tots campaign.

The School of Music's annual Holiday Choral Concert will begin at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the James R. Cox Auditorium in the Alumni Memorial Building. Admission is free.

Visit <http://www.music.utk.edu> for more information.

### UT Gardens

Although the Holiday Express has moved from UT Gardens to Dollywood's Eagle Theatre, the gardens are offering plenty of holiday activities for all ages, including the following classes:

Friday, Dec. 14. Garden Sprouts: Gingerbread Cookies, 10-11:30 a.m. Children ages 3 through 5 and their parents will learn how ginger root is used to make

gingerbread, a traditional holiday treat. Children also will decorate a gingerbread boy or girl to eat and a gingerbread ornament to take home. Cost is \$8 for members and \$12 for nonmembers.

Saturday, Dec. 15. Garden Buds: Homemade Ornaments, 1-3 p.m. Children ages 6 through 9 will learn how to make holiday ornaments from items commonly found around the house or yard, including popcorn and cranberry garland and pinecone ornaments. Cost is \$10 for members and \$14 for nonmembers.

Preregistration is required for all classes. Contact Derrick Stowell at 865-974-7151 or [dstowell@utk.edu](mailto:dstowell@utk.edu) to preregister.

Visit <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu> for more information.

### Frank H. McClung Museum

The McClung Museum on campus has collections of anthropology, archaeology, decorative arts, local history and natural history. It is easy to spend hours wandering through the displays, learning about the geology, history, art and

culture of Tennessee as well as places around the world.

Current exhibits include

- Zen Buddhism and the Arts of Japan. Ending Dec. 31.
- Celebrating the Tercentennial of Mark Catesby.
- Ancient Egypt: The Eternal Voice.
- Archaeology and Native Peoples of Tennessee.
- The Decorative Experience. A collection of decorative objects from various cultures and ages.
- Geology and Fossil History of Tennessee.
- Human Origins: Searching for Our Fossil Ancestors.
- The Battle of Fort Sanders.
- Tennessee Freshwater Mussels.

The museum is free and open to the public 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. It will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1.

For more information, visit <http://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu>.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Love, livers and lists

The year was 1980 and my first grade class had two elections, United States President and who shot J.R.? I lost both. I voted for Carter and Sue Ellen. I still remember a bunch of sweaty kids squished in front of me and behind me in the line to vote for Sue Ellen. It was by far the longest line but, alas, we were all wrong. Kristin pulled the trigger, and Carter went back to his peanut farm.

This past week Larry Hagman, the actor who played J.R. Ewing, passed away from throat cancer. In 1995, Hagman received a life-saving liver transplant. Apparently, this caused lots of controversy because Hagman was an alcoholic and his alcoholism contributed to his liver disease. Many people felt that he didn't deserve the liver because he had caused his disease himself. Hearing about the controversy this week, I gave it considerable thought.

I confess that when I agreed to be an organ donor, I had images of recipients who were younger, purer of heart, and eager to improve the world I would be leaving behind. I also envisioned them to be inflicted by some horrific condition by no faults of their own. Now I see how silly

that was. I suppose if I had a child who was suffering, the thought of an organ she needed going to some old alcoholic would infuriate me. Still, I don't think we need to get to a place where we give folks a morality test before we put them on a donor list. I'm too busy being grateful for all the second chances I've received myself that I certainly didn't deserve.

I admit it is kind of strange, but when I am considering a person's place in my own heart, I ask myself, "Would I give that person a kidney?" That is my internal love meter. I have a secret list in my own mind of who is loved enough to be given a kidney. Many think that love is in the heart. Shakespeare thought that love was in the liver. I say it is in the kidney. You know how rich people get angry with family members and cut them out of their will? Well, I'm broke, so I just cross people off my mental kidney list.

I wonder what George Lopez's ex-wife would think about my list. In 2005, Ann Lopez gave her husband a kidney. Then five years later, they divorced after 17 years of marriage. I guess that means that even if someone is loved enough to make my list, it certainly does not mean that he or she will love me back. The Beatles were right. I "can't buy me love," even with a kidney. None of us can. Therefore, we must give for giving's sake or for the sake of the One who, while we were yet sinners, gave us everything.



By Sarah Baker  
bakera@knoxfocus.com



*The Candoro Arts and Heritage Center will hold an Open House at the historic marble works on Saturday, December 8, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.*

*The holiday reception is to thank the current donors and to invite new friends to tour the building which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 1920 beaux arts structure is the "jewel of the marble city" and contains exhibits celebrating the craftsmen who worked in the marble industry which made a national impact throughout Knoxville's history.*

## A Swingin' Christmas

The Knoxville Jazz Orchestra's popular holiday event, Swingin' Christmas will be held on Tuesday, December 18 at 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Theatre. The featured performer for this event will be multi-instrumentalist James Morrison. Tickets are available now online at [www.knoxjazz.org](http://www.knoxjazz.org) or by calling 656-4444.

The hippest concert of the season! Classic Christmas favorites will be performed in the styles of Duke Ellington,

Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Stan Kenton and more. This year's featured guest should be listed as one of the seven wonders of the modern world. An Australian by birth, James Morrison plays 12 different instruments, composes music in a variety of genres (e.g., the opening fanfare for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney) and owns and operates one of Australia's most technologically advanced recording studios. In his spare time, he pilots stunt planes,

hosts prime-time Australian television shows and drives a racing car. No joke. This is one event you don't want to miss!

This is the tenth annual Christmas program for the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra. The show, sponsored each year by Merrill Lynch, has quickly become one of the area's most popular holiday events. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.knoxjazz.org](http://www.knoxjazz.org) or by calling 656-4444.

*Merry Christmas!*

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**The Doctor is in**  
*a weekly column by Dr. Jim Ferguson*

**What's S'not**

It's Holiday Time in Tennessee, and I'm thankful to move on from the UT football season. It's also time to gather with friends and trade gifts and germs. No one wants to be sick during seasonal festivities or even shopping forays, so patients frequently call me and ask for a quick fix or a remedy. Most doctors want to help and to please, but folks, I'm sorry, I can't fix a cold. I wish I could because then I'd be famous and Time magazine might nominate me for person of the year, instead of Sandra Fluck who is one of their current choices. We Americans rely on our technology and our government to fix our problems. Both are often

inadequate. A fellow came to see me recently and asked for an antibiotic to treat his misery of an upper respiratory infection (URI). I was glad he asked my opinion. In Mexico you just go to the pharmacy and buy the antibiotic you think you need. We take these marvels of technology for granted and imagine they can fix anything. They are powerful when used correctly and in the right situation. There would have been no Black Death which killed one-third of Europe in the 14th century if doctors then possessed the common and inexpensive antibiotic tetracycline. And yet even our advanced antibiotics are useless against the common cold viruses which we

spread by handshakes and hugs more than by sneezes and coughs.

I was sympathetic to my patient's plight because we've all experienced that sudden chill and malaise which heralds three days of a cold's misery. He flinched slightly as I listened to his chest because he said my hands were cold. Patients used to complain about the cold metal rim of a stethoscope, but stethoscopes are now primarily plastic. I apologized for my cold, but clean, hands and recited the cheesy nursery rhyme, "Cold hands warm heart, smelly feet no sweetheart." I explained to him that stressful situations release adrenaline which constricts the peripheral blood flow and makes your hands cold and sometimes sweaty. I didn't offer my feet as further proof of this scientific explanation. I told him that I wash my hands religiously during patient care and they get cold and somewhat chapped in the winter months. This is a trade off for my safety and my patient's protection.

After my examination I explained to him that

his twenty four hours of dry cough, clear secretions, mild body aches and temperature of 100 were the result of one of the eighty or so cold viruses that afflict humans. I explained to him that an antibiotic would be ineffective, expensive, subject him to potential side effects and allow resistant germs (bacteria) to flourish. It takes more time and effort to do things right and to logically explain situations to patients. It's easier and faster to simply write an antibiotic prescription and move on, but it's bad medicine.

There are some indicators of more serious issues that you should consider when deciding to call a doctor or tough it out with chicken soup, rest, Mucinex and nose drops like Afrin for two or three days. A temperature of 101° in an adult is a red flag of something more sinister than a cold. Also most colds improve in three to four days and if you suddenly relapse with new symptoms like facial or dental pain a bacterial complication is more likely. These symptoms should be evaluated by your

doctor. Doctors consider mitigating factors in their evaluation. Examples are patients with lots of hay fever or asthma problems that can block respiratory passages. I also consider mechanical obstruction to sinus passages as occurs with broken noses like mine caused by a hockey stick years ago. And remember, folks, the Emergency Room is not the place to have a cold evaluated or treated.

I have to admit it's harder these days to do my best and be an advocate for my patients. I've always won arguments with insurance companies when my cause was just and made my case with reason, if necessary with the Medical Directors of Blue Cross, United, etc. However, the Medicare HMOs readily deny tests and admissions these days, forcing all of us to waste time and money to battle them. This happened last week when a patient of mine with influenza, a temperature of 102.5° and vomiting so violent that her Tamiflu treatment was rejected through her nose. The off-site (and around the

world?) reviewer said that admission to the hospital for IV fluids for this dehydrated frail lady wasn't "necessary." How can you argue with someone in Kal-amazoo or Calcutta who isn't a doctor and who is given a bounty to deny payment for an admission?

I've been told by other doctors that I'm a fool to care. I'm told that ties and a neat appearance are old fashioned and irrelevant. I'm told that compartmentalized care with a doctor for every organ is the 21st century standard. Perhaps I am obsolete because I don't believe any of that. But then, I don't believe we'll be better off on the government's plantation, nor do I believe they'll take care of us.

**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](mailto:jferguson@summithealthcare.com).*

**UT, State Health Department Launch Center to Address Food-borne Illnesses**

The University of Tennessee is partnering with the state Department of Health to develop training that will enhance responses to food-borne illness outbreaks in Tennessee and across the country. UT will establish the Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence through a \$200,000 grant given to the Tennessee Department of Health through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tennessee was one of five states to receive grants. The other four are Florida, Oregon, Colorado and Minnesota. Three UT entities are partners on the grant: Paul Erwin, director of the Department of Public Health in the College of

Education, Health and Human Sciences; Sharon Thompson, a clinical assistant professor in the Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness; and Faith Critzer, assistant professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology. The last two are on the UT Institute of Agriculture campus. John Dunn is deputy state epidemiologist and principal investigator on the award. "This research grant is important to the university because it positions us to work closely with a stellar state health department in efforts to protect the public's health through specific work force development activities," Erwin said.

**Dealing with the Loss of a Loved One during the Holidays**

The Christmas holidays are filled with events and sensations that can make the experience of losing a loved one especially difficult. Familiar sights, sounds, and even smells and tastes can stir up memories of holiday moments with the one who is no longer physically present with us. The pain of loss may be particularly difficult at a time when the world around seems to be filled with happiness and joy.

For grieving persons it is not a choice of pain or no pain - the pain will be there - but rather, how you will manage the pain during this time. Some suggestions that can help are listed below:

- Allow yourself to express your feelings. Holidays often magnify feelings of loss. It is natural to feel deep sadness.
- Reexamine your priorities - greeting cards, holiday baking, decorating, putting up a tree, family dinner, etc.
- Decide what you can

handle comfortably and let family and friends know.

- Don't hesitate to make changes in how you "do" the holidays.
- Take care of yourself physically - holidays can be stressful and draining. Get plenty of rest. Eat properly. Drink enough fluids.
- Find some time for yourself - to remember and to reflect on past holidays.
- Find ways to remember your loved one. Burn a special candle, listen to special music, look at photos, or hang a stocking where others can put notes with their thoughts or feelings.
- Avoid excessive use of alcohol or overeating - they tend to bring on depression.
- Consider doing something special for someone else. Donate to a charity in memory of your loved one, buy a gift for a needy child, or invite someone over.
- If stress, anxiety, or

depression becomes overwhelming, reach out for help. Consider calling a medical professional.

- Allow yourself to have fun. Laughter and joy are not disrespectful - give yourself permission to celebrate and find a measure of enjoyment in the holidays.
- Please keep in mind that the experience of many bereaved persons is that they do come to enjoy holidays again. There will be other holiday seasons to celebrate. And as winter eventually gives way to the new life of spring, the pain of loss will eventually ease, and the future can hold the promise of happier times.
- CONTACT Helpline is a resource in our community that is there to listen if you would like to talk about your feelings. The phone number is 865-584-4424 and the hours of operation are 8 a.m. -11 p.m., 7 days a week, including holidays.

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# Faith

## Your Story Written by God



**By Mark Brackney,**  
Minister of the  
Arlington Church  
of Christ

Do you ever feel like you should be doing more? Do you have thoughts that what you are doing now is not all God has intended for you? Do you have dreams that are unfulfilled? Is your life at a different place than you anticipated?

I think all of us at some time or another wonder if there is more to our life than what we are experiencing now. Sometimes this can be a good thing. If we are sometimes away from God and not walking in His moral will for our lives, then we need to make some radical adjustments. But if we are in God's moral will (not caught up in habitual sin or rebellion), be careful before you jump ship or think the grass might be greener somewhere else.

The apostle Paul had dreams for his life. He wanted to take the gospel to Asia but was prevented by the Holy Spirit. He next wanted to go to Mysia (northeast part of Asia) but was prevented from doing so. He then got a vision from God that he was to go to Greece with the good news message of Christ (Acts 16:6-10). Paul's plans for his life were different from God's plans. You may be at a place right now not because you think you need to be there, but because God knows you need to be there.

I heard a sermon this last week by Rick Atchley that talked about how God

is writing a story in each of our lives. We all would like a story with no difficult chapters, but this is not the way it works. Everyone, including every story in the Bible, has difficulty. You have either had a struggle in the past, are having a struggle now, or will have one in the future. No person has smooth sailing.

When the difficulty hits, what will your response be? God would have us embrace the tough times, for these are the pulpit from which God can announce that He is greater than our struggles. God's purpose is not to make us happy, but to use our pain and response to it to reconcile the world back to Him.

The Psalms use a unique structure. From a broad perspective, each Psalm is one of three types: orientation, disorientation, or reorientation. When your life is going smoothly, you are in a time of orientation. These can be described as the Psalms of praise and joy. When life falls apart, these are Psalms of lament where one is crying out to God due to the pain of the moment. But when healing and restoration come, these describe the Psalms of reorientation where thanksgiving is expressed to God for His deliverance. God never leaves us in any of these states. God allows these moments to grow our character and serve witnesses to His glory.

Many people want Jesus to be Savior, but many don't want Jesus to be the author of their story. We want to write the script and then ask Jesus to bless it. But remember that we are not the point of the story. God is.

## Knoxville Churches Unite to Host Holiday Concert and Toy Drive

Knox County Lutheran congregations are joining efforts to host a toy drive and concert from nationally acclaimed musician Peder Eide at The Square Room on Market Square Thursday, December 6 at 7pm.

Peder Eide is a heartfelt communicator who uses the gift of music to draw audiences closer to God and closer together. Eide's Christmas concert features favorite Christmas songs alongside Eide's original compositions and stories for a heartfelt evening that prepares audiences for the celebration of

Christmas.

"Holding the event at The Square Room gives attendees the chance to make an evening of it," says Eric Luedtke, one of the events promoters. "People can have dinner at one of the great restaurants on Market Square, go ice skating, then head in for an unforgettable concert that includes a dessert buffet."

The event is sponsored by the Knox County Chapter of Thrivent Financial, a not-for-profit financial organization whose members give back to their communities

through charitable giving.

Throughout the year members of the chapter are active in their local congregations working on projects that provide a helping hand to those in need.

In addition to the entertainment, concert-goers can bring gifts of new unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots.

"Even though this is a fun evening, we wanted to give people a chance to share with those who are less fortunate" comments Chapter Vice President Donna Ellstrom.

## Church Happenings

### Christian Poets Society

The Christian Poets Society is sponsoring a free poetry contest open to everyone. There are 50 prizes totaling \$5000, with a \$1000 grand prize for the winner.

Poems of 21 lines or less on any subject and in any style will be accepted. Include your name and address on the same page as your poem. For a

winners' list please enclose a stamped return envelope, or view online. Send poem to Free Poetry Contest, 106 Cambria Cir., Citrus Heights, CA 95621. Or enter at [www.freecontest.com](http://www.freecontest.com). Deadline for entry is December 31, 2012

### Christus Victor Lutheran Church

Christus Victor Lutheran Church will celebrate the Christmas season with Advent services each Wednesday evening prior to Christmas at 7:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 5:30 p.m.

A special service will be held on Sunday, December 16 at 9:15 a.m. with Christus Victor children participating in a live nativity scene during the sermon. Members of the congregation will bring food gifts to the altar for Jesus. The gifts will be used to fill Christmas baskets that will be distributed to needy families and help stock the food pantry.

Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be at 7:00 p.m. on December 24. Christus Victor is located at 4110 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville. The public is invited to attend all services. For more information, please call 687-9206.

### Faith United Methodist Church

Faith United Methodist Church's Young at Heart group will host organist Hugh Livingston on December 4th from 10 a.m. - noon. Join us for Christmas music and a potluck luncheon—all are welcome! Faith UMC is located on the corner of Dry Gap Pike and Rifle Range Rd at 1120 Dry Gap Pike. 865-688-1000. [www.faithseekers.org](http://www.faithseekers.org).

### First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran Church will celebrate Christmas beginning with Advent each Wednesday evening before Christmas at 6:30 p.m.; Communion will be served.

Sunday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m. there will be a Sunday School Christmas Program; "What Child is This?" will be the theme. Between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. there will be a gathering outside at the Live Nativity scene. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 7:00 p.m., and Christmas Day worship is at 10:30 a.m. Communion will be served at both services. On Monday, December 31, a special New Year's Eve Service with communion will be held at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to all activities. For more information call 524-0366 before noon.

First Lutheran Church's senior group, 55 Alive, will meet on Thursday, December 13 at noon. The festive event will feature "Special Thoughts on Christmas" by Pastor Bushur and Christmas Carols will be sung. Those who attend are invited to bring a gift for the kitchen.

Everything from paper hand towels and sugar to liquid dish detergent and plastic drinking cups will be appreciated. Everyone is welcome to attend. A hot meal is served and the cost is \$6.50 per person. Reservations are requested. For more information, call the church before noon, 524-0366. The church is located at 1207 N. Broadway, Knoxville.

### Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon

The Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon (KFL) meets at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway at noon every Tuesday. Tim Heck will be

this week's speaker.

### Seymour United Methodist Church

Christmas caroling will be held next Wednesday, Dec. 12th beginning at 6:30 p.m. Come and join in "serving Christmas cheer" to brighten up the season for some house-bound people.

A Christmas Concert with Youth and Children is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 16th, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Further general information on any further details are available by calling the church office at 573-9711.

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9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship  
Wednesday Schedule  
6:15 p.m. Prayer Meeting

**Holiday Schedule**  
Sunday, Dec. 2nd - 6:00 p.m. Hanging of the Green Service  
Sunday, Dec. 9th - 10:50 a.m. Young at Heart Choir Christmas Music  
Sunday, Dec. 16th - 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Christmas Music  
Sunday, Dec. 23rd - 4:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

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# House to Home

## The Advent Season

### Rosie's World



stand in the way. Gifts, cards and parties need to express love, not obligation, and they need to extend beyond our immediate circle of family and friends to those who most need love and care.

Advent season, the four weeks before Christmas, is a time to get ready. During Advent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. Advent is from the Latin adventus, which means "coming". Prophets announced the coming of a Savior. An Advent wreath can be a center of worship for both

church and home.

The wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, a sign of everlasting life. Four purple, or dark blue, candles, one for each week in Advent, are set in a circle. A white candle for Christmas Day is placed in the center. Some traditions use a rose candle for the third week in Advent to represent joy. The base of the circle may be wooden, Styrofoam, or a purchased metal Advent wreath.

One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent with an additional candle lit each week. Families may have daily or weekly Advent worship. In the Northern Hemisphere, Advent and Christmas come when the days are

the shortest. In ancient times, especially, lighting candles symbolized hope both for the return of sunlight and for the joy of Jesus' coming to bring God's light to the world.

Next week I'm going to write about Mistletoe, Poinsettia and Christmas trees. Might as well get in the Christmas mood for time goes so fast these days. Have a good week!

Thought for the day: The greatest degree of inner tranquility comes from the development of love and compassion. The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater is our own sense of well-being. Dalai Lama

Send comments to [rosemerrie@att.net](mailto:rosemerrie@att.net) or call 865-748-4717.

### ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES



Collage showing Civil War images that Carl has handled in the past.

## Civil War Photography and you



By Carl Sloan

Civil War Photography and You  
No matter whether you call it the Civil War or the War Of Northern Aggression, the War was the first in the states to be documented by photography.

By 1861 there were several types of photography that began in the late 1840s from Louis Daguerre and his Daguerre Types, the Ambro Type to the tin type and then paper photographs. The subject matter includes soldiers, families and veterans. Most folks simply don't understand the value of such photos.

Many soldiers sat for their image, either in a fine studio with hand painted tinting for color or even in the field from a traveling tintype photographer for as little as twenty five cents. Any or all of these images are of high importance as they are the only record that survives besides diaries and letters to describe the times and events. Knowing the identity or unit of the soldier makes a great difference as well and again needs to be examined carefully under magnification to examine fine details such as rank and buttons that can give a clue. Confederate images can be very deceiving with the lack of uniforms. The uniforms worn in the early part of the war look like they are Union and photos of civilians might actually be soldiers if you know where to look for items such as a daggers or pistols.

The most common misunderstood items are those from the post war veteran fraternities such as the Union Grand Army of the Republic, the Southern Cross, Sons of Confederate Veterans and Daughters of the Confederacy. These post war groups had medals, uniforms and other items that are highly collectible. Most old Confederate flags discovered now are actually from this post war era yet still valuable on the markets today.

Hardly a month goes by that I am not looking at someone's old family photo album and spot one of these examples. Families often have photographs of soldiers and no idea who they are and if even they're family.

There are Civil War magazines that publish a newly found photograph of a soldier on a full page as this is what it has come down to with new discoveries. I can remember 30 years ago that a war image was common and would bring only a few dollars. Yet today, one can bring in from the hundreds to thousands of dollars.

As always let me know if you have any questions or concerns about your items as assessments by myself are at no charge for items that you are wishing to sell. Please call Fountain City Auction at (865)604-3468 for a quick and free assessment by phone, mail or in person by appointment.

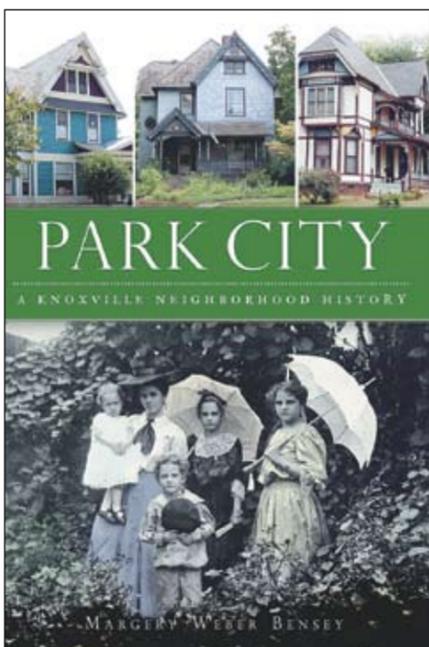
## Mabry-Hazen House Hosts Annual Christmas Tours, Book Signing

The Mabry-Hazen House invites you to join us for our Annual Christmas Tours. Rooms and other areas will be decorated by well known Knoxville decorators including Samuel Franklin, The Flower Pot, Scott Morrell of Flowers, Pamela Deathridge, as well as volunteers and museum staff. The event is free of charge and light refreshments will be served. Christmas Tours are scheduled for Saturday, December 15 from 5-8 p.m. and Sunday, December 16 from 2-5 p.m. On Saturday, local author Margery Weber Bensey will be signing copies of "Park City: A Knoxville Neighborhood History," a perfect holiday gift for your local history enthusiast. The home will remain decorated and open for regular tours until December 20.

Margery (Meg) Weber Bensey is a writer, editor and teacher living in the Park City Historic District

of Knoxville, Tennessee. She is a member of Knox Heritage and the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable, as well as the East Tennessee Historical Society. She has been researching the history of her house, its families and Park City since 1989. Her essays, poems, articles, histories, short stories and illustrations have been published in literary and academic newsletters, four anthologies and a history book. She has a master's degree in literature from the University of Tennessee, where she worked as a writer and editor for twenty years. She is now a writing instructor for local community colleges and a freelance editor.

About Park City: A Knoxville Neighborhood



### History

Park City's tree-shaded streets frame a neighborhood with an identity all its own. The distinctive homes designed by famed architect George Barber lend Park City its unique visual appeal and local flavor. Yet behind the well-preserved, innovative

architectural designs is a history that stretches back to Knoxville's earliest beginnings. Knox County's first sheriff, Robert Houston, was a Park City resident, establishing the county's first court in the late 1700s.

Since then, Park City residents have helped shape Knoxville's history by shaping their community. Longtime Park City resident and local historian Margery W. Bensey tracks the history of its development from village to vibrant residential neighborhood. From stories of the first settlers and community events to the dramatic tale of a neighborhood duel, this is the complete Park City chronicle.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AARP Driver Safety December Classes

For information about these and all other AARP Driver Safety Classes, please call Carolyn Rambo at 584-9964.

12/3 and 12/4 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Ossoli Clubhouse, 2511 Kingston Pike, Knoxville.

12/5 and 12/6 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. Oak Ridge Senior Center, 728 Emory Valley Road, Oak Ridge.

### Annual Buy Local Holiday Art Sale

A1 LabArts is happy to announce the Buy Local

Art Sale, to take place on First Friday, December 7, 2012 from 5-9 p.m., and Saturday December 8, 2012 from 2-5 p.m. at The Center for Creative Minds, 23 Emory Place, in Knoxville.

### Downton Abbey at Downtown West

Join East Tennessee PBS to celebrate Downton Abbey! We will have a special screening of the first hour of Episode 1, Season 3 at Regal Downtown West Cinema 8 on Sunday, December 16, at 5 p.m.

Please feel free to join us in Downton Abbey inspired costume or as yourself. This is the perfect opportunity to take a break from the holiday madness and treat yourself.

There is no cost for the event but seating is limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, please contact Amy Hubbard. [ahubbard@EastTennesseePBS.org](mailto:ahubbard@EastTennesseePBS.org).

### Echo Ridge Welcomes Seniors for the Holidays

Echo Ridge, an independent senior living

community in Knoxville, would like to invite all members of the community, especially seniors, to join in celebrating the holiday season and bringing good cheer to our neighbors with events, activities and seminars.

Wednesday, December 5 at 1:45 p.m.: Coats for the Cold Drive - Bring coats for children and adults so we can donate them to the less fortunate during the holidays. Come early and join us for lunch at 12:30 pm. RSVP is required as seating is limited.

Saturday, December 8

at 1:45 p.m.: Toys for Tots Drive - Bring new bought toys to donate to local children during the holiday season. Come early and join us for lunch at 12:30 p.m. RSVP is required as seating is limited.

To RSVP, or to learn more, please call Echo Ridge at 865-769-0111.

### Exploring your Medicare Options

A dedicated team of BlueCross Medicare Advocates will be holding a community meeting in Knoxville on Wednesday, Dec 5. The purpose of the meeting is to help beneficiaries and their loved ones find

out more about Medicare options available to them. A sales person will be present with applications and information about our Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and Medicare Supplement plans. The presentation will be at the South Knox Community Center at 10:00 a.m. To get more information about Medicare Advantage and drug coverage or to reserve a spot at the meeting, please contact a BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee representative at 1-888-696-1275 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET, 7 days a week (TTY/TDD users should call

Cont. on page 4

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cont. from page 3

877-664-6422). Persons with special needs should request accommodations in advance.

### Fountain City / North Knoxville Republican Meeting

The Fountain City / North Knoxville Republican Club will have their annual Christmas dinner on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at Louis Restaurant on Old Broadway. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. and a cake auction will begin at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. For more information you may contact President Michele Carringer at 865-247-5756.

### Housing Options for Individuals with Mental Illness presentation

"Housing Options for Individuals with Mental Illness" presentation will be given by Tammy Lynn on Tuesday, December 4 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at 901 E. Summit Hill Drive (Fort Hill Building - First Floor) Knoxville, TN 37915. Lynn is a LCSW- Region 2 Creating Home Initiative Facilitator. The presentation is sponsored by Knoxville National Alliance on Mental Illness and the public is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact [namiknox.org](http://namiknox.org) or 865-602-7807.

### Local author discusses 'Can You See God'

Betsy Stowers Frazier will be at Luttrell's library on December 8 to talk about her new book, "Can You See God." The book is about the experience of growing up in the Luttrell community and its people. Punch and cake will be served.



## Grape Salad

4lbs seedless grapes, washed and drained  
8oz fat free cream cheese, room temperature  
8oz fat free sour cream, room temperature  
1 cup powdered sugar  
1 tsp vanilla flavoring

Mix cream cheese, sour cream, powdered sugar and vanilla with hand mixer or blender until smooth. Stir in grapes and refrigerate. Serve chilled.

## Apple-Spinach Salad

1 10oz package fresh spinach, washed and torn  
2 Granny Smith apples, chopped  
½ cup cashews  
½ cup golden raisins  
Dressing  
¼ cup sugar  
¼ cup apple cider vinegar  
¼ cup vegetable oil  
¼ tsp garlic salt  
¼ tsp celery salt

Combine sugar and next four ingredients and heat until sugar is dissolved. Cool. Cover tightly and chill dressing up to one day before serving.

When ready to serve, combine first four ingredients in a large salad bowl. Shake dressing well and pour over mixture. Toss gently.

### North Knoxville Business and Professional Association meeting

The North Knoxville Business and Professionals will have their Christmas program at 7:45 a.m. on December 14, 2012 at Northgate Terrace, 4301 Whittle Springs Rd.

### Ossoli Circle meeting

Coffee, 9:45 a.m. Monday, December 3, Ossoli Clubhouse, 2511 Ossoli Circle. The South-Doyle High School Madrigal Ensemble directed by John Maples will perform at 10:30 a.m.; Business Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

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