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MONDAY

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Knox County Clerk's office moves to South Mall Road

By Tasha Mahurin
Mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Elected officials and the general public celebrated the opening of the recently relocated Knox County Clerk's office last week. The satellite office, previously located in Knoxville Center Mall, has moved to 3010 South Mall Road, into the former Markman's Jewelry and Fine Diamond's location.

Although the Knox County Clerk's new satellite office officially opened three weeks ago, officials just recently gathered to celebrate its opening. By all accounts the opening is something to celebrate. Although the county spent roughly \$40,000 renovating the facility, it is estimated that the lease will save tax payers \$243,000 over eight years in rent and other related charges.

In addition to the savings, the building is 3,500 square feet, and the new location boasts ample parking and easier entrance and exit. The east office will now also offer a drive-thru service for renewals. As always residents will still be able to obtain driver's license, marriage license, passports or auto tags. Residents will also still be able to pay their taxes there.

"The drive-thru service is such a nice addition," stated local resident Jack Martin. "It will make the renewal process much more convenient."

Martin is one of a host of local residents



Pictured from left to right at the Clerk Office Ribbon Cutting are: Commissioner Larry Smith, Knox County Sheriff JJ Jones, Commissioner Dave Wright, Commissioner Ed Shouse, Property Assessor Phil Ballard, County Clerk Foster Arnett and 8th District School Board member Mike McMillan.

who use the office. According to Knox County Clerk Foster Arnett, the east office is the busiest of six locations county wide. This particular office collected \$8.1 million in revenue in 2011.

"Hopefully, the drive by, will help keep

the lines and wait shorter," added resident Gail Scott, citing the notoriously busy office.

Additionally, the new office will maintain their convenient Saturday operating hours, as well as their Monday through

Friday hours from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

The Knox County Clerk's office maintains satellite locations in South Knoxville, West Knoxville, Farragut and Halls.



Superintendent McIntyre welcomes students Ryenne McDowell and Tinaya Gist to the 2012 Career Fair on Thursday, February 23.

KCS hosts 2012 Career Day

Nearly 100 area employers participated in the annual Knox County Schools Career Day for eighth grade through twelfth grade students on Thursday, Feb. 23 at the Knoxville Expo Center.

Students had the opportunity to speak with representatives from a variety of businesses and professions, including healthcare, county government, construction, health and fitness, tourism, media, education and several others. Many businesses and organizations offered hands-on displays to give students a better idea of what their businesses entail.

In addition to employers, several area community colleges, universities and technical schools had representatives on hand to discuss post-secondary education. Representatives from each Knox County high school were also available to

speaking with eighth grade students and their parents about the transition to high school.

In other news, the Knox County Schools' Parent University will begin a new class series which is based on a book by Dr. Kevin Leman titled "Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours." The first class will meet on Wednesday, February 29 at 6 p.m. at the Sarah Simpson Professional Development Center located at 801 Tipton Avenue.

This class series is focused on building parenting skills and will be led by Family and Community Engagement Supervisor, Tracey Matthews. This is one of four monthly sessions. Parents, teachers, and caregivers of children are welcome to attend. The class is free, however preregistration by Feb. 28 is requested because space is limited. Call 594-9525 to register, or visit www.knoxschools.org.

History Award Nominations Sought

The East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS) is seeking nominations from across East Tennessee for Awards of Excellence in the field of history. Each year, the society recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, and interpretation of the region's history.

Awards are in four categories:

The Award of Distinction recognizes a special project, such as publications, building preservation, or special programming, including a conference, heritage event, publication, lecture series, or other.

History in the Media Award is presented to someone in the field of television, radio, newspaper, magazine, Internet, for outstanding contributions to the promotion of our region's history.

Teaching Excellence Award is for outstanding or innovative teaching of history at any level, grades one through adult education.

The Society's most prestigious recognition is the **Ramsey Award for Lifetime Achievement**. This award is reserved for one who, over the course of a lifetime, has made outstanding contributions to the understanding and preservation of East Tennessee history. It is named for ETHS founder and early historian, Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey, author of The Annals of East Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century.

These prestigious awards have been presented by the Society each year since 1982 to individuals and organizations with outstanding contributions in the fields of teaching, the media, preservation, publishing, and lifetime achievement.

For more information about the Awards of Excellence or to request a nomination form, please contact the East Tennessee Historical Society, P. O. Box 1629, Knoxville, TN 37901. Phone: 865-215-8824 or visit website at www.eastTNhistory.org. The postmark deadline for award applications is April 19, 2012. Winners will be recognized at the Society's Annual Meeting held in May in Knoxville.

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Silent Witness

It was on a Friday afternoon when we saw them. Mother and I had stopped in at the food court at the mall for lunch. We sat down at a table on the upper level. While we were eating, a quick glance to the lower level showed a couple of familiar faces.

We immediately recognized our Church Administrator at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Mike Hearn. Mike is a wonderful family man. His wife had been the director of the women's ministry for some time. We taught their daughter in kindergarten Sunday School and watched their young son become a teenager. We had it on good authority that Mike was meticulous to the detail in his job and could often be seen about the church grounds. He could be found in the choir room helping to sweep out flood water or on the church roof with the contractor. Mike was a hard worker and took his job seriously. It was clear he was engaged in conversation with the other gentleman, Dr. Tim Holder. Tim is a Sunday School Connect teacher and a deacon, and he often

leads in worship. He is also a history professor and the author of several books.

Mike and Tim finished long before we did, and we were too far away to speak to them. They stood up to leave and walked to the hallway. We watched as these two friends, Hearn and Holder, parted ways. Their names paired together even sound like partners. It was their next gesture that stood out to us—a simple handshake. Perhaps, no one else in the immediate area even noticed it. Perhaps, they did. Mother commented that it made one proud to call these Christian men our friends.

Their simple act of goodwill is a reminder that the most subtle action can be noticed. Our life is an open book. Essayist and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson in the 1800s said: "What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say?" Even our pastor said recently that most people would rather "see" a sermon than hear one.

It has been nearly three years since that day when we saw the silent witness of these two Christian men, but it still serves as a reminder that one's body language speaks volumes about his character. One never knows when he, too, may be a witness—if only a silent one.



Dr. Tim Holder



Mike Hearn

'Social issues' don't require rocket science



By Richie Beeler

With the recent emergence of Rick Santorum as the frontrunner in the race for the Republican nomination for president, a number of hot-button political items have once again made a prominent appearance in the campaign. Abortion, same-sex marriage, school prayer, and the separation of church and state are now in the limelight as the discourse has shifted from fiscal matters to these ever-present social issues.

Some would allege that this is detrimental to the process of selecting a president. After all, the country has languished in an economic downturn for nearly four years. People need jobs, better health care, and enough equity in their homes to avoid the specter of foreclosure. Many feel that it's a waste of valuable time and energy to be talking about matters of religion and morality.

And yet, history has proven that nothing stirs the emotion of the electorate quite like a good controversial social issue. Very few people get into knock down, drag out fights with their friends and neighbors about the latest overnight interest rate set by the Federal Reserve. Folks seldom become enraged by the performance of the

housing market. But bring up gay marriage or abortion in the wrong company and you had better duck and cover.

These so-called social issues matter to the mainstream voters in America. In 2004, with the Iraq war hanging over the country's head, an overwhelming number of Evangelical Christians went to the polls and effectively re-elected George W. Bush. They didn't vote their pocketbooks. They voted their passion. And they were passionate about a candidate who was conservative in the realm of social issues.

Now it's 2012. And Rick Santorum is that candidate. He has never been a chief executive like Mitt Romney. He has neither the fiscal expertise of Ron Paul nor the political genius of Newt Gingrich. Yet it is Santorum who has abruptly risen from

the middle of the pack to take the Republican primary season by storm.

Is this some kind of weird political 'rocket science?' Hardly. Rick Santorum doesn't have those kind of credentials either. But here's what he does have: he is exactly what energizes the Republican base. He is a religious and social conservative.

Contrary to what you may observe from Tea Party rallies, smaller government is not the highest ideal of most mainstream Republicans. It's a nice concept. But the historical truth is that Republicans have seldom been bothered by big government, extravagant military spending or huge deficits. Most Republican voters are okay with all those things, as long as they happen under a 'conservative' administration.

And what on earth does

conservative mean to such voters? It means a president who is pro-life, anti-gay marriage, and pro-school prayer. It means a president who sees the world in clearly defined terms of good and evil, good guys and bad guys. And who isn't afraid to proudly proclaim that the Americans are the good guys.

Ron Paul is practically professorial when he talks about the country's fiscal woes. He understands the mechanism that involves the Federal Reserve and world currencies to a degree that makes him by far the most highly qualified candidate to fix America's financial mess. But you

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Soulful Recipes

I don't care what Phil Punxatawny says. Warm weather is not that far away, so let's get geared up and try out some recipes.

GRILLED PEARS

Fun factoid: in the 1800's, one pear could cost you the modern-day equivalent of \$20

- 4 pears.
- 1/4 c. light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons butter
- 1/3 cup water

Peel pears and cut in half lengthwise, remove core. Set aside. In large skillet, over low to medium flame, combine butter, nutmeg, brown sugar, and cinnamon. Drizzle in the water while the butter melts. When the mixture covers the bottom of the pan, add the pears, cut side down. Grill until pears are tender—about ten minutes.

When cooking pears, it's best to remove the skin, even though it's loaded with vitamins, because it tends to get tough during the cooking process.

WATERMELON GAZPACHO

Fun factoid: Watermelon is approximately 92% water.

- 8 cups cubed, seeded watermelon
- 1 apple, diced
- 1/2 cup finely chopped Vidalia onion
- 1/2 cup finely chopped green pepper
- 2 teaspoons fresh basil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground

- pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar

In a blender, puree watermelon with the apple and 1/4 cup each of the onion and green pepper. Pour into a large mixing bowl. Stir in the remaining ingredients, including the other 1/4 c. green pepper and onion. Refrigerate at least one hour, covered, to blend flavors. Serves 4-5

GRILLED SALMON TERIYAKI

Fun factoid: A female salmon may lay up to 800 eggs for every pound she weighs.

- 4 salmon steaks (around 6 oz. each), skinned
- 1 cup light soy sauce
- 1/3 cup sake (Japanese rice wine)
- 4 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 4 garlic cloves minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh ginger root, grated
- 1/3 cup sesame oil

Combine all the ingredients for the marinade in a small bowl and stir until sugar dissolves.

Rinse salmon under cold running water and pat dry with paper towels. Divide each steak into two pieces by cutting along either side of the central bone and then discarding the bone. Place the salmon in a shallow glass or ceramic container and pour one cup of marinade over the fish. Cover and refrigerate for two hours, turning fish occasionally. Let come to room temperature before grilling.

Remove the salmon from the marinade, reserving the liquid. Place the fish on oiled grill rack, approximately six inches

Cont. on page 4

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Publisher's Position Bud Armstrong best choice for Law Director



By Steve Hunley,
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other organizations which are said to have "endorsed" Jarret.

The headline in question, "Joe Jarret gets it right," refers to Jarret's reversal of his own previously issued opinion which helped plunge Knox County into yet another political fiasco. This one involved the attempted fiscal takeover by the commission and mayor of the Knox County "fee offices" in early 2011. Jarred initially opined that the commission had legal authority to take control of all fiscal matters of the Constitutionally elected fee offices by a simple majority vote. This despite the fact that county voters had rejected such a power grab by a nearly three to one margin in 2008.

Apparently, Jarret's ruling was made without sufficient legal basis. As officeholders and members of the legal community began to question his opinion, Jarret was

forced to consult further with the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS). They informed him that such a takeover of Constitutionally elected offices was indeed illegal in Knox County, leading to an abrupt reversal of his own initial opinion by Jarret.

In the article that appeared in the following issue of *The Focus*, it was merely our intent to point out that after hastily agreeing with the legality of the commission's attempt at passing the measure, Jarret finally 'got it right.' Had it not been for CTAS and the intestinal fortitude of two conscientious officeholders, there is no guarantee the opinion would have been reversed, or that Knox County would have escaped disastrous legal ramifications.

It was our desire at the time to give credit where we felt credit was due, and that included Joe Jarret,

even though his initial opinion almost cost the county dearly, and could have paved the way to effectively overturning the results of the election of 2008 when voters clearly stated they wanted fee offices to retain a degree of independence.

Even when a few commissioners attempted to reintroduce the same issue, this time by presenting it as an "ordinance" rather than a resolution, Jarret inexplicably stopped short of reaffirming his ruling that the measure had no legal basis. Instead he issued a rather ambiguous opinion that appeared to give commissioners the green light to act, and which seemed to imply that the county charter might somehow 'trump' the State Constitution.

It is now our intent to make clear that neither one headline from *The Focus* nor the article that followed were endorsements of Joe

Jarret's candidacy for Law Director, and the use of it in a campaign brochure alongside statements of endorsement could be misleading.

The Focus is firm in the position that Bud Armstrong is the best choice for Knox County Law Director. Not only is he intimately familiar with how the various departments of government work in Knox County, but he also has a keen legal understanding of how the separation of powers is to operate within county government. Bud Armstrong understands the delicate balance that a home rule county must maintain between local law and state law.

But first and foremost Bud Armstrong is a man of integrity. Armstrong passes the truest test of a good reputation: he is respected most by those who know him best. And he knows and understands the people of

Knox County.

Joe Jarret's approach to the fee office issue alone displayed a tendency to be premature and erratic with his handling of tough legal questions. His initial position opened the door for a standoff between the mayor, commission, and some elected officeholders that was both unfortunate and unnecessary. Although he did 'get it right' just in the nick of time, it was a rather inept handling of what may have been the most important legal question of the year for Knox County government.

Jarret was appointed by Commission to fulfill the term of his former boss, Bill Lockett. Now it is time for the people to choose their Law Director. We feel that Bud Armstrong's calm and collected demeanor, and his careful, academic approach to the law will best serve the citizens of Knox County.

Mike McMillan Has Earned A Full Term

By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

could not contain himself and as the officials gathered for the traditional photograph with the shovels, Underwood darted out of the audience and grabbed a shovel without being invited by anyone to do so.

Underwood has decried "politics," harrumphed about "bullying" and "intimidation," yet it is his own supporters who have repeatedly e-mailed school employees at their official school addresses. It was Underwood who supported the King of the Government Pensioners, Roy Mullins, who did NOT favor a new Carter Elementary School, but preferred renovations. Underwood's campaign has been long on slogans and light on substance. As we all know, if mere slogans could solve problems, we'd live in a virtual utopia today. "Yes we can" has not translated to actually solving America's problems; in fact, we may have more problems today than ever before.

Underwood continually refers to the "politics of the past," yet nothing smacks more of the past than Underwood's core supporters of retired former high level school system administrators, including his aunt Shirely Underwood, who routinely retire with pensions that would make a Congressman blush and find themselves rehired by a grateful school system.

The Board appoints the Superintendent of Schools, giving the Superintendent the largest share of taxpayer dollars and the smallest constituency of any prominent official, especially for one who is paid more than Vice President Joe Biden, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Roberts and Speaker of the House John Boehner.

The school system has routinely bought parcels of property all across the county for decades with the stated intent of expanding existing schools, as well as

constructing schools, yet many of these same parcels sit empty today. There were so many of these parcels the school system hired a former administrator at a salary of approximately \$50,000 annually to "super-visit" vacant property.

The school system has changed its priorities after purchasing property intended to expand or build new facilities, leaving those communities just as they were before spending millions of taxpayer dollars. The politics of the past left this an unquestioned and routine practice. Underwood has never once decried this practice; in fact, the masters of this particular art form are Underwood's aforementioned most ardent supporters.

Knox County's current debt is approaching one billion dollars and the school system consumes literally hundreds of millions of our tax dollars. Every Knox Countian, whether having

ten kids or none, supports the school system with tax dollars. Clearly the school system, like every aspect of government, is going to have to find news ways to stretch existing dollars.

A responsible School Board member is going to remember all of us have an investment in educating future generations. A responsible Board member will realize there are hard decisions to make and not all of them will directly affect the children in the classroom, but could easily have consequences for our future.

Mike McMillan refused to outsource the custodial staff; McMillan refused to close small schools, including Coryton Elementary School so more money could be spent in West Knoxville; McMillan refused to deny community groups access to buildings built with their hard earned tax dollars in the first place. Mike McMillan has initiated a means of more clearly defining a zero tolerance

policy that will make our schools and children safer. Lastly, as Mayor Tim Burchett said himself, "Without Mike McMillan, there would be no new Carter Elementary School."

Mike McMillan spent his entire adult life teaching children and is the first classroom teacher to sit on the Board of Education in decades. It would be impossible for one to have a greater commitment to children.

The Eighth District needs an independent voice on the Board of Education who will question policies and not rubber stamp decisions made by and for special interests. The scope of and running of our school system requires more than cheerleading and sloganeering. It requires practical solutions and Mike McMillan has been that independent voice.

Mike McMillan has earned another term.

MIKE McMILLAN
SCHOOL BOARD - 8TH DISTRICT

What people are saying about Mike...

"There would be no new Carter Elementary School without Mike McMillan. That's just a fact!"

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett

Paid for by Committee to Re-Elect Mike McMillan, Doug Beeler and Teresa Clapp, Treasurers

Future Site of the New Carter Elementary School

8th District School Board member Mike McMillan and Mayor Tim Burchett inspect the progress of the site preparation for the new Carter Elementary School.

voteformcmillan.com

FOCUS MORE ON Seymour

Network Technologies remodels to better serve customers

By Tasha Mahurin
Mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Network Technologies, a locally owned and operated U.S. Cellular store, has served the area's cellular needs since 1999. The store, located at 10922 Chapman Highway, was recently completely remodeled in order to better serve its customers. Upgrades to the facility include a larger showroom with ample shopping space, individual consulting stations, and live phones for customers to demo before making a purchase.

"We are so grateful to the Seymour and South Knoxville communities for their loyal support over the years," said owner Shirley Clepper. "Their support has enabled us to continue to provide friendly local service, and we're excited to offer them a new and improved shopping experience."

The showroom may be improved, one thing will never change... the service. Although Network Technologies offers products and services from one of the largest wireless telecommunication networks in the United States, the locally owned and operated business has managed to maintain the hometown ambience of a local diner while offering expertise on the latest cellular technology. Clepper maintains that "keeping it local" is the key to their success.

"Now more than ever it is so



The friendly and professional staff at Network Technologies in Seymour is ready to help with all of your cell phone needs.

important to support our locally owned businesses," Clepper told *The Focus*.

In fact, Shirley Clepper and employee Autumn Galyon devote a great deal of time and energy to the Seymour South Knoxville Chamber of Commerce and have been active in the organization since its formation. Clepper is currently the vice president, while Galyon serves as the managing direction. Additionally, Network Technologies has been instrumental in helping the Seymour school system win \$250,000 over two years through U.S. Cellular's Calling All Communities campaign.

To celebrate the success of their newly remodeled space, and as a thank-you to the community for their support over the years, any customer who activates a new line of service or renews an existing line of service will receive a 50% discount on an accessory. Network Technologies also offers the lowest prices on pre-owned phones.

Network Technologies is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. They are closed on Sundays so that employees may spend time with their families.

Charles Temple receives award

The Sevier County Board of Education is pleased to announce that the National School Boards Association (NSBA) recently presented to Charles W. Temple, School Board Representative for Seymour's 4th Educational District, a Certificate of Distinguished Services in recognition of extraordinary commitment to America's children through School Board Leadership and Service.

The NSBA's National School Board Member Recognition Program honors individual local school board members for their outstanding commitment to public education

through proven school board leadership and service. The NSBA recognized his outstanding service as a School Board Member. NSBA notes that, through his service, he has made a significant contribution to public education in his district and state and has helped to increase respect for School Boards across America. Further, NSBA recognizes that, by his excellent work as a School Board Member, he has helped to prepare students to become successful, contributing members of a changing, global society.

Soulful Recipes

Cont. from page 2
from the heat source. Turn once and brush with the reserved marinade. Cook 3-5 minutes per side, depending on the salmon's thickness. Makes 8-3oz servings.

easy. Enjoy--as soon as it gets nice out!!

Thought for the day: there's many a good tune played on an old fiddle. English proverb

Send comments to: rosemerrie@att.net

Three yummy recipes to make and they're so

'Social issues' don't require rocket science

Cont. from page 3
won't fire up many GOP voters by criticizing the US military's involvement in other regions of the world.

Mitt Romney is an experienced leader. He has run a state, which has historically been the most effective training ground for presidents. He is certainly a religious conservative. But his Mormon beliefs do not resonate very well among Evangelicals. And you don't become Governor of Massachusetts by preaching against gay marriage and abortion.

But trumpeting a conservative stance on social issues just might be enough to make Santorum the Republican nominee for president. Not that he will get any help from the media. The left wing pundits are already trying to dismantle the Pennsylvania Senator's momentum by asserting that a social conservative is unelectable in a race against Barack Obama.

That's because Santorum is the left's worst nightmare. The liberal media is terrified that the GOP might return to its senses and actually nominate a social conservative that is strong on foreign policy. Because they know

such a candidate would energize the religious conservative base that all but abandoned the party in 2008.

The secularist media has long been in the business of trying to convince everyone that the Republican Party needed to move toward the center on social issues in order to have any shot at the White House. And every time the GOP nominates a moderate, they lose.

The truth is, none of the Republicans may be able to beat Obama in a head to head election. There are any number of contingencies that could still have a profound effect on the outcome of this campaign. Rick Santorum may not be any more electable than the next guy.

But you can rest assured of one thing. Liberals would just as soon he not have the chance.

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In Perspective

Knoxville's annual Mardi Growl Parade and Festival will be held on March 3rd. The annual fundraiser, which benefits Young-Williams Animal Center, has become a local favorite- which inspired my column this week.

By Tasha Mahurin
 Mahurin@knoxfocus.com

Many of you will remember Knoxville was named The Most Pet Friendly City in the Southeast by Dog Fancy Magazine just last year. Knoxville is also home to four off-leash dog parks. Even some of our electoral hopefuls have taken to handing out dog treats on the campaign trail. (On a side note: any candidate who comes knocking on my door, must meet the approval of my ten year old terrier-mix, Trevor. Not only do I not trust people who don't like dogs.. I also don't trust people my dog doesn't like.)

One thing is for certain, you can pull on the heart-strings of a great number of Knoxvilleians by showing a little "puppy" love to

Cont. on page 2



Knox County Sheriff JJ Jones with 2011 Officer of the Year Joe Sulewski, Officer of the Month Nathan Cole, and Detective of the Month Aaron Yarnett.

On Tuesday, February 21, three very special Knox County Sheriff's Officers were recognized for outstanding work at the monthly Officer of the Month program. Those honored last Tuesday include: 2011 Officer of the Year Joe Sulewski, Officer of the Month Nathan Cole, and Detective of the Month Aaron Yarnett.

On September 3, 2011, Officer Joe Sulewski responded to a domestic call. The suspect was not present when Officer Sulewski arrived. On the same day, the Knoxville Police Department responded to a robbery at a CVS pharmacy. Officer Sulewski was nearby, and was the first officer on the scene. After gathering pertinent suspect information for KPD, Officer Sulewski realized that the suspect description matched the one from the day's prior domestic call. KPD informed Officer Sulewski that they were looking for the suspect, 36-year-old Matthew Chakales, in connection with other

robberies. Officer Sulewski later spoke to the victim from the domestic call and obtained more information pertaining to the suspect's possible current location. Officer Sulewski then spent his time, in between

calls for service, checking multiple locations for the suspect. Officer Sulewski located Chakales at 812 Whitehall Road and took him into custody. Chakales confessed to four total robberies. Officer Sulewski, KCSO Major

Crimes, and KPD charged him with multiple counts of Aggravated Burglary, Robbery, and Attempted Robbery. Officer Sulewski has been with the Knox County Sheriff's Office since January 2001.

On January 17, Detective Aaron Yarnett was assigned the missing persons report of a 78-year-old man suffering from dementia. The victim also suffered from other health

Continue on page 4

GFS Marketplace opens in Knoxville

New Store is Fifth in Tennessee

The GFS Marketplace, located at 9312 Kingston Pike in Knoxville, officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, February 14. GFS Marketplace is a food-service store where restaurant owners and consumers can shop without membership and purchase quality items at excellent prices. The Knoxville store will be the fifth GFS Marketplace store in Tennessee. There are three

stores in the Nashville area and one in Clarksville. There are 149 stores overall. "We are excited to expand further into the Tennessee market with the opening of our Knoxville GFS Marketplace store and believe that the community is a good fit for our company," said Jay Zylstra, president. "We appreciate the opportunity to be able to offer our quality products and services to new customers who may be unfamiliar with the GFS Marketplace brand and are

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

GFS Marketplace celebrated its new location with a week of grand opening festivities February 12th - 18th with food tastings and shopping sprees.

Parkview Senior Living

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

It was an exciting week. I was invited to attend the annual conference of the Tennessee Marriage and Family Therapists Association which was held here in Nashville. While there, I was presented with a beautiful clock honoring me as "Legislator of the Year" for the work I have done as Chairman of the Children and Family Affairs Committee. Later in the week, I went back to my roots in Maryville, Tennessee. The Maryville City Schools Foundation selected me for their "Distinguished Alumni Award" from Maryville High School for the work that I have done in the field of education for the state. I am humbled to be recognized by these two groups, and I realize neither

award would have been possible without the assistance of my dedicated staff at the Capitol. I am especially grateful to them. Last September I was invited to be part of a delegation of Legislators who visited Turkey to participate in an exchange dialogue. This week some of the people we met there came to Nashville to join in "Turkish American Day on the Hill." I was privileged to play a role in this observance as we hosted this group at the Capitol. Turkey is a strong secular democratic country that is interested in establishing stronger economic ties with Tennessee. Last week I asked for your opinion on the major role of a state representative. I received several responses. One I especially like is "A representative should be committed to his/her constituents but always keeping in mind the bigger picture of what is healthy and helpful for the community." I agree with that and will strive to keep that as my goal. As part of keeping in touch with the community, I have set aside two Saturdays to meet with constituents to

discuss any state concerns or issues you might have. Those days are March 10th and March 17th. The times and places have changed slightly from what I first reported, so please take note. They are as follows:
Saturday - March 10th at 10:00 a.m. at Tennessee School for the Deaf
Saturday - March 10th at 2:00 p.m. at Carter Community Library
Saturday - March 17th at 10:00 a.m. at Corryton Senior Center
Saturday - March 17th at 2:00 p.m. at Powell Community Library
I hope to see many of you there. Last week the House approved an official Tennessee Day of Prayer which will align with the National Day of Prayer designated by Congress on the first Thursday in May. Tennessee would be the seventh state to establish an official day of prayer. People of all faiths can come together to pray for our nation and our world at this time.
One bill that I was running concerning

distribution of community newspapers will not be voted on this year. Some people saw the problem with these unsolicited newspapers piling up causing litter or indicating absent homeowners. While I felt the bill was a good one, it did not make it out of the Senate committee, thus making it impossible to advance further in the House. Perhaps it will come up again next year.
I want to remind you that early voting ends on February 28th, and the state primary is March 6th. Remember that you must present valid state or federal photo identification in order to vote. As always, if there is any way that I or my office can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to call. The number is 615-741-6879. I enjoy working for you as your Representative.
If you would like to receive the article by email go to: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/lyris/h19s.html>

In Perspective

Cont. from page 1

their four-legged friends. This isn't a business or marketing strategy. It isn't anywhere near critical, and for a lot of businesses its not even practical. But it is fun... so here are some ways local businesses are paying homage to man's best friend.
-Dog Friendly Patios- Many restaurants downtown and throughout the city have obtained permits to allow dogs on their patios. For a list of restaurants who are "pet-friendly", visit www.cityofknoxville.org. For information on obtaining said permit contact the City of Knoxville.
-Drive-thru and a Biscuit- One of my favorite things about my local bank is that not only do tellers hand out suckers to the little blonde darlings in my backseat, they offer a milk-bone biscuit to

the scruffy little mutt in my passenger seat. Again, its not anything revolutionary, but it's a nice gesture that your "pet-owner" customers will certainly appreciate.
-Get Involved- For businesses that don't have a patio or a drive thru, but have a pet loving clientele, another option would be to get involved in pet-friendly events, such as Mardi Growl, or to donate resources or money to a local animal shelter. Not only is it great, tax-deductable marketing...its just a good thing to do.
There has been much debate among marketers and strategists about whether or not being pet friendly is good for business since it does increase cleaning costs and not everyone is an animal lover. However, recent research and surveys suggest that pet friendly businesses tend to maintain a more loyal clientele and develop stronger customer

relationships.
Just something to chew on...
bona fortuna sit semper.



GFS Marketplace opens in Knoxville

Cont. from page 1

sure they will soon become loyal customers."
GFS Marketplace is a store that provides restaurant quality food service products and solutions to businesses and retail customers. "GFS Marketplace offers a unique shopping opportunity, different from typical grocery or bulk food stores," said Zylstra. "Customers, from businesses, to organizations, to family shoppers, can shop here and get recipe and party planning advice from our experts, all with the benefit of no membership fee.
At its ribbon cutting, GFS Marketplace presented a

\$1,000 donation to Serenity Shelter. Serenity Shelter was opened in 1985 by Knox Area Rescue Ministries as a place of refuge and shelter for victims of domestic abuse.
GFM Marketplace will employ approximately 35 people. Among the new employees is an experienced management team with expertise in the food service industry. The team includes: Rose Johnson, Store Manager; Jonathan McIntyre, Merchandising Assistant Manager; and Vivian Blankenship, Sales and Service Assistant Manager.



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Phil PROPERTY ASSESSOR
Ballard

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Promises Made • Promises Kept

Tennessee's Forgotten Senator

Tom Stewart

Part 3

Pages from
the Political
Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com



PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Tom Stewart being sworn in as Tennessee's junior U. S. Senator by Vice President John Nance Garner in 1939.

The battle lines were drawn as Tennessee Democrats prepared for an epic contest to determine the future of the state party and control of Volunteer State politics. On one side stood Governor Gordon Browning and his appointee to the United States Senate, George L. Berry. A young state senator from Shelbyville Tennessee, Prentice Cooper, had received the backing of Tennessee's senior United States Senator, Kenneth D. McKellar and the leader of the Shelby County political machine, E. H. Crump in the gubernatorial contest to oppose Browning. In the contest for the United States Senate, McKellar and Crump were supporting Arthur "Tom" Stewart of Winchester.

For a brief time, there had been no lack of aspirants for the governorship or the senate seat occupied by George Berry. Memphis Congressman Walter Chandler had actually announced his own candidacy for governor, but Senator McKellar was cool to the idea and Crump himself was uneasy about the notion of a candidate from his own domain. Chandler's candidacy disappeared as quickly as it emerged.

Browning had first been elected governor in 1936 with the support of Boss Crump and the Memphis machine. Senator McKellar had never especially liked Browning when they had served in Congress together, but liked him even less when the ambitious young Congressman had considered running against him in 1934. McKellar firmly believed Browning wished to be reelected governor in 1938 only to challenge him in 1940. Browning had admitted as much to Crump himself at the fateful meeting where the two men parted company. Browning claimed Crump was miffed at the governor's failure to appoint him to the vacancy in the Senate due to the unexpected death of Senator Nathan L. Bachman. During the conversation, Browning purportedly told Crump he wanted the support of Shelby County to run for the U. S. Senate in 1938 and would in turn support Crump against McKellar in 1940. Despite having served in Congress for two terms before retiring in 1934, Crump disliked Washington and knew K. D. McKellar remained highly popular in Tennessee and realized the clout the old senator had in the nation's Capitol. Despite some minor differences, the Memphis Boss and Senator McKellar were personal friends as well as political allies. Browning should have known Crump would

never consider a candidacy against McKellar.

Browning began an all-out assault on the Memphis machine when it became apparent Crump was less than enthralled with his proposal. Browning called the legislature into session to create a county unit system for Tennessee elections, giving each county in the state a certain number of votes, rather like the national Electoral College. Such a system would make the huge majorities given candidates in Shelby County meaningless. Crump was both stunned and horrified by the governor's blatant proposal to emasculate the Shelby County machine. Crump immediately responded to Browning's challenge and was forced to plead with Senator McKellar for help. He begged the senator to come from Washington to use his influence to beat the Browning bill. McKellar would have been less than human not to derive some measure of satisfaction from Crump's plea, as the senator had repeatedly and persistently warned the Memphis Boss about Gordon Browning. McKellar took the train to Nashville where he spoke before the General Assembly, denouncing Browning and the county unit proposal in typically blunt McKellar fashion. The governor used every means at his disposal to pass the county unit bill, offering state patronage and favors to induce legislators to vote for the bill. Browning managed to get the bill passed, only to see the Tennessee State Supreme Court strike it down.

Even Browning's allies were appalled by the governor's tactics and press support for the administration began to evaporate. The McKellar

- Crump axis then settled on its own candidates to challenge Browning and Berry in the state primaries. Both Prentice Cooper and Tom Stewart were well known to Senator McKellar, although much less so to Crump. The Memphis Boss acquiesced in the selection of the candidates and Crump and McKellar began organizing for the coming election. The opposition to Browning and Berry coalesced around a ticket of Prentice Cooper for Governor, Tom Stewart for U.S. Senator and W. D. "Pete" Hudson for Utilities Commissioner. The race for the Senate was further complicated by the entry of Fourth District Congressman J. Ridley Mitchell of Cookeville.

The Cooper - Stewart - Hudson ticket employed a seasoned and proficient campaign manager and opened headquarters in the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville. Speaking engagements were organized and the candidates took turns making major speeches in every section of the state. Cooper was forty-two years old as the campaign began and possessed something of a prickly personality, while Tom Stewart was quite affable. Stewart was also a better speaker than Cooper and ran as a supporter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. FDR remained enormously popular in Tennessee and

Senator Berry's running feud with the Tennessee Valley Authority did nothing to help his own campaign. Berry, President of the International Pressmen's Union and a stalwart of the labor movement, further damaged his own campaign by perversely making statements critical of both President Roosevelt and the New Deal program. Berry's peculiar political announcements likely were harmful to Governor Browning who soon moved as far as he could get from his own appointee. Browning could do little to escape the hapless Berry as the governor's older brother, F. L. Browning, was Berry's Secretary and it was Gordon Browning who had appointed Berry to the Senate seat in the first place. It was a political burden the governor would have to bear, along with his failed county unit plan.

The fierceness of the election contest in Tennessee on both sides drew national attention and Texas U. S. Senator Morris Sheppard opined it was likely the Senate would refuse to seat the winner of the race in any event.

Tom Stewart won the Senate race by quite nearly 73,000 votes. Senator Berry was second, followed by Congressman J. Ridley Mitchell in third place. Stewart won the four big urban counties by a decisive

margin. Even before the flood of votes came pouring in from Shelby County, Stewart won nearly half the votes cast in Davidson, Knox and Hamilton Counties over both opponents. Crump's Shelby County added another 55,311 votes to Stewart's total, with Senator Berry receiving 6,727 votes and Congressman Mitchell a paltry 1,342 ballots. The totals from the urban counties more than accounted for Tom Stewart's overall majority.

Stewart had run pretty well across the entire state, coming close to beating Berry in the heavily Republican First District, which was Berry's home. Stewart lived inside J. Ridley Mitchell's Fourth District, which Mitchell carried handily, although Stewart carried his home county of Franklin overwhelmingly.

Gordon Browning had been crushed in his reelection bid by Prentice Cooper, losing by an even more lopsided margin in the two-man governor's race. The McKellar-Crump ticket had won an impressive victory and the two men would dominate Tennessee politics completely for the next decade.

Tom Stewart was the nominee of the Democratic Party and although there was the formality of the general election, the Republican candidate posed no threat

to Stewart's election. Still, there were cries of vote fraud, intimidation, and just about every other charge one could think of after the brutal struggle in the primary. An investigating committee from the United States Senate was dispatched to Tennessee to take testimony and look into the various charges. Senator McKellar hotly denied any wrong doing on the part of the Stewart-Cooper campaign, telling his colleagues the only counties in Tennessee where voter fraud occurred were firmly under the control of the Browning-Berry forces.

Stewart easily won the general election and could have qualified to assume his seat in the United States Senate immediately, giving him increased seniority in a body that revered long service. Oddly, Stewart waited until his term as District Attorney expired and did not take his seat in the Senate until January 16, 1939, making him the least senior member of the Senate at the time.

Stewart received several good committee assignments, including the Senate Agriculture and Commerce Committees and began working hard at his new duties. Tom Stewart looked the part of a senator with his silver hair and he settled into the routine of doing whatever he could for his constituents. Stewart's service in the Senate would be overshadowed by that of his more domineering senior colleague, Kenneth McKellar. McKellar by that time was one of the more senior members of the Senate, the ranking member of the powerful Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Post Office Committee, which gave him tremendous influence in patronage matters in Tennessee.

Stewart worked so closely with McKellar for Tennessee critics grumbled that Senator Stewart simply gave McKellar two votes in the Senate. McKellar's personal relations with Senator Stewart were much more cordial than his frosty relationship with Senator Berry. McKellar and Stewart and their staffs regularly worked in tandem on Tennessee problems and McKellar was careful to consult Stewart on patronage matters, with the two usually making joint recommendations.

Tom Stewart began a decade as a working senator just as world events were changing and war was on the horizon.

LOOK FOR THE KNOXVILLE FOCUS AT
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PILOT STORE



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League of Women Voters taking applications for Inaugural Citizens Academy

Three-day class designed to teach residents about working with Knox County government

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County is pleased to announce it is taking applications for its first Citizen's Academy. The Citizen's Academy is a three-day training that is designed to increase knowledge of and participation in Knox County government. Participation is open to all Knox County residents, particularly up-and-coming leaders already involved in the community. Attendance is free and applications are available on the LWVKKC website, www.lwvknoxville.org.

The Citizen's Academy is designed to bring Knox County citizens who want to improve and make change in their community together with experienced leaders from within and outside of government. After three sessions, participants will come away with a new understanding of how county government works, practical approaches to dealing with community issues, and an invaluable experience right inside the halls of county government. The goal of the Citizen's Academy is to set in motion a vanguard of empowered citizens who will help our county confront its challenges and reach its potential.

The program will be held over three Saturdays- March 24, 31 and April 14. The first session will be at Blount Mansion and will feature expert instruction on county government from Ron Fults of the County Technical Advisory Service, and Knox County Law Director Joe Jarret. The second session at the East Tennessee History Center, led by

veteran community organizer Bill Murrah, will focus on the art of advocacy and include two panels featuring experienced leaders and past elected official. The final session, taking place inside the City County Building, will allow participants to put into practice the skills they have learned in a realistic simulation of problem solving with local government. A downtown reception with the participants and local officials caps off the day.

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County is working to actively engage our citizens through our Observer Corps, voter forums, public information meetings and other activities. The League is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information about the Knoxville/Knox County League of Women Voters, visit www.lwvknoxville.org or e-mail league@lwvknoxville.org.

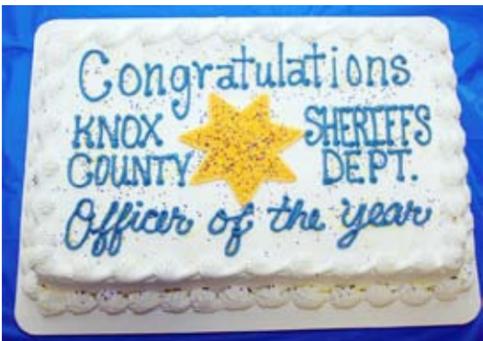


PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

The Officer of the Month program is held on the third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge at 5600 Lonas Rd.

Sheriff's Office recognizes outstanding employees

Cont. from page 1

problems.

After an extensive investigation, Detective Yarnell was able to locate the victim in Asheville, North Carolina. He made contact with the local police agency in an effort to have officers search for the victim's vehicle. After many phone conversations with Asheville Dispatch, they were able to locate the victim approximately 400 feet from his vehicle. The victim was then returned safely to his home.

Detective Yarnell has been with KCSO since May 1995.

On January 31, Officer Nathan Cole was in the second day of searching for a stolen vehicle. The suspect was also wanted for possibly being involved in several residential and vehicle burglaries. As Officer Cole entered the parking lot of the Weigels on Central Avenue Pike, he observed a vehicle matching the suspect description. Inside the vehicle were two males and one female. The female and one of the males exited the vehicle and went inside the store. The male driver stayed in the vehicle and suddenly took off from the parking lot. Officer Cole secured the other two subjects into custody and gave a good description of the suspect's direction of travel for responding officers. After a brief pursuit involving the Knoxville Police Department and the Knox County Sheriff's Office, the driver was taken into custody. His arrest led to solving 10 vehicle burglaries in Knox County, 10 vehicle burglaries in Sevier County, and three residential burglaries in Knox County.

Because of Officer Cole's tenacity and dedication, he has been named KCSO's January 2012 Officer of the Month. Officer Cole has been with Knox County Sheriff's Office since August 1999.

The Officer of the Month program is sponsored by the Knoxville Elks Lodge 160 and is held on the third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge at 5600 Lonas Rd. Everyone is welcome to attend. A special thanks to the Downtown Crowne Plaza, the Elks Lodge and to LB Steele for their commitment to help this program.

Feeling Overwhelmed with Decisions?

If a Spring Remodeling Project is at the top of your "To Do" list, and you're feeling a little stressed – then you should call Michelle Hunley Interiors. Michelle specializes in all facets of interior design for new constructions and remodels/renovations. She gladly works with homeowners, contractors, and realtors.

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USDA INSPECTED MEAT			
<p>Boneless CHICKEN BREAST</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$1.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Lb.</p>	<p>PORK SPARE RIBS</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$2.29</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Lb.</p>	<p>BONELESS HAMS</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$1.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Lb.</p>	<p>2 Lb Bag IQF TILAPIA FILETS</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$5.99</p>
<p>Potatoes and CHICKEN MARSALA</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$1.00</p> <p style="font-size: small;">9.5 Oz.</p>	<p>Tri Colored Ravioli, Calamari, Restaurant Style Soups or ROSEMARY CHICKEN</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$4.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">24-64 Oz.</p>	<p>Fettuccini Alfredo or LASAGNA BAKE</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$3.49</p> <p style="font-size: small;">32 Oz.</p>	
<p>Whipped TOPPING</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$1.00</p> <p style="font-size: small;">16 Oz.</p>	<p>Fully Cooked BURGER PATTIES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$4.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">2 Lb.</p>	<p>FBN FISH STICKS</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$3.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">24 Oz.</p>	
<p>Heat-n-Eat CORN DOGS</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$9.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">10 Lbs.</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">4 FOR \$1</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: white;">Strawberry Parfait GRANOLA YOGURT</p> <p style="font-size: small;">6 Oz.</p> </div>		<p>Shoestring FRENCH FRIES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$2.79</p> <p style="font-size: small;">4 Lb.</p>
<p>Assorted Frozen VEGETABLES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$1.00</p> <p style="font-size: small;">12-16 Oz.</p>	<p>FBN PORK PATTY MEAL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$1.19</p> <p style="font-size: small;">8 Oz.</p>	<p>Garlic & Cheese FRENCH BREAD</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">89¢</p> <p style="font-size: small;">4.35 Oz.</p>	<p>Assorted Flavors BONELESS CHICKEN</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$1.79</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7 Oz.</p>
FARM FRESH PRODUCE			
<p>Firm Green CABBAGE</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">3 LBS. \$1</p>	<p>Sweet ONIONS</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">89¢</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Lb.</p>	<p>Large Roma TOMATOES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">89¢</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Lb.</p>	<p>Red POTATOES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$2.49</p> <p style="font-size: small;">5 Lb. Bag</p>

A new game in town: The Knoxville Nighthawks

By Alex Norman

For those in Knoxville going through football withdrawal, I have some good news...

Next month, it once again will be football time in Tennessee.

The Knoxville Nighthawks will open their inaugural season in the Professional Indoor Football League on March 17th at Columbus, and play their first home game against Richmond on March 31st at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum.

"Those that attend will be impressed by the level of talent we will have on the field and the passion with which the Nighthawks will play this great game of football," said Nighthawks head coach Chris Mackeown. "I promise you we will play tougher, smarter, and we will play harder than our opponent."

Mackeown added, "We have players that have been in the National Football League and should be in the National Football

League that we have signed. March 10th we will make our final cuts. We play our first two games on the road. We would love to return home and play our first home game with a 2-0 record."

With the team based in Knoxville, it is no surprise that seven former University of Tennessee players are currently on the roster, including linebacker LaMarcus Thompson and kicker Alex Walls.

"Anytime you have a Division 1 football program that you can

draw quality people and players from to play at this level of professional football, that is certainly a plus for the Nighthawks,"

Continue on page 3



Coach McNish joins Rebels

By Ken Lay

West High School has a new baseball coach and he's a familiar face to District 4-AAA fans.

Buzz McNish was tapped to take over the Rebels program shortly after Jeff Wright resigned following the 2011 season.

McNish, 36, knows all the rigors of a District 4-AAA schedule as he previously coached at Lenoir City, his alma mater.

"I've been coaching in this district for 12 years," said McNish, who teaches US History, Geography and Contemporary issues at West. "This is hands down the best district in the state from top to bottom. There are other good districts but this one's the best."

"As a coach, you want to coach against the best. You also want kids who want to take that challenge."

McNish, a Lenoir City graduate, said he relished the opportunity to teach and coach on Sutherland Avenue.

"We have a little bit of baseball tradition here and this is a great school, academically,"

he said. "You'll be hard pressed to get a better education than the one you get from West."

"The kids here are good athletes."

The Rebels have enjoyed success in football, basketball recently. The soccer and track and field programs are at elite status.

"The [athletic] programs have had success here and I think baseball can do the same," McNish said.

The new coach said that the Rebels baseball team is in rebuilding mode. That's a difficult spot for West, which plays in a district that includes four-time defending Class AAA State Champion Farragut and defending district tournament champion Maryville, that also reached the State Tournament in 2011.

"We're not going to have the kind of success that we want overnight," McNish said. "We have to build a foundation."

"We hope we can be a surprise in the district."

For McNish, coaching is about more than wins and losses.

Continue on page 2



Gibbs' Jay Cade drives to the basket between Austin-East's Andre Wilson (left) and Aaron Allmon during last week's District 3-AA high school tournament at Carter. A-E prevailed 66-56 in the title game. Both teams earned berths in the Region 2-AA tourney.

It's back to normal for Roadrunners

By Steve Williams

Heads turned back in December. It was hard to believe Austin-East High School's boys basketball team, with its rich tradition, had a 2-9 won-loss record.

But things looked normal last week when A-E advanced to the District 3-AA finals for what Coach Charles Mitchell said he believed was the 17th time in his 20 seasons as head coach.

The Roadrunners continued their turnaround season by defeating Gibbs 66-56 in the championship game at The Jim Williams Gymnasium at Carter. A-E, sporting a 20-11 record, was to have hosted Scott in first round action of the Region 2-AA tourney Saturday night.

Aaron Allmon, one of only two seniors on Austin-East's team this season, said improvements in "defense and (team) chemistry" have been the biggest reasons for the Roadrunners' turnaround.

Coach Mitchell concurred. "We just started playing better as a team," he said. "We started buying into our concepts and playing defense ... And they grew up overnight. They matured."

Allmon, a shooting guard, led A-E in the title game with 20 points and was named

Continue on page 2

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Hopefully, Summitt can coach as long as she wants

I'm not a doctor, so I couldn't tell you how much Pat Summitt's medical condition has reduced her ability to coach.

By Steve Williams

her condition has affected the mindset and performance of her players or assistant coaches this basketball season.

I'm a fan of the Tennessee Lady Vols, although not as passionate as most. I respect the women's game. I'm proud of the program Summitt has built at UT.

I've been watching and listening closely as this season has unfolded, trying to pick up clues of how Summitt and the team are coping with the early onset dementia ("Alzheimer's Type") that the legendary coach bravely came forward and announced she had been diagnosed with last August.

As we have seen, it's a different Pat on the bench now. She told us she would be giving her

veteran assistants – Holly Warlick, Dean Lockwood and Mickie DeMoss – more responsibility. Summitt has literally been looking over their shoulders during timeouts.

I don't know why Summitt isn't taking more of a part in the strategy discussions. It could be she simply doesn't want to complicate matters. There's only so many seconds in a timeout, to draw up a play, to instruct the team. She passed along this important part of the game to her assistants and she trusts their work.

I want to believe Summitt is still contributing, even if in different ways. I've read where she is consulting with players on an individual basis rather than in a group setting. I haven't noticed a lot of difference in her post-game comments, those I've heard on radio or read in print, compared to those from past seasons.

As long as her health permits, I believe she can continue to be a great recruiter. Instead of a distraction, I see her as an inspiration.

One Lady Vol fan recently asked me if I thought Summitt's

condition was the reason for the Lady Vols' inconsistent season. My answer: No, I just think this team is a little short on overall talent compared to great UT teams of the past.

That doesn't mean this team isn't trying. Take last week's 72-71 overtime loss to Arkansas for example. It was the first time the Lady Razorbacks had ever defeated Tennessee in Knoxville. The Lady Vols fell behind by six points in the overtime period, but like Warlick, the associate head coach, said the following morning, the Lady Vols kept battling back and didn't quit. Just like Summitt.

It bothers me that some seem urged to replace Summitt. They say it is a sensitive subject and it is. But it's a move that doesn't need to be made until absolutely necessary.

I'm glad she is still on the sidelines, and I certainly hope she will be allowed to stay there as head coach as long as she can contribute.

I do miss the famous Summitt stare and hearing about her fiery halftime lectures.

There was one game I was

listening to on the radio early this season and apparently Summitt had gotten up and given a referee an earful. The crowd roared in delight. Recently there was another game when a controversial call went against Tennessee. Play-by-play announcer Mickey Dearstone said the referee, who made the call, stayed on the other end of the floor, away from Summitt. A smart referee with a good memory, I might add.

I've written columns on and about Summitt in the past. When she reached the 1,000 victory milestone, I remember writing about all the little girls who have grown up wanting to play for Summitt and the Lady Vols. I wrote it was Summitt who spearheaded the move to change Tennessee girls high school basketball from the six-on-six, half-court game in the early 1980s to the full-court game we know today. I wrote about how Summitt not only built the UT program but always went out of her way to promote women's college basketball overall.

I've also fussed some at Summitt. I still don't like the fact she dropped Connecticut from the

schedule. I didn't agree with the time she benched Angie Bjorklund. I thought she should have offered Webb star and Georgia signee Marjorie Butler a scholarship. I couldn't believe she would proclaim freshman Ariel Massengale a starter before she even got to campus. I don't always agree with her starting five.

But I've never said I didn't want Summitt to be the Lady Vols coach.

Health-wise, I believe Summitt now needs UT and the Lady Vols more than ever. To battle her disease, she has told us how she does her puzzles and works out. Most of all, I think she needs to continue to be surrounded by those who love her. And she needs to do what she loves to do as long as she can.

Not long after Summitt broke the news about her disease, she said her plan all along had been to coach three more years. I hope she gets that opportunity. I hope her health holds out long enough for her to make that decision on her own. If ever there was a coach who earned that privilege, she is the one. I'm not an athletics director, but that I know.

Five Knox teams win titles, advance on tourney trail

By Steve Williams

Five Knox County teams captured championships in high school basketball tournament action last week and several others also qualified for regional play.

Karns and Austin-East won boys district titles. The Beavers rolled past Powell 63-40 in the District 3-AAA finals, while the Roadrunners defeated Gibbs 66-56 in the District 3-AA title game.

Also advancing to regional play, which started Saturday for boys teams, were West and Farragut in Class AAA and Fulton and Christian Academy of Knoxville in Class AA. Webb School's boys were Division II-A regional runnersup and played in a State Sectional game.

On the girls side,

Bearden and Fulton won championships last week and advanced to the opening round of regional play Friday night. The Lady Bulldogs topped rival Farragut 54-49 in overtime in the District 4-AAA finals. The Lady Falcons blasted Pigeon Forge 73-42 in the District 3-AA title game.

Webb School's girls knocked off defending state champion Franklin Road Academy to take the Division II-A region crown. The Lady Spartans kept rolling Friday night, turning back Jackson Christian School 54-32 to land a berth in the state tourney this week at Lipscomb University in Nashville. Coach Shelley Collier's team will play in the state semifinals Thursday.

Also advancing to girls' regional tournament

action were Grace Christian Academy in Class A, Austin-East in Class AA and Hardin Valley and Powell in Class AAA.

In Friday's Region 2-AAA girls openers, all four teams from District 4 prevailed, with Bearden eliminating Powell 40-36, Farragut ousting Hardin Valley 57-53, William Blount knocking off Campbell County 54-37 and Maryville getting past Anderson County 46-44. That sets up tonight's (Feb. 27) semifinals at Bearden with Farragut facing William Blount and the host Lady Bulldogs going against Maryville.

In other regional girls action Friday, Fulton advanced with a 71-63 win over upset-minded Alcoa and Loudon stopped Austin-East 69-36 in Region

2-AA. The Lady Falcons will play Stone Memorial in tonight's semifinals at Alcoa.

Grace Christian lost a two-overtime heartbreaker against visiting Oakdale 53-49 in Region 2-A.

Seymour advanced in Region 1-AAA with a 61-49 victory over Sullivan South. The Lady Eagles will go against Science Hill in semifinal action tonight at Cherokee High in Rogersville.

Boys semifinal regional games will be Tuesday (Feb. 28). Region 2-AA games will be played at Alcoa. The site for Region 2-AAA boys semis was undetermined at press time.

The top two teams in each region qualify for the State Sectionals.

It's back to normal for Roadrunners

Continued from page 1

the tourney MVP. Sophomore guard Andre Wilson added 16 points.

"They're starting to play together," said Mitchell of the 1-2 punch. "When they're on, we're as good as anybody in the city."

Mitchell also believes he has three of the best sophomores in town in Wilson, JaQuail Williams and Imani Miller. "They do so many great things for the team to be sophomores," he said.

Williams, a starting forward, contributed eight points in the win over Gibbs. He and Wilson joined Allmon on the all-tournament team.

Miller chipped in five points and made a couple of great athletic plays in the fourth period when he bounced the ball off a Gibbs player, causing the ball to go out of bounds and allowing the Roadrunners to maintain possession.

Post players Matthew Wagner and Jarod Henderson, a standout middle line-backer on the school's state semifinal football squad and the team's only other senior, dropped in eight and six points, respectively, as Austin-East repeatedly crashed the boards.

Jay Cade was best for Gibbs with 20 points, while Hunter Hopson and Matt Pack each tallied 10.

The Eagles committed numerous turnovers at the start and fell behind 11-0. A.J. Rucker, a big guy with a good shooting touch,

ended Gibbs' dry spell with a 3-point shot with 2:56 left in the opening period.

Another 3-pointer by Rucker followed by Pack's inside basket enabled Gibbs to pull into a 16-16 tie with 5:48 showing in the second period. Two free throws by Aaron Corum in the final minute of the first half gave the Eagles their first lead, but Henderson's inside shot sent A-E to dressing room leading 27-26.

Gibbs' biggest and last lead (33-29) in the contest came early in the third period when Cade intercepted the ball and raced for a layup.

"Gibbs made a run," said Coach Mitchell. "We let them get up four points. That sort of got our juices flowing and then we started doing what we've been doing all year – we started playing defense. And I think our defense turned the game around."

The Roadrunners retook the lead when Allmon's 3-point shot from the left wing bounced high off the rim and fell through the net.

Gibbs got even one last time when a 15-footer by Corum made it 37-37. Wilson, fouled on a 3-point attempt, sank all three free throws to give A-E the lead for good, igniting a seven-point run. It was 47-39 after three stops. Gibbs never got closer than seven points in the final period.

The future looks bright, as usual, for A-E basketball.

"We hope so," said Mitchell. "We've (also) got a couple of freshmen who can play."

As for now, with only two seniors on board, the coach's optimism is curbed by the team's youth.

"Go figure," he said. "You don't know what they'll do, but we hope they'll come back (in the region) and play well."

Austin-East has made it to the state tourney 13 times under Mitchell. Does this team have the potential to go deep in the tournament?

"Oh Lord," answered Mitchell, his tone of voice clearly indicating he didn't want to look beyond the next game. "Let's just wait and see."

Coach McNish joins Rebels

Cont. from page 1

"Baseball is about relationships," he said. "It's about relationships with coaches, players and parents."

"When you have kids

graduate, come back and see you, call you and invite you to their weddings, that's great and that's it's all about. That's what baseball means to me."

He also values his

relationships fostered in the classroom.

"In the classroom, you sometimes have kids who have to be there," he said. When they're playing a sport, they want to be

there and it's a privilege to be there.

"But it's still about relationships."

McNish is an avid Atlanta Braves and Chicago White Sox fan. He and wife Erin, a coach's daughter and former coach, have been married for 10 years.

The couple has a 2-year old son, Manny.

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Alumni Football USA gives Knoxville Alumni chance to play one last game

By David Klein

Imagine recapturing the glory years of high school football. Imagine one more game for bragging rights against your old high school rivals. Imagine no more. Alumni

Football USA is bringing its alumni football games to Knoxville May 18-20. It's a chance for those who played high school football or even for those who wanted to play and were cut or didn't get a chance to play, to suit up for their high school team in a game in full pads at high school fields.

Hollie Fortkamp, publicist for Alumni Football USA, said her uncle Bob Cazet started the Alumni Football League in 1985 in California. She said, "He said to himself, I want to play one more game." Cazet had played high school football and wanted to bring the experience of a real game back to former high school players to experience an

actual game with pads one more time. He knew most of the high school football players would never play another game, she said. Alumni Football USA came together as a way for these former high school players to play the game they love.

This will be the first year for the football games in Knoxville, Fortkamp said, and there are some good rivalry games set up, such as Maryville vs. Alcoa, Boone vs. Crockett, Austin East vs. Fulton and others in the Knoxville area.

As for the games, they are four quarters long, just like a normal football game with 12-minute quarters. Alumni football USA provides all of the gear. Registration is limited to the first 40 players that sign up for their team. Fortkamp said the registration fee is \$95, and that includes gear, insurance, use of the high school fields, emergency personnel, and a DVD copy of the

game. High schools do not have to pay anything for hosting the event.

Tickets to the game are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, Fortkamp said. Tickets purchased before the games are split 50-50 between Alumni Football USA and the high schools. Revenue from tickets bought at the gate the day of the game go to Alumni Football USA.

High schools raised more than \$200,000 last year, Fortkamp said. Schools also will sell concessions at the game as well as raffle tickets to raise even more money for the school. The deadline for former players to sign up is April 18, one month before the weekend games. Once a team is assembled there will be five practices and a team meeting before the game, according to the website.

For more information, go to AlumniFootballUSA.com.

County wrestlers do well at State

By Ken Lay

Several area high school wrestlers won medals at the 2012 State Meet in Franklin on Feb. 18.

Halls High School junior 170-pounder Connor Rohrbaugh culminated an injury-riddled season with a fifth-place finish. He was one of three Red Devils grapplers to make the tournament field. Joe Fox (132 pounds) and Tanner Justice (106) both qualified and went 1-2 over the weekend.

Halls coach Shannon Sayne said Rohrbaugh's showing made the 2011-12 campaign a successful one for his squad.

"Our goal every year is to have guys place at the State Tournament," Sayne said. "We've got to get past the idea that it's okay just to qualify for the State."

"We have a Wall of Fame in our wrestling room and in order to get your name on that wall, you have to place at the State Tournament and we tell our kids that we want them to get their name on that wall."

Sayne and Red Devils assistant John Vandergriff are previous State Champions. During his first three years as coach at his alma mater, Sayne led Halls to consecutive district championships. The Red Devils were in a rebuilding mode in 2010-11 and this year, the Halls squad was plagued by injuries.

Rohrbaugh battled through a knee injury that required surgery and relegated him to the sidelines for a month.

"Connor has accepted the challenge," Sayne said. "He took it to heart and stepped up."

"We're a young team and we didn't have a senior this year and we got bit by the injury bug. Connor had a torn meniscus and that cost him a month but he fought back."

Other area medalists included Gibbs High's Raul Leyva and Fulton's Steven Wilson. Leyva finished third in the 220-pound division for the Eagles and Wilson took fifth in the 182-pound class for the Falcons.

Fulton girls nab title again

By Ken Lay

For the third time in four years the Fulton High School Lady Falcons are District 3-AA Tournament Champions.

Fulton, which is in the midst of a 22-game winning streak, had little trouble claiming its second consecutive district title. The Lady Falcons started fast en route to a 73-42 victory over Pigeon Forge on Monday, Feb. 20 at Carter High School's Jim Wilson Gymnasium.

The Lady Falcons, who improved to 25-2 with the championship victory, used their trademark tenacious defense to smother the Lady Tigers (19-9).

"We practice our defense and we practice getting rebounds," said Lady Falcons senior forward Bre' Hall, who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player after dropping 22 points on an outmatched Pigeon Forge squad. "This feels good because we know that

we're the top dogs and we know that everybody's after us and that drives us to play better.

"We have some great and talented players."

The Lady Falcons, who hosted a Region 2-AA Tournament game Friday night (results were not available at press time), wasted little time exhibiting their talents last Monday night as Hall received plenty of help from her supporting cast.

Guard Victoria Griffin 10 of her 21 points in the first quarter to help the Lady Falcons, who culminated a perfect district season with their latest victory, open a 21-12 lead. Fulton never trailed in the game and used a 24-10 third-quarter surge to put the Lady Tigers away. The Lady Falcons' defense, which was stingy all night, was especially so in the second half. Fulton surrendered just 17 points after the break and one field goal in the fourth quarter. Pigeon Forge hit some late free throws

against the Lady Falcon reserves.

"We pressure the basketball and live off turnovers," Fulton coach John Fisher said. "We got into foul trouble and we gave them 10 points in the first quarter from the foul line."

After the opening eight minutes, Fisher didn't have many complaints as he reflected on the accomplishments of the Lady Falcons veterans, including seniors Hall and Cierra Howard and juniors Griffin, Jayda Johnson and Nataya Roller.

"These girls have really turned everything around," Fisher said. "They've won three of the last four district championships and we'll take that."

"The first district championship that they won was the first in school history and then they won two more."

Griffin and Johnson, a first-year varsity player and transfer from Webb, joined Hall on the all-tournament team. Johnson

has found a home at Fulton.

"Coming into this program has really helped me," she said after scoring 15 points in the title game. "I just try to keep hustling on defense and I try to keep my team up."

Cassidy Martin led the Lady Tigers with 13 points. She had Pigeon Forge's lone basket of the fourth quarter, a 3-pointer early in the frame. Mindy Brackins, an all-tournament selection, scored all 12 of her points in the first half.

A new game in town: The Knoxville Nighthawks

Cont. from page 1

said Mackeown. "I know that great football players can come from all divisions of college football, and I believe that we have gone nationwide to recruit many talented football players."

One of the most important signings was that of former Tusculum quarterback Tony Colston.

"Tony is a veteran arena football quarterback that we are very excited about. He has won a championship in arena football (ArenaCup IX in 2008 for the Tennessee Valley Vipers in af2) and is very advanced in the game," said Mackeown. "That is a big advantage for us, I believe."

When you talk about indoor football game, you realize how difficult it can be for defenses on a 50 yard field. The Nighthawks are calling on the expertise of defensive coordinator Tommy Johnson.

"Coach Johnson is the top arena football coach available this off-season. He was the head coach of the Louisville Fire (af2) for six seasons," said

Mackeown. "He led them to the playoffs five times and ArenaCup VI in 2005. More importantly, Coach Johnson is an awesome person. If I had a son, I would want him to play for Coach Johnson."

East Tennessee is no stranger to indoor football. The Tennessee ThunderCats played at the Civic Coliseum in 2001 and 2002, and the Tennessee Riverhawks were here in 2003. Mackeown believes that his experience can help make sure the Nighthawks have a longer stay than those teams in Knoxville.

"I have been in arena/indoor football for thirteen seasons and I have seen a lot of teams come and go," said Mackeown. "The key for us to have a successful run is showing everyone that we, as an organization are all about honesty, integrity, dependability and hard work. Those are the qualities that make any business thrive and we have that in our ownership, front office and coaching staff."

Can this league, this sport, this team succeed... on and off the field? One step has been to develop working relationships with local businesses, such as First Choice Chiropractic and Johnny Long's Training Academy.

"It is our lifeblood! We would not survive without corporate partnerships in the Knoxville community," said Mackeown.

They have also made it a point of emphasis to give back to the community. They spent some time helping out at the recent "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" project. Can we expect to see the Nighthawks doing more of those kind of things?

"Life is about what you give, not what you get," said Mackeown. "We have been blessed and the Nighthawks will always be about the community, helping others and winning football games!"

For more information on the Knoxville Nighthawks, visit knoxvillennighthawks.com or call 865-686-6016.

Arts & Entertainment



Rob White had a tough job choosing 8 winners out of 95 entries!

'Connections' Theme Show One of Art Center's Best!

By Sylvia Williams

Show judge Rob White had a really tough time judging the Fountain City Art Center open theme show, "Connections," which opened to the public on Friday, February 24 with a large reception. Rob had to narrow his choices down to just 8 winning entries out of 95. He was directed to consider first and foremost how well each artist illustrated the theme, "connections," through their artwork. The artistic interpretations through every imaginable type of material were absolutely fascinating. FCAC members, especially, had been planning their entries for our first ever theme show since it was announced in August, 2011.

During the opening reception, all lights were off except for candlelight until FCAC Board President

Bob Meadows turned on our all new lighting, paid for by the membership's generous donations. After thanking our donors, the show award winners were announced for Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and four Honorable Mentions. In order, starting with "Best of Show," the winners were: Mary Secrist, Aurora Harrison Bull, Bob Meadows, Stephen Hicks, Kay Jursik, Gary Dagnan, B. J. Clark, and Christine Beard.

We highly encourage the public to stop by to see the show and our new lighting. There is NO admission fee to see exhibits! We're located in the old Fountain City Library building next to the Park at 213 Hotel Avenue, just north of Fountain City Lake. You can call 865.357.ARTS or e-mail fcacenter@knology.net.

Tennessee Joltwagon

Stress gives me an appetite for diversion. I confess that when I get to feeling depleted, I often turn to television sitcoms or magazines to distract me.

By Sarah Baker
bakers@knoxfocus.com

Much like a bag of Doritos or peanut M&Ms, they are effortlessly available. Much like all junk, however, the result is usually temporary delight followed by crashing regret. Not to mention the jeans I'd swear were left in the dryer too long.

Luckily, this weekend, kismet carried me to

something better, something that provided real nourishment. This sustenance I stumbled upon was a performance of Tennessee Joltwagon at WDVX's Blue Plate Special. The result of this distraction was tremendous amusement followed by a feeling of contentment and downright inspiration.

Tennessee Joltwagon is a group of lady poets who combine spoken word with roots music. I always enjoy the talented folks that show up at the Blue Plate, but this show resonated with me on a whole other level. It was wonderful. I couldn't have been more impressed if I had stumbled into the 1960s and found Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. Who needs Ginsberg's "Howl" when I got to hear Susan O'Dell Underwood's

"Holler?" How could bongos possibly be better than the banjo-ing and fiddling of Miss Kelsey Wells? I say, no way. I liked it so much I went to Union Avenue books the following day to see them again.

Kory and Kelsey Wells are the mother and daughter team who started this group. Kory is a product director at a software company, but her writing is more than just a hobby. Her novel-in-progress was a William Faulkner competition finalist, and much of her other work has been published in several journals and anthologies including "The Christian Science Monitor." Her daughter Kelsey is a visual communications major at MTSU. Kelsey is the pulse of Tennessee Joltwagon, accompanying their original

poetry with her banjo and occasionally singing. Her bluegrass tone echoes something elder than her college girl looks suggest. Her Americana band, Sweet Fancy Moses, is picking up momentum in Middle Tennessee.

Susan O'Dell Underwood and Dawn Coppock are contemporaries of Kory's, who helped to form this dynamic kinship of poetry and music. Underwood is an author and the director of creative writing at Carson-Newman College. Coppock is a highly respected adoption attorney and author. It is often tempting when watching a group of lady performers to try to classify each as the smart one or the pretty one or the funny one. It would be unbecoming to do so with these ladies. Each one is brilliant, sweet, funny, and attractive.



Kory Wells, Kelsey Wells, Susan O'Dell Underwood, and Dawn Coppock of Tennessee Joltwagon

Each has her own separate voice, but they all have that common cord of gratitude for their Appalachian heritage. "We've got feet in two universes as Appalachians," said Coppock.

Don't go thinking this was a bunch of Hallmark sappy sweet verses about quilting and blackberry cobbler. Sure, I heard some allusions to the dignity of "meaningful work" and the details of daily chores. I also heard some raw irreverence and tender exasperation in each one of them. Some of their

lines were impudent; some were out-and-out sexy.

Just as nourishing as their composition was the sight of four pre-possessing, capable women creating and campaigning together. They weren't just lifting up the audience, but also each other. Both their audiences, the Blue Plate and the Union Avenue Bookstore, left feeling relaxed, happy, and connected as I did, with absolutely no room left for the junk we must have passed on our separate ways home.

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

Double Speak

A friend once challenged me with the assertion that he could no longer separate his political views from his life, work and associations. I was taken aback by his frankness, but as I've contemplated his honesty I've come to conclude that he's right. As you know I believe in the lessons of history. Pericles, the great statesman of the ancient Greek city-state of Athens, once said that those who say they're minding their own business and don't involve themselves with the polis (the government) actually have no business there at all. I have to admit that I'm

already sick of the political dialogue, and it's still eight months until the election. I'm sick of cheap shots and sound bites from the media, in whom I have nothing but disregard. I vacillate between my sense of duty to stay informed or go underground like Punxsutawney Phil, whom I mentioned last week. After watching seven or eight Republican debates I've come to admire these men and women who put themselves out there every day shaking hands, articulating their messages and taking cheap shots; I couldn't do it. An important book with the tantalizing name

"1984" was published by George Orwell in 1949. You may not know it, but many visions from this book exist in our culture. I'm sure you've heard the phrase "Big Brother is watching you." This is from Orwell's book which describes a government that monitors its people through their own TV sets in order to control them. The metaphors *newspeak* and *double-think* come from Orwell's dystopian vision where the Ministry of Peace is the War Department and the Ministry of Truth dispenses lies in the press. This book became so influential that the term *doublespeak* was coined in the 1950s. *Doublespeak* disguises, distorts or reverses the meaning of the actual words. In his interrogation of Jesus, Pontius Pilot asked of him, "What is truth?" Pilot didn't get an answer. In our modern world "Inquiring minds want to know," and hopefully our quest is for something greater than reality TV. My question for the week is how do you know that the media, the politicians or our government aren't engaging

in doublespeak? And where do you go to find answers? Even the Snopes.com site, Google and others have been called into question. Many have observed that the truth we choose is from the news outlet we prefer. Can we somehow find the truth among the verbiage and doublespeak? My patient came in to see me regarding a mass in his liver. We had just completed an extensive work up and it was now decision time. In moments like these I find necessary to sit next to my patient and make eye contact as we go over the situation and the options. Poignantly, my patient trusts me more than my words because he knows my character. As a wordsmith I believe words are important, and my analysis and explanation helped my patient make the best decision for him. I never lie to a patient. I may try to find the softest way to give someone bad news, but if you lie to someone they will never trust you again, even if they forgive you. Unfortunately, in our

political discourse we can't trust the words because we know so little of substance about the person speaking them. In the past we've depended on the media to be our watchdogs and vet candidates for office. We can see what happens when that's not done, so I believe each of us must go through the arduous process of sizing up the person who will be the leader of our country in 2013 and beyond. We must learn to seek the truth that lies behind the words in the character of the individual. Some people brand me as a Republican and I say, "I'm not." I am a conservative who deeply loves my country which I believe is on the wrong path and is in mortal danger. Consequently, I risk much to state my case. The word conservative comes from the root word conserve. An important aspect of this philosophy is tradition. This doesn't mean we conservatives can't or won't change (I converted to EMRI). It's just that as a conservative and an internist I want to see the data. I'll make no bones about it,

"Hope and Change" was a euphemism that didn't work for me and hasn't worked for the country. So in this next election I will search for character in all the candidates, however they identify themselves. I'm going to look into their TV eyes and trust my instincts rather than the corrupt media or the politically nuanced verbiage of any candidate. In this next election I'm no longer trusting in "hope and change." I'm demanding a change of conjunction to a preposition. I'm hoping for change.

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.

March of Dimes Tennessee Chapter Names Grant After March for Babies Top Walker

The March of Dimes Tennessee Chapter is pleased to advance maternal and infant health in the East Tennessee Community by supporting the Centering Pregnancy Program at Cherokee Health Systems. For the 3rd year, March of Dimes funding will support this Centering Pregnancy program which will provide prenatal services to severely underserved Hispanic migrant workers in rural East Tennessee counties. Centering is a rewarding way for patients to take an active role in their care. Group participants spend more time with their provider and with other pregnant women with similar health concerns, giving them an opportunity

to learn together and from each other. Outcomes for those receiving care in this format are uniformly better than for those in traditional care. "We are excited to name this Community Grant in honor of our top March for Babies walker Leslie Luttrell in memory of her two daughters as the "Lillian Kate and Cecilia Hope Centering Pregnancy Grant at Cherokee Health Systems". Leslie is a wonderful volunteer, a great fundraiser, and a true champion for all babies", states Tamara Currin, Associate Director of Program Services. In addition to awarding \$30 million for biomedical research each year nationally, the March of Dimes also gives financial support

to initiate community-based projects that hold promise to help reduce birth defects and infant mortality by addressing particular local needs. Here in Middle Tennessee a review of state and local health statistics and service gaps determined that mothers and babies would benefit from group prenatal care in the Centering Pregnancy format, said Patricia Totty, Chair of the Program Services Committee. "We are pleased that our successful fundraising efforts, such as March for Babies, make it possible for us to support new, locally focused efforts to help babies be born healthy," Totty said.

Blood Supplies Continue to Run Low

Medic Regional Blood Center, this area's only provider of blood, continues to struggle to keep up with the area's demand and needs help. "Our collections just have not kept up with the demand lately. The need for blood has been great over the last few weeks and months due to several unfortunate accidents across the region," explains Christi Fightmaster, director of public relations. Medic provides blood to 21 counties and 27 area hospitals throughout East Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky. Donors are always welcome to visit one of the two Knoxville area donor centers: 1601 Ailor Avenue and 11000 Kingston Pike in Farragut. Community drives are also planned for added convenience:

- February 28, Austin East High School, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., Inside Auditorium.
- February 28, First Utility District of Knoxville, 122 Durwood Rd, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., Bloodmobile.
- March 1, Fulton High School, 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m., Inside Auditorium.

- March 1, TestAmerica, 5815 Middlebrook Pike, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Bloodmobile.
- March 5, South College, 3904 Lonas Drive, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Bloodmobile.
- March 6, South College, 400 Goody Lane, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Bloodmobile.
- March 6, Title Max, 7213 Kingston Pike, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Bloodmobile.
- March 7, Webb School of Knoxville, 8 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., Gym outside commons area.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh 110 pounds or more (16 year-olds weighing 120 pounds or more can donate but must have parental consent) and all donors are required to have positive identification. All donors will receive a t-shirt and a year's credit towards Medic's membership program. This program exempts donors and IRS dependents from paying blood collection or processing fees for one year from donation date if a transfusion is needed. However, pre-existing conditions are not covered under this program.

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Faith

Inward Spiritual Discipline #1: PRAYER

I recently attended a conference that focused on the twelve spiritual disciplines found in Scripture that disciples of Jesus practice. I am going to take the next twelve

articles to write about these and encourage you in your practice of these disciplines. As followers of Christ, our lives are being radically transformed to look more like Him. If Jesus found it important to practice these, then we should as well. The twelve disciples are broken down into three sets of four: Inward (prayer, meditation, fasting, study), Outward (simplicity, solitude, submission, service), and Corporate (confession,

worship, guidance, celebration). Over the next twelve weeks, I am going to do a series of articles based on these twelve spiritual disciplines. The first inward discipline we will address is that of prayer. Even though Jesus was fully God and man, He still found it critical to have a daily routine of prayer. This was not just a duty, it was a privilege. Jesus needed constant communication with His Father as He carried out His Father's

mission on earth. The Bible is filled with examples of prayer. Prayer takes on many forms. Richard Foster, in his book *Prayer*, points out various types of prayers: simple, examen, tears, formation, covenant, adoration, rest, sacramental, unceasing, meditative, contemplative, ordinary, petitionary, intercessory, healing, suffering, authoritative, and radical. These different focuses of prayer depend on the situation and setting for which you are praying. There truly is a prayer for any given situation, if we

will but take the time to stop, listen, and share with God. A first key to prayer is to stop and do it (Just Do It as the old Nike commercial would say). Our lives are so full of constant noise that it feels strange to experience silence. But silence is a good thing. Jesus found alone and quiet time by praying in the morning, before sunrise (Mark 1:35). It might work better for some at night before bed and find a solitary place during the day. Find what works best for you, but take the time to do it. A second key to

developing a prayer life is to listen. So often we think prayer is a time for us to talk. But communicating with someone is not just one-sided. God wants us to listen to His voice. We do this by reading His Word and getting quiet to see what God might be telling us through His Spirit. The noise in your life might be keeping you from listening to His voice. A third key is sharing. This is when you actually speak with God. Pour out your soul in praise, petition, thanksgiving and confession.



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ



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I was just thinking Shush

I attended Ash Wednesday services for the first time the other week. It was a special gathering that marks the beginning of Lent, that time period when folks give things up. That might be a good idea for all of us. The minister began the service with scripture, song, and explanation of what would be occurring. Then she called the children up front and entertained them, as well as all the adults, with a tale about two monsters, Grump and Pout, shoes, and a cobbler. The children ranged in age from two to about six, and they sat engrossed as the minister changed her voice to give character to the monsters.

By Joe Rector

In the middle of the story, the spell was momentarily broken when a cell phone rang. I sat without turning around to see who was scrambling to find the thing and turn it off. The ringtone ended abruptly, and Catherine, God bless her composure, continued with the story without missing a beat. Later in the service the phone went off again. I still managed not to turn toward the sound, and it again stopped quickly. After a couple of seconds, another sound came. "DROID" filled the air and gave notice to all that the owner was turning off the phone. Of course, the sound of the voice was foreign to the sanctuary setting, and snickers from a row of teenaged girls followed. I don't blame the individual for his or her cell phone sounding off. Last summer I went on a mission trip, and during a church service the last night, my phone began playing "Rocky Top" at full volume. I thought I'd earlier turned off the phone but must have hit the wrong button. Those

attending turned toward me and laughed. I sat with my head bowed low as my face turned crimson and nervously killed the unwelcome music. Part of our realities today is that most everyone has a cell phone stuck in his pocket or her purse. We jabber away on the things while driving, walking down the street, or just relaxing. The thoughts of doing without them send folks, especially those of the younger generations, into shivering fits. Unlike them, we who are older can remember when our homes only had one phone for the entire family. Some of us shared a line with one or more neighbors. Conversations were tethered to the spiraled cord that attached the handset to the base. Yep, we had it rough. However, many of us don't have to have a phone. That ringing cell phone made crystal clear the fact that our lives are too busy. More than that, we exist in constant states of noise. Televisions going, iPods blaring, and YouTube clips rolling keep our minds abuzz with auditory stimulation. But at some point, it all becomes nothing more than noise. Overloads of thumping bass from earphones and racket from lawn mowers and weed eaters are causing some of our hearing losses. What folks need more than anything else is silence. It's when we find quiet that our minds and lives take deep breaths and experience that "aah" feeling that accompanies peace. So few places offer it to us. Church is one of them. It's a place to be "of the world but not in the world. In silence we can reflect and then renew. Then we can go back to the hubbub of daily existence. I'm going to make a renewed effort to turn my phone off more often, not just in church but at times when silence is the balm that is sorely needed. Sure, I might miss a call, but if it's that important, the caller will leave a message or call again. Try it sometime. Just tell life to *shush* and enjoy the quiet.

attending turned toward me and laughed. I sat with my head bowed low as my face turned crimson and nervously killed the unwelcome music. Part of our realities today is that most everyone has a cell phone stuck in his pocket or her purse. We jabber away on the things while driving, walking down the street, or just relaxing. The thoughts of doing without them send folks, especially those of the younger generations, into shivering fits. Unlike them, we who are older can remember when our homes only had one phone for the entire family. Some of us shared a line with one or more neighbors. Conversations were tethered to the spiraled cord that attached the handset to the base. Yep, we had it rough. However, many of us don't have to have a phone. That ringing cell phone made crystal clear the fact that our lives are too busy. More than that, we exist in constant states of noise. Televisions going, iPods blaring, and YouTube clips rolling keep our minds abuzz with auditory stimulation. But at some point, it all becomes nothing more than noise. Overloads of thumping bass from earphones and racket from lawn mowers and weed eaters are causing some of our hearing losses. What folks need more than anything else is silence. It's when we find quiet that our minds and lives take deep breaths and experience that "aah" feeling that accompanies peace. So few places offer it to us. Church is one of them. It's a place to be "of the world but not in the world. In silence we can reflect and then renew. Then we can go back to the hubbub of daily existence. I'm going to make a renewed effort to turn my phone off more often, not just in church but at times when silence is the balm that is sorely needed. Sure, I might miss a call, but if it's that important, the caller will leave a message or call again. Try it sometime. Just tell life to *shush* and enjoy the quiet.

Church Happenings

KFL Outreach Ministry Presents
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February 28, 2012 at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway, at noon. Emmeline Cottrell will be the guest speaker. You may view Emmeline Cottrell's complete Bio at <http://kfl-luncheon.com>.

Faith United Methodist Church
The Young at Heart at Faith UMC meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. We have an exciting meeting coming up on March 6th. Susan Long of East Tennessee Personal Care Attendants will be talking about Saving Seniors Money. A potluck luncheon will follow the speaker. Everyone is welcome. Faith UMC is located at

1120 Dry Gap Pike. For more information you can visit our website at www.faithseekers.org, e-mail at info@faithseekers.org and also call us at 865-688-1000.

Seymour First Baptist Church
Seymour First Baptist Church is pleased to announce that its giant spring auction for missions will be held on Saturday, April 21. Seymour area residents have the opportunity to donate items that benefit purchasers and raise money to support the church's worldwide mission projects. Those with early donations may call the church office at 577-1954.

House to Home

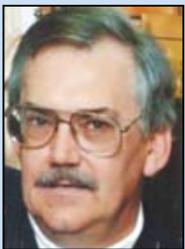


Chief Vann's Tavern now sits at New Echota and was a store, inn, tavern, and way station before the Trail of Tears. It's just one of many buildings that have been relocated there, reconstructed, or preserved.

New Echota

Some towns bloom and then grow to cities. Some bloom and slowly fade away. A few, like New Echota in Northern Georgia, bloom, disappear completely, and then reappear.

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

processions by the white officials.

The site of New Echota became a "removal" fort where Cherokee were encamped and then removed. The Worcester

House survived as the land became farmland and all other buildings disappeared.

In 1954, archeologists began surveying the old town site and found the locations of buildings and roads. Other buildings of similar nature were found in the region and moved to the site, including Vann's Tavern. The old Phoenix Print Shop and the Supreme Court House and, in 1962, the town was recognized when the state of Georgia repealed the old laws concerning the Cherokee.

A museum was built in 1969 and other buildings added, including the reconstruction of the national council house. Today New Echota is a Georgia State Historic Site and part of their park system.

One notable for New Echota is the development of the written Cherokee language by Sequoyah and the publication of the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper there. Within the historic site today is an example of the alphabet and a printing press from the period. There's also an example of a small Cherokee farm and other buildings.

Visiting New Echota makes for an easy side trip if you're headed to Atlanta or even Chattanooga or Dalton. You can contact the historic site online, just Google "New Echota" or you can call them at 706-624-1321.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Is an Antique Auction the answer?

Antique and collectible auctions are everywhere today and greatly differ as to what they sell and specialize in. Some auctions deal in household common items and others deal in items that can bring thousands, if not millions, of dollars in, so knowing what you have is paramount as to



By Carl Sloan

where you should consign. An auction house is a great way to quickly liquidate an item.

If you look at the centuries-long history of the auction house, you will find that it is where treasures have been discovered and where the big money has been spent. Look at the Jacqueline Onassis sale where her used lipstick tube fetched over \$7,000!

Antiques and collectibles shift in value just like the stock market, so keeping up with trends, whether buying or selling, is very important. We have an old saying in this business: "Who knows the most, makes the most" and that is very true indeed. Good items bring good money and the buying public knows the markets very well when featured in a proper venue with the proper advertising.

I always advise those folks considering an auction to move a large amount of items to focus on the bottom line. In other words, it is the check you receive for the total amount that is important, and not worrying about the pricing for each individual item.

I work in the auction business today and have for many years have

seen fortunes changed. Is an antique auction the answer? Yes! You should certainly consider an auction if you have item that is desirable, if you need cash or if you are a collector wanting to buy or sell.

What's Hot & What's Not

HOT - Antique firearms, coins like Morgan & Peace dollars, gold coins, Civil War items as well as Nazi German items, early Southern primitives all are top sellers in the U.S, also 1920s - 50s costume jewelry, Roseville Pottery in certain patterns, Southern early pottery and fine quilts.

NOT - Victorian furniture, prints, Depression glass, Dolls 1890-1920

Carl Sloan is a long time resident of Fountain City and an expert in many areas of antiques collectibles and fine arts He has over 34 years experience in the business and has been an appraiser for over 25 years. He has dealt with Sotheby's of New York as well as Christie's, Sloan's of DC, Brunk Auctions NC, Wilson & Terry's NC and many others. Carl is a free agent for live auctions through Proxibid, the world's largest online sales venue for antiques, real estate, collectibles, equipment and more.

Do you have a piece that you'd like to have Carl appraise? Send a photo and the item's information to staff@knoxfocus.com, Subject: ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES. Appraisal information and background for your items might be featured in an upcoming column if chosen.



This week's featured item is a pair of Victorian era portraits. These impressive 14" portraits are a combination of lithograph and hand painting on metal. These would have hung on long chains in a Victorian parlor and are known as "Fashion Plates" that would communicate the styles of the day for women. This pair will be sold Saturday, March 3 at Fountain City Auction starting at 10 a.m. They are expected to sell for \$100-\$200 for the pair. You may see what else will be on the block Saturday by finding Fountain City Auction (37912) on Auctionzip.com.



On Friday Jan. 27th Pleasant Ridge Elementary held the Annual Spelling Bee. Fourth grader Christopher Bright was the Spelling Bee champion, while fifth grader Jamal Rorex was the Spelling Bee Runner-Up. Judges for the Spelling Bee were Mayor Rogero and 3rd District School Board Member Cindy Buttry, as well as Norwood Kiwanis Club representatives Pat Dawson and Sharon Welch.

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Ham and Corn Souffle

4 egg whites
2 teaspoons dry bread crumbs
1-1/2 cups frozen corn, thawed
2 green onions, thinly sliced
2/3 cup diced fully cooked lean ham
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 cup fat-free milk
1/2 cup shredded reduced-fat sharp cheddar
cheese
2 egg yolks
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar

Place egg whites in a large bowl; let stand
at room temperature for 30 minutes. Coat a
1-1/2-qt. baking dish with cooking spray and
lightly sprinkle with bread crumbs; set aside.

In a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking
spray, cook corn and onions until tender.
Remove from the heat; stir in ham and set
aside.

In a small saucepan, combine the flour, salt
and cayenne; gradually whisk in milk until
smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2
minutes or until thickened. Remove from the
heat; stir in cheese until melted. Transfer to
a large bowl; stir in corn mixture. Stir a small
amount of hot mixture into egg yolks; return all
to the bowl, stirring constantly. Cool slightly.

Add cream of tartar to egg whites; beat until
stiff peaks form. With a spatula, fold a fourth
of the egg whites into the milk mixture until no
white streaks remain. Fold in remaining egg
whites until combined.

Transfer to prepared dish. Bake at 325°
for 50-55 minutes or until top is puffed and
center appears set. Serve immediately. Yield:
4 servings.

Before serving, mix fresh cilantro with fried
onion and sprinkle over soup to garnish.

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