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FOCUS Weekly Poll*

Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Bill Haslam's Tennessee Promise plan that would give Tennessee high school graduates free tuition at Tennessee community and technical colleges beginning in 2015?

APPROVE 80.74%
DISAPPROVE 19.26%

Survey conducted February 6, 2014.

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

A Longer School Year?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Last July the Knox County Board of Education received a \$1.2 million dollar grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. To use the money, the school board had to hire The Parthenon Group to advise on financial resources and the system's educational mission. Last Monday night, Parthenon reported to the elected educators with not only how the county schools are spending current moneys but also with some unorthodox recommendations, like extending the school year.

After the group elected Board member Indya Kincaid to chair the Ethics Committee, it was Superintendent Jim McIntyre's turn to present his report. He announced that he has hired Elizabeth McCloud as the system's first Budget Director and he introduced Parthenon's Seth Reynolds. Reynolds then walked the meeting through a lengthy slide show of where the system is spending its budget and where it should spend the money.

The corporate report compared Knox County with much larger school systems around the nation and recommended several changes including a "balanced school year" of 200 or 220 days with a five to six week summer break and longer breaks during the year. The Parthenon report also suggested that higher pay for principals "would be a good investment."

Reynolds said that 65% of

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New Middle Schools Requested From School Board

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Middle school students in the Gibbs area are still bused to a school outside their area and the community is pleading for them to have their own school. Gibbs has an elementary school and a high school, but the middle school students are bused to attend a school out of their area.

Two Gibbs area residents reminded the Knox County Board of Education about this Wednesday and asked them to build a middle school for their community.

Joyce Harrell told the board that in 1991 the Holston High School in East Knox County was closed

and then reopened as a middle school. She said that a majority of the students at Holston are Gibbs children even though Holston Middle is in School Board District 1 and Gibbs is in School Board District 8.

Harrell pointed out that the school system owns two pieces of property in the Gibbs community: one next to the Gibb schools and one just a few miles away. She suggested that Holston Middle School become a magnet school and that new middle schools should be built for the Gibbs and Hardin Valley communities.

Kasey Engle, also of

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Kasey Engle, pictured above at podium with son, told the Knox County School Board last week reasons why the Gibbs community needs its own middle school.

CONGRATULATIONS!



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Pictured above with team mates, Central High seniors Johnathon Holcombe, left, and Jajuan Stinson, right, were two of the seventy student-athletes who signed letters of intent on National Signing Day. Holcombe signed his National Letter of Intent to play football for Carson-Newman while Stinson signed to continue his football career at East Tennessee State. For their stories and those of other signees, look to Section C in this and future editions of The Focus.

Seventy area student-athletes make it official on National Signing Day

By Steve Williams

Football and soccer players made up a large majority of the student-athletes who inked letters of intent on National Signing Day (Feb. 5) at high schools in The Knoxville Focus' coverage area last week.

Of the 70 signees that were reported by athletic directors, 33 were football players and 21 were soccer players.

The group also included four baseball players, three softball players, three track/cross country athletes, two lacrosse players, two basketball players, two tennis players and one swimmer.

Seventeen high schools were represented.

"We had 10 athletes sign letters of intent this (Wednesday) morning in the presence of their peers, family, coaches, teachers and several media representatives," reported West Athletic Director Steve Killian via e-mail. "This ceremony brings such a positive image to our school, which is certainly deserved."

Of West's 10 signees, six were football players from the school's Class 5A state runner-up team, including linebacker Cody Underwood, who will be a preferred walk-on at Tennessee.

West's signees also included talented Maya Barroso, who suffered a season-ending knee injury competing in the TSSAA's

pentathlon state sectionals last April. She signed a track scholarship with Georgia Tech.

Farragut also had 10 signees, including lacrosse players Will McFarland (Asbury University) and Daniel Costigan (Missouri Valley College).

Fulton, which repeated as Class 4A state champion with a perfect 15-0 record, had five of its football players to sign scholarship papers, including Xavier Hawkins, who will be going the farthest away to college at Oregon State.

Hagen Owenby of Powell, who also is bouncing back from knee surgery, will be a two sport athlete (football and baseball) at East Tennessee State University.

Todd Kelly Jr. of Webb School was the first University of Tennessee commitment to fax in his paperwork.

Davidson College (N.C.) is getting the services of Webb classmate Anna Catharine Feaster, a three-time TSSAA Division II Class A state singles tennis champion.

Farragut's Josie Jennings tops the list of soccer signees. The future Lady Vol was named the Gatorade State High School Girls' Soccer Player of the Year last Thursday.

Tanisha Walker of The King's Academy has signed to play basketball at Coastal Carolina.

Bearden's Chandler Ott will swim for Southern Illinois.

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Focus on the Law

Perjury



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

Perjury is a crime categorized in Tennessee as an offense against the administration of government. Legal proceedings rely on the statements of witnesses, both verbal and written. The foundation of our legal system depends on trust and credibility. Those who abuse that trust and get caught may find themselves charged with perjury.

required or authorized by law to be made under oath and stating on its face that a false statement is subject to the penalties of perjury; or (4) makes a false statement, not under oath, but in a declaration stating on its face that it is made under penalty of perjury.

Perjury is a Class A misdemeanor. If that perjury is committed on an application for a handgun carry permit it is a Class E felony. Likewise if perjury is committed on a sexual offender or violent sexual offender registration form it is a Class E felony. A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by not more than 11 months 29 days in jail and/or a fine not to exceed \$2,500. A Class E felony is punishable by not less than one year nor more than six years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$3,000.

Aggravated perjury is a crime where the person commits perjury as listed above but makes a material false statement during or in connection with an official proceeding. Aggravated perjury is a Class D felony which is punishable by not less than two years nor more than 12 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$5,000. If the person retracted his or her false statement before completion of the testimony at the official proceeding, it is a defense to aggravated perjury.

If a person, with the intent to deceive, induces another to make a false statement constituting perjury or aggravated perjury that person commits the offense of subornation of perjury. Subornation of perjury is a Class A misdemeanor and subornation of aggravated perjury is a Class E felony. Two or more people may be jointly prosecuted for subornation of

perjury. Federal law also punishes the crime of perjury. It is defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Sect. 1621 as making a false statement made under oath or equivalent affirmation during a judicial proceeding in which the statement is material to the proceeding and where the witness must have the intention to deceive. Under U.S.C.A. Sect. 1623, a person may be charged with perjury if he or she knows that his or her testimony is false including if he or she uses information including books, papers, recordings or other materials known to contain a false material declaration. The penalty for perjury under federal law includes fines and up to five years in prison. You should consult an attorney for assistance and advice with your individual situation.

New Middle Schools Requested From School Board

Cont. from page 1

Gibbs, had her son pass out documents to the school board showing the distance between the community and the middle school their children are zoned to attend. She said some Gibbs and Corryton parents are home schooling their children because there's no local middle school.

"It takes well over an hour on an overcrowded bus and sometimes three hours in bad weather. They have a hard time participating in sports or other school activities," Engle said. "We're asking to be treated the same as any other community."

"Building a new Gibbs Middle School is a top priority," she said. Her son handed the elected Board a petition with more than

1,500 signatures.

"We hope you will put a new Gibbs Middle School on the capital plan," she said.

Advocates for a Hardin Valley middle school also spoke at Wednesday's meeting, telling the board that their section of Knox County is in need.

Kim Frazier, a 17-year resident, said the Hardin Valley area is a favorite of young families and is growing quickly. "The time has come to revisit previous studies, we are worthy of consideration for a middle school," she said.

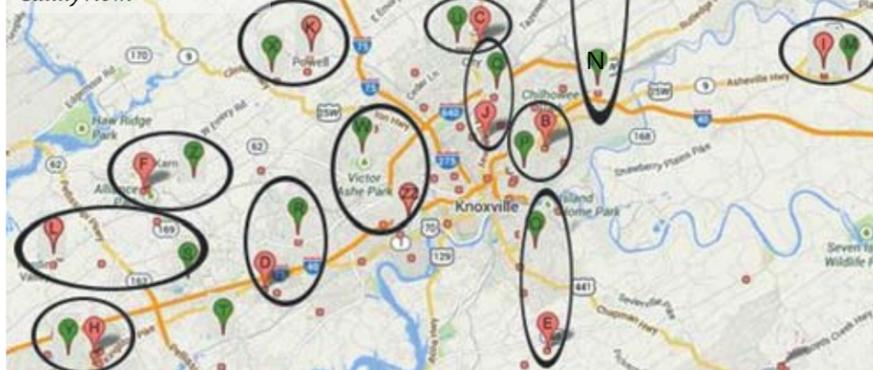
Kevin Crateau detailed the growth in Hardin Valley and said estimated growth in its population will "put the schools in our area at over 100% capacity."

In other business during the school board's public

forum, Rob Taylor criticized the school system's use of the Parthenon Group as advisors. A Bluegrass Elementary librarian pled with the board to hire more technicians at each school. She said that the school's technical help is paid for by their PTA and asked the school hire some for each school and pay them from school funds.

Tanya Coats, President of the Knox County Education Association, used the public forum to urge the board to revisit the teacher survey and working group concerns and asked them to call on her organization to help resolve the "war on public education." She said her organization of teachers "is not respected by the school board."

This map, showing the distance from Gibbs (A) to Holston Middle School (N), was presented by Gibbs area parents pushing the Board of Education for a middle school. Also feeding Holston Middle School are the communities of Chilhowee Intermediate, Corryton, East Knox, Rita, Shannondale, Spring Hill and Sunnyview.



FOCUS Weekly Poll

Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Bill Haslam's Tennessee Promise plan that would give Tennessee high school graduates free tuition at Tennessee community and technical colleges beginning in 2015?

Approve 80.74%
Disapprove 19.26%



By Age	Yes	No	Total
30-49	75.61%	24.39%	41
50-65	74.81%	25.19%	135
65+	85.71%	14.29%	203
Total	80.74% (306)	19.26% (73)	379

By District	Yes	No	Total
1	80.00%	20.00%	25
2	79.59%	20.41%	49
3	78.05%	21.95%	41
4	78.00%	22.00%	50
5	86.11%	13.89%	36
6	85.00%	15.00%	40
7	77.55%	22.45%	49
8	80.00%	20.00%	45
9	84.09%	15.91%	44
Total	80.74% (306)	19.26% (73)	379

By Gender	Yes	No	Total
Unknown	88.24%	11.76%	17
Female	78.46%	21.54%	195
Male	82.63%	17.37%	167
Total	80.74% (306)	19.26% (73)	379

Survey conducted February 6, 2014.

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Knox Countians Approve Haslam Initiative

By Focus Staff

By an overwhelming majority, Knox Countians approve Governor Bill Haslam's proposed "Tennessee Promise." The latest Knoxville Focus poll posed the question, "Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Bill Haslam's 'Tennessee Promise' plan that would give Tennessee high school graduates free tuition at Tennessee community and technical colleges beginning in 2015?"

The results were pretty much uniform all across the county and inside the City of Knoxville. Every district reported majorities of more than 75% with the high being in the Fifth District, which is far West Knoxville and the Town of Farragut. More than 86% of respondents in the Fifth District said they support

the governor's plan. The second highest number of respondents favoring Governor Haslam's plan was in the Sixth District, which is northwest Knox County and includes the Karns and Powell communities. 85% of those polled say they favor the governor's "Tennessee Promise." South Knoxvillians like the governor's plan as well, with slightly more than 84% of respondents approving the "Tennessee Promise."

Slightly more men than women liked the idea of the "Tennessee Promise" with almost 83% of men favoring it, while only 78.46% of women said they favor it.

Interestingly, the age group most strongly in favor of the "Tennessee Promise" were seniors. Almost 81% of seniors said they support the governor's plan.



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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Governor Bill Haslam unveiled his "Tennessee Promise" plan in his State of the State address. Evidently, the governor had not previously shared his plan with the members of the General Assembly, as one could hear an audible gasp from

Publisher's Position

Gov. Haslam's 'Tennessee Promise' Deserves Legislature's Support

the audience. That particular reaction is easy to understand, as the governor's plan is a bold one.

In essence, students will be able to attend a college or technical school for free for two years. The money to pay for the plan will come from an endowment created from reserves from the state lottery. The "Tennessee Promise" will bring about some significant changes and rather quickly. **Not only will it open the door to opportunities for thousands of young people who otherwise might not have furthered their education, it will help to create a better educated work force in Tennessee.** It will also, whether intended or not, change the local

educational landscape as well. It occurs to me that with thousands of new students pouring into colleges and technical schools, local preparation rates will have extra meaning. The current preparation rates in Knox County are abysmal. The highest is that for Farragut High School and it is only 40%. The lowest is Austin-East, which is 3%, although it has climbed from 1% a year ago.

Despite Superintendent of Schools Jim McIntyre constantly telling us there is some extraordinary learning going on in Knox County, the preparation rates - - - which one rarely hears about, not surprisingly - - - seem to diminish McIntyre's cheerful chatter. If students have to spend the two free years

taking remedial classes, that will speak volumes as to the effectiveness of local education. All of the evaluations in the world won't whitewash that fact.

Some will carp that the minor changes in the formula for the Hope Scholarships will reduce their stipend by \$1,000 per year, but considering the magnitude of the benefit to literally thousands, they should cease being so self-interested and think of the future.

Governor Haslam deserves the highest praise for this bold initiative. The Tennessee General Assembly should pass the "Tennessee Promise" as quickly as possible.

A Longer School Year ?

Cont. from page 1

the school budget goes for instruction and school leadership and only 4% goes to the central office. Kincannon asked why Knox County wasn't compared to Nashville or other Tennessee systems and Reynolds said he used schools that had replied to the survey.

Kincannon said that Knox County should receive a pay increase because they are doing more work and Reynolds replied that a longer school year would bring them more pay.

Reynolds said that school leadership and culture in

schools are more important than compensation, to which Kincannon replied she'd like to see the board give the teachers "a bump" in pay. She said that a longer school year would only pay teachers more for doing more work.

School Board member Karen Carson asked, "Why are we having this conversation now?" and Chairperson Lynne Fugate said "I hate for the board to be the last to hear what's being discussed in the Steering Committee."

Fugate said the consultant's work is not yet finished

and would go to the Superintendent for his consideration and then be presented to the board. Carson indicated that she was expecting an analysis not recommendations. She added there was a "downside to brainstorming in public."

As for the school system's budget request, McIntyre said he would look into Parthenon's research and analysis "in the next couple of weeks and months."

Aside from the Parthenon presentation, the school board finally moved the agenda items forward to their Wednesday meeting.

The public forum was the last item on the agenda and Mark Taylor, who had been denied to speak when a question he asked earlier in the meeting, was brought to the floor by Kincannon. The question, asked by Kincannon to McIntyre, was why physical science students in middle schools were required to take two tests instead of only one. Taylor, a physical science teacher at Farragut Middle School, said the results of the testing have cause him to receive two warning letters and he fears dismissal as a teacher.

State School Board reviewing its license policy

By Focus Staff

Efforts of teachers across the state may be rewarded as the Tennessee Board of Education announced recently it has rescinded some of the requirements for teacher license renewal.

Tanya Coats, President of the Knox County Education Association, says a road trip with the state Tennessee Education Association and an appeal to the state board resulted in the change. Basically the effort was to convince the state board that the score on the Tennessee Value-Added

Assessment System is not valid data to use for teachers to keep their license.

"They decided to rescind it," Coats said.

"The state board of education passed it back in August and added TVAAS to the license," she said.

The state board's website simply says "On Dec. 31st, 2013, the Tennessee State board of Education voted to rescind parts of the new policy to advancement and renewal criteria. We anticipate the board will approve a new policy language in the near future."

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FOCUS MORE ON Seymour & South Knox

Seymour author releases second installment of children's series

Author Jean Leigh Claudette released the second installment of her children's series, "The Classified Files of Sweet William Farm: The Adventure Continues" last week.

In the second book of The Classified Files series, the hero JD is still fighting crime, perfecting his craft, and helping others with his daring missions. JD is a RIGS (Raccoons in Government Service) secret agent. A secret agent needs a keen mind and sharp skill sets along with the courage and determination to complete

his missions. JD must stay well ahead of the criminal element in his territory of Sweet William Farm. He keeps his field agent bag ready and his eyes and ears open. Readers will join the excitement in "The Classified Files of Sweet William Farm: The Adventure Continues."

Published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, the book is available through bookstores nationwide, from the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore, or by visiting barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.



Surrounded by family, Sylvia Woods (at podium) and the Knoxville City Council honored the late Harold Woods last Tuesday with a resolution, fond memories and several minutes of heart-felt applause. Photo by Dan Andrews.

Harold Woods honored

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Everyone in the City-County Building were on their feet and applauding as the Knoxville City Council honored the late Harold G. Woods. At the public podium was his wife and partner of 52 years, Sylvia, along with many of her family members. The applause lasted several minutes after the resolution to her late husband was read.

Harold Woods was a regional leader for his union, his church, his Democratic party, and many, many other civic organizations. He had served as a Green Beret, worked at the ALCOA aluminum, was an AFL-CIO officer and political coordinator, and active in Cornerstone of Recovery, Project Help, the Knoxville-Knox Community Action Committee, and the Boy Scouts of America.

The activist was also involved in United Way, Leadership Knoxville, Tennessee PTA, and many other organizations. Many of his activities were partnership endeavors with Sylvia, including the Knoxville Democratic Party which honored the couple during their annual Truman Day Dinner last year.

Woods had also been recognized by the National United Way, was the National CAC Jayne

Thomas Grassroots Volunteer of the Year, the George Meany National Boy Scout Volunteer, and was also active in the East Tennessee PBS as treasurer, the Private Industry Council, the Knox County Industrial Development Board, and served on the Tennessee State Democratic Party's Executive Committee.

He passed away at home on Monday, January 20. He was a member of the Island Home Baptist Church and was interred at Woodlawn Cemetery. The family asked that instead of flowers that friends donate to the Island Home Baptist Church or CAC Mobile Meals.

"He was a man of deep vision and will be missed in all parts of the city. He was a giving man and proud of his family," said Councilman Nick Pavlis.

"When I think of labor, South Knoxville, Democrats, the PTA, or the United Way I think of you and Harold," Mayor Madeline Rogero told Mrs. Woods.

"He deserves this," Sylvia Woods told the council and the audience.

"Our preacher said that we all strive to make a difference and Harold did," she said. "He never complained."

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Our Neighborhoods

HALLS CROSSROADS

Rooted in the past, moving toward the future

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

In the early days prior to Tennessee statehood, Emory Road ran east and west and Andersonville Road ran north and south. Where both intersected just north of Knoxville a thriving community was to develop.

Emory Road was built in 1787. It was one of the earliest and busiest wagon roads in the state. A little community, founded by Revolutionary War veteran Thomas Hall, grew at this intersection quickly. Hall, a prisoner of the British for two years after a battle in Charleston, S. C.

Hall had been given a tract of land on the north side of Black Oak Ridge by the U.S. Government for his service in the war where he eventually married and raised his family. The Hall family opened the first businesses in the area: a store, inn and a blacksmith shop. Soon people began calling the settlement Halls Crossroads, for the meeting of what was to become Dixie Highway and Emory Road, now Maynardville Highway and Emory Road.



Today

Today Halls Crossroads, more commonly called "Halls" by locals, is just across the hill where North Broadway becomes Maynardville Pike. Although not within the official Knoxville city limits, Halls is considered by most as part of the city, with Fountain City to the south, Powell to the west, Corryton to the east, and Maynardville to the north.

Halls Crossroads has grown and became a vital part of Knox County. It has six county schools,



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY, ADDITIONAL PHOTOS BY DAN ANDREWS.

A look at an earlier Halls Crossroads can be found in the Knox County Clerk's Office in Halls, depicting the development of the community. The mural is a surprise to many people and is much more extensive than shown here.

several banks, shopping centers, and various other shops and services. Halls Crossroads is also the home of the Hallsdale-Powell Utility District, the 4th largest utility district in Tennessee with more than 28,000 customers. Some of the popular places of business inside the community include the Halls Cinema 7, Bel Aire Burgers, and the new Walmart Super Center. That kind of growth leaves some vacant buildings and there are efforts underway to get new business to rent or build.

The Halls Business and Professional Association is looking at grants to help revitalize parts of the community.

"I'd like to see us fill the old Walmart Shopping Center and get more people to shop in Halls," said Bob Crye, President of the Halls Business and Professional Association. "We think Halls is unique."

Crye said current things like the Halls Library, the Halls Senior Center, and the Beaver Ridge Golf Course draw people to Halls, adding that the community also has

recreational facilities, bargain shopping and offers easy access to Norris Lake.

Although Knoxville has grown over the years to extend towards Halls Crossroads, Crye said that if Halls were asked if they wanted to be part of the city, they "would probably vote it down."

"We probably have more "native" people than any other place in Knox County and we have an independent spirit," he said regarding Halls Crossroads residents.

"I'd like to see Regal locate at the former Walmart center," he said, adding that the Halls-based multinational theater company has stated they didn't want to put the Halls Cinema 7, an independent operation, out of business.

Mike Campbell, founder and chairman of Regal Entertainment Group, is a former Halls resident and is proud to have his corporate headquarters there. Regal Entertainment operates the largest and most geographically diverse theater circuit in the United States, with 7,394 screens

in 580 theaters in 42 states along with theaters in Guam, Saipan, American Samoa and the District of Columbia.

"I was born in Knoxville but was living in Claiborne County until 1988. I decided to move to Knoxville and to live in Halls since I had lived there for a number of years in the 1970s. When I started Regal in late 1989 I was very cost conscious and found a small rental space with a very low rent on Regal Lane, which was called Commercial Park Drive in the late 1980s," he explained.

"As we grew Regal rapidly in the 1990s, we were fortunate enough to rent additional space on Commercial Park Drive. Over the years we gradually acquired all of the property and the street was renamed Regal Lane," he told *The Focus*.

"We have chosen to remain in the Knoxville area (Halls) for numerous reasons, including quality of life, family-friendly environment, scenic surroundings, and the cost of living. We are a nationwide company

Over the next several editions, *The Focus* will feature a glimpse at the neighborhoods that comprise Knox County. Each neighborhood is unique historically and culturally. Some areas are much older than others; some feature important architecture, while others are home to significant historical sites. Regardless, each neighborhood contributes its own swatch to the vibrant patchwork quilt that is Knox County.



The Bel Air Grill and Halls Cinema 7, both on Neal Drive, are Halls Crossroads institutions.

and with online connection to all our facilities across the nation, we can manage it from any place in the country. We like being in Knoxville and have no plans to relocate," he said.

school supplies and clothing to families in need, sponsor the Outdoor Classroom, promote litter pickup, fund the writing of a Halls History, and are currently working toward a Halls Museum.

Mariblair Smith is the current president.

"We give two scholarships each year to Halls High School girls," Mrs. Smith said. She noted that the League helped to clean up and kept up the old Tom Halls Cemetery on Rifle Range Road and is working with Hubert Larue to find a place for the museum.

"We're proud of the

Community

One of the vital community groups in the neighborhood is the Halls Crossroads Women's League which contributes to local functions, schools, and recognizes outstanding citizens in the community. They award an annual scholarship, operate "The Closet" to supply

Continue on page 4

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Knox County participates in Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day

By Focus Staff

Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day, celebrated on January 31, is a nation-wide effort to spread the word about a very important tax credit for those who need it the most.

According to a release from the Knoxville-Knox County CAC, many are eligible for a special tax credit this year and do not know it. As a result, they may overlook claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, which can put anywhere from \$2 to more than \$5,600 into their pockets.

EITC Awareness Day highlighted an important service offered to qualifying area residents. IRS trained and certified Volunteers

will provide free and confidential tax assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for persons with low-to-moderate income. VITA operates just like any professional tax preparation business, only they are volunteer-based and don't charge fees for their services.

VITA is a free and confidential service offered on a first-come, first served basis. VITA volunteers will prepare basic tax forms such as the 1040, however, there are some complex tax forms that cannot be prepared by VITA, so interested participants are encouraged to call ahead.

Items you need to bring to the VITA site to have your tax returns prepared include:

- Proof of identification
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks

(Forms 1099)

- A copy of last year's federal and state returns if available
- Bank routing number and account number for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)
- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms

- Current year's tax package if you received one.

The service is available to Knox County residents through April 15 at the LT Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue, or by appointment only at CAC East Neighborhood Center, 2400 Asheville Hwy. Hours of operation are Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Saturdays in February from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Call (865)546-5125 to schedule an appointment. Visit the CAC VITA website at www.knoxcacvita.org for more information.

Wreckers, Condos and Zonings at City Council

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Wrecker companies contracting with the City of Knoxville got a bit of an increase during last Tuesday's City Council meeting, but not what they had requested. The request, forwarded by the City Police Department, was a 25% increase over the \$65 they now receive from the city.

At the January Workshop, Vice Mayor Nick Pavlis said the operators should receive a "fair wage" but added that the wrecker companies did not have to participate in the program. He suggested a 10% increase each year over the next three years.

"A 25% increase is a lot to swallow," he had said, referring to the auto owners who would have to pay after finding their car has been towed away.

The January vote on the change to the ordinance was 7-2, with Councilmen George Wallace and Marshall Stair opposing the idea.

The two councilmen also opposed the ordinance, as amended by Pavlis, at last week's meeting. While it would have taken effect the city law director told the council that since the ordinance language was changed it must come before the board again next month. The second reading, as amended, passed.

In other Council actions, an ordinance to close part of Tillery Road between Clinton Highway and an owner's property line passed 7-2 following a survey that found the center of the right-of-way was surveyed incorrectly. Pavlis asked if the city planned any future street improvement there

and was told there was nothing in the plan.

Third District Council member Brenda Palmer said she and Stair had met with the North Norwood neighbors and they opposed moving the right of way. "We will end up buying this back," she said, for a later intersection improvement. Both Palmer and Stair voted against the idea, which passed 7-2 on first reading.

A condo development on Deane Hill Drive was discussed at some length with the council altering the developer's plans. Chase-Smith Development was asking for a density of ten condominium units per acre but the Metropolitan Planning Commission suggested about six per acre.

Representatives from Chase-Smith Development then showed plans to

Council illustrating the differences between the 10 unit and 5.99 unit density options, continuing their arguments for the higher density of units per property. Notable differences included the downgrading of the brick fronts on the 10 unit plan to vinyl fronts on the six unit plan as well as cutting back on other options.

Attorney Wayne Kline, speaking for the home owners, objected to the developer introducing plans for the lower density alternative at the meeting following the denial of the initial request. He said none of the neighbors had seen the plans and, although the homeowners had agreed with the project if it were six units per acre, the offering of an alternative that late in the process was wrong.

Councilman Duane Grieve said the request to put a dense development there could be "spot zoning" in a low density zone. MPC director Mark Donaldson said the requested site is surrounded on four sides by low density zones.

Marshall Stair demanded to know, "Why present this tonight? When did you have this (alternate plan)?"

Stair went on to say that the two plans showed "really nice units at 10 per acre and really lousy units at 6 per acre," adding, "We like to have as much information as possible as soon as possible."

Kline then said, "It's a sham," and "a threat."

(The developer then requested to postpone and was denied in a 5-4 vote with Council members Daniel Brown, Wallace, Palmer and Pavlis voting

yes. The council also denied the ten units per acre and then passed on first reading to allow 5.99 per acre.

Other first-reading ordinances approved, which will face a second and final reading in the next regular City Council meeting, included: rezoning the Star Sales Company on North Central from C-3 to C-6, closing a right of way on 22nd Street, and rezoning a Higgins Avenue property to "Office."

The council also honored the Fulton High School Football Team for its State Championship and received a grant of \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women for enhanced training and services to the Knoxville Police Department's End Abuse in Late Program.

Changes coming for Knoxville Transit

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In recent weeks *The Knoxville Focus* has been looking into upcoming changes planned for the Knoxville Transit system. The Focus has inquired with the Knoxville Mayor's office and following the January meeting of the Community Advisory Committee, the committee members and others received a two page update from Terry Alexander, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, on behalf of Mayor Madeline Rogero. This story reports on that letter and the recommendations of Gobis and Company, which did a peer review of the city's transit system, its governance and operation of the system.

One of the questions being asked recently was when Mayor Rogero would name a General Manager since the former manager's contact expired. The agreement with Veolia, which the city hired to administer the transit system and paid the former manager, was not renewed on the recommendation of the Gobis review.

"We have posted a job description for the position of Director of Transit (formerly called the General Manager) and are circulating the job announcement on various transit forums and websites," Mayor Rogero wrote.

She wrote that she sees the new

position as a key staff member who represents this administration" and would work with other city departments. "This is an expanding role with the intention of strengthening the position of KAT," she noted.

"I would like to work closely with all of you soon to discuss the status of this transition," she wrote. "I would like to begin a conversation about the way KAT operates and how responsibilities are divided up among several entities. I have not personally drawn any on conclusions yet, so I am looking forward to this discussion.

"I don't intend to make any final decisions or recommendations until after the new Director of Transit has a chance to weigh

in on the issue," she wrote.

The Gobis recommendations had several proposals including combining the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) with the Knoxville Transit Authority (KTA) and combining their duties, cutting the members of the combined group from 26 to 11.

Gobis said that currently there are five different groups with input to the transit system in a "complicated structure" and that a "division of responsibility is unmanageable." The report also suggest shifting some responsibility that KTA now has to the city, leaving the new combined group with responsibility to focus on public improvements and community outreach.

"The immediate action recommended is changing the governance of transit," the Gobis report suggests. The report also suggests several other changes dealing with routes, employees, etc.

"These are operational issues that are best vetted administratively first, followed by additional appropriate discussions and policy or operational changes," the mayor wrote.

Last week the city council approved the mayor's appointments of Mia Brown to the KAT Citizens Advisory Committee and Mark Harr to the Knoxville Transportation Authority Board.

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The Greatest Campaigner of Them All: Senator Estes Kefauver Part Five

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Congressman Estes Kefauver had seriously contemplated challenging Senator Kenneth D. McKellar in 1946. After exploring the possibility of running against McKellar, Kefauver decided the seventy-seven year old incumbent was still too strong to beat. Kefauver turned his sights on the seat held by Tennessee's other senator, Tom Stewart.

Stewart had first been elected in 1938, defeating Congressman George L. Berry and Congressman J. Ridley Mitchell for the Democratic nomination. Stewart had been strongly supported by Senator McKellar and McKellar's political ally, E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political organization. The 1938 Democratic primary had been a brutal affair and McKellar and Crump had reestablished their dominance in Tennessee politics.

Senator Stewart had been reelected for a full six-year term in 1942, but was not considered an especially strong candidate by many. Governor Prentice Cooper had been interested in running against Stewart, but opted to run for reelection after receiving a cool reception from Senator McKellar who preferred to keep his junior colleague. Stewart was challenged by Edward Ward "Ned" Carmack, son of the U. S. senator of the same name. Carmack quite nearly beat Stewart, but the returns from Shelby County, where Stewart received a tremendous majority, secured the nomination for the incumbent. Mr. Crump was appalled that Senator Stewart actually needed the majority from Shelby County to win reelection and his attitude toward Stewart began to subtly change.

Crump was never especially attached to Stewart, who had been selected to run for the United States Senate by McKellar. Crump, in a petulant mood, had written to excoriate Senator Stewart and threatened to withdraw the support of the Shelby County machine in the next election over a vote Stewart had cast in the Senate. To McKellar, who had cast an identical vote, all the Memphis Boss had to say was "We were a little surprised by your vote."

When Kefauver told his father he intended to run for the Senate, Cooke Kefauver strongly advised him not to run. The elder Kefauver had also originally counseled his son against making his first campaign for Congress and Estes replied, "I'm going back to practicing law."

Crump made the announcement that would end the domination he and Senator McKellar had exerted over Tennessee politics in December of 1947. The Memphis Boss

said he would not back Tom Stewart for reelection. Crump's candidate would be John A. Mitchell, an obscure judge from Cookeville whom he had never even met. Senator McKellar, aging and increasingly ill from a variety of ailments, reluctantly went along with Crump, although he did not think Mitchell could win. McKellar's heart was with Stewart and most of his own political organization ignored him and backed Stewart.

Kefauver returned to Nashville to seek the support of Silliman Evans, the publisher of the Tennessean. Evans could be counted on to oppose both Senator McKellar and Crump and the diminutive publisher promised his support to the Congressman, although he extracted a promise from Kefauver to shake five hundred hands a day during the campaign. For Kefauver, an exceptionally able one-on-one campaigner, it was an easy promise to make and keep.

Many of Crump's friends and allies immediately recognized the Memphis Boss was about to make a political mistake of titanic proportions. Governor Jim McCord made a special trip to Memphis to urge Crump to support Stewart for reelection, but the Boss was adamant. One of Crump's lieutenants in Memphis, Will Gerber, had become convinced the amiable Stewart was anti-Semitic and had been constantly whispering in the Memphis Boss's ear.

Crump likely believed his pronouncement would cause Stewart to meekly retire, but the senator issued his own statement saying he would be a candidate for reelection in 1948. Senator McKellar broke the news to his junior colleague that he, too, would support Judge Mitchell, and ruefully told the Memphis Boss Stewart had little to do with him following their conversation.

Crump's decision to abandon Senator Stewart set up a three-way race and divided the support and resources of his own organization and that of McKellar, which gave Congressman Estes Kefauver the opening he needed to run and win.

Kefauver had little name recognition across the state and campaigned hard, shaking hands and making new friends. Harry Mansfield, once the twelve-year old chubby little boy who had tagged along during Kefauver's first Congressional campaign became the candidate's driver in the 1948 Senate race. According to Kefauver's biographer, Charles Fontenay, Kefauver "dearly loved his Scotch" and was never without a bottle as he campaigned across Tennessee. Evidently young Harry discovered the stash of Scotch and helped



Gov. Gordon Browning and Senator Estes Kefauver

himself. After overindulging one evening, Harry found himself literally seized by the ankle and dragged from his bed by an irate Kefauver who snapped, "If you can't take it, young man, leave it alone."

Kefauver boldly invaded the domain of Crump and courted support from leading citizens. The Congressman was in Memphis conferring with supporters when he received a telephone call from his sister who broke the news their mother was mortally ill. Kefauver hurried to Knoxville and was with Phredonia when she died.

The Kefauver campaign received a jolt when it quickly authorized a poll early in 1948. The Chattanooga Congressman was running far behind both Senator Stewart and Judge Mitchell. Kefauver only had the support of 13% of voters, while Stewart had 37% and Judge Mitchell had 21%.

Kefauver opened his campaign in Madisonville and while a poor speaker, he had an enthusiastic crowd from his hometown folks.

Estes Kefauver not only had the support of Silliman Evans and his Nashville Tennessean, but that of Edward Meeman and the Memphis Press Scimitar. Like Silliman Evans, Meeman had consistently fought the Crump machine in Memphis and the Boss thoroughly hated the editor. Meeman offered some surprising advice, telling Kefauver he ought not focus his attacks on Crump and his machine, but fight back when the Memphis Boss opened up an assault on the Congressman's candidacy.

McKellar and Crump's domination of state politics was further challenged by the return of former governor Gordon Browning, who was running against Jim Nance McCord. Governor McCord had been highly popular and had enjoyed strong support from McKellar and Crump in 1944 and 1946. McCord, against the advice of Crump, had supported a sales tax for education, which angered a great many voters who less appreciated free textbooks for students than they hated the new tax. Crump had predicted McCord would be chased from the state capitol and Browning, humiliated in 1938 and beaten badly, appeared to be a strong candidate. Many of those

supporting Kefauver for the Senate were also backing Browning's bid to return to the governorship.

Crump was soon dismayed by his own preferred candidate's performance on the stump. Judge Mitchell, while a stately-looking man, was not especially adept at meeting voters and his speeches were not much better than Kefauver's. Unfortunately for Mitchell, he did not have Kefauver's personal appeal or warmth. Crump had apparently never considered McKellar's political organization would ignore the old senator's endorsement of Mitchell and the Memphis Boss thought Kefauver and Stewart would divide the vote hostile to the machine, allowing Judge Mitchell to win the Democratic nomination.

Despite his mistake, Mr. Crump was a shrewd observer of people and events. He soon realized his support for Mitchell might help elect Kefauver and both the Memphis Boss and Senator McKellar were deeply opposed to the Chattanooga Congressman.

Crump made yet another mistake, leading to one of the most famous episodes in Tennessee's political history. Enraged by Kefauver's open campaigning in Memphis, Crump issued a blast from his office through full page newspaper ads all across Tennessee.

"Estes Kefauver Assumes the Role Of A Pet Coon" the headline of the Crump advertisement blared. The Memphis Boss accused Kefauver of being soft on Communism, if not a fellow traveler. Crump compared Kefauver's votes in Congress to those of New York Congressman Vito Marcantonio, who was openly sympathetic to the Communist cause.

Crump's blast did not cause his prominent supporters in Shelby County to disappear, but it did allow Estes Kefauver to reply, which he did and effectively. To the horror of some of his campaign staff, Kefauver had found a coonskin cap and readily placed it atop his head during campaign appearances. Kefauver announced while he might be a "coon", he was most certainly not Ed Crump's pet coon. Soon the Kefauver campaign had a surplus of live raccoons, who appeared at campaign rallies and

events.

The gimmick helped the Kefauver campaign immeasurably, giving him favorable publicity all over the state.

Crump was aware his tactic had backfired and reports of Judge Mitchell's leaden appearances further depressed the Memphis Boss. Crump began quietly to explore the possibility of dumping Mitchell and supporting Senator Stewart. The Memphis Boss telephoned J. Frank Hobbs of Lawrenceburg, a former chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party and strong supporter of Senator McKellar. His high voice carrying over the long distance wire, Crump wondered if Hobbs would contact Judge Mitchell and ask him to drop out of the race? Hobbs replied, "I think you ought to be the one to do that, Mr. Crump, if anyone does."

Judge Mitchell hurried to Memphis to confer with Crump and they enjoyed a friendly conversation and the rumors the Boss might swing his support to Senator Stewart quieted down, at least for a while.

Estes Kefauver was more than a little worried about the possibility Crump might change his mind and support Senator Stewart. Tom Stewart was also aware of the rumors and had said nothing in his own campaign appearances that would offend the Memphis Boss, leaving the door open for Crump to return to his camp. Congressman Kefauver kept pressing the senator to denounce Crump, something Stewart refused to do.

The rumors were true and Crump was planning to announce his support for Senator Stewart, but Kefauver cleverly foreclosed that option. Kefauver beat Crump to the punch and declared the Memphis Boss would be shortly dumping John Mitchell in favor of Tom Stewart.

Crump's pride was at stake and he angrily replied,

"Kefauver knows we never switched, never deserted any political candidate in our political history."

Kefauver delightedly pointed to the 1930 United States Senate race where Crump had switched sides. To the Boss's fury, Congressman Kefauver cited other instances as well.

Kefauver continually pressed his opponents to debate him and the Chattanooga Congressman issued the same invitation to E. H. Crump. Stewart was a much better speaker than Kefauver and many of his family members believe had he accepted Kefauver's invitation to debate, he would have demonstrated his knowledge of the issues and demolished the Congressman. It was probably a mistake that cost Tom Stewart his seat in the United States Senate.

On Election Night, Kefauver jumped into the lead based on the returns from his native East Tennessee. Judge Mitchell and Senator Stewart were both from Middle Tennessee and divided the vote there, allowing Kefauver to enjoy a 17,000 lead over Senator Stewart. Kefauver won an impressive vote in Shelby County, but Crump's decision to support John Mitchell was the decisive factor. Had Crump thrown his considerable support in Shelby County to Tom Stewart, the senator would have been renominated. Instead, Senator Stewart only received 2,733 votes in Shelby County.

Estes Kefauver had won a seat in the United States Senate and Gordon Browning had decisively defeated Governor Jim McCord. Many would credit Kefauver with destroying the power of the Crump machine in statewide elections, but it was Ed Crump himself would accomplish that particular feat.

Correction to last week's article: Birch Biggs was Sheriff of Polk County.

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Cont. from page 1

monument and original bell we worked to establish at the Beaver Dam Baptist Church," she said. The Beaver Dam Baptist Church, built before 1786, may be the oldest continuing church in Knox County.

Smith added that the Women's League also visits the Hospice once a month and that The Closet is open every Monday and Thursday from 3 until 6 p.m.

"We are working with the Business and Professional Association to present awards to businesses and individuals for beautification and we're talking with the Hallsdale-Powell Utility District and the Halls High School to get the school pressure washed sometime this spring," she said.

The Future

R. Larry Smith, 30-year Halls Crossroads resident and County Commissioner for the community, said, "Halls is still a close knit community." He said Halls needs a "large box store" and urged Halls residents to volunteer and help keep the streets clean. Smith said that Emory Road is getting five lanes to link it to I-75 and that five lanes are being planned from Halls to Maynardville.

"The northern part of Halls is busting out commercially. There's a Kroger store planned for the old Powell Airport," he told *The Focus*. "You can get more for your buck in north Knoxville and (Halls) has the infrastructure in place."



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Elmcroft, 7521 Andersonville Pike
First Tennessee Bank, 6801 Maynardville Pike
Fred's, 6840 Maynardville Poike
Goodwill, 7026 Maynardville Pike
Halls Elementary School, 7502 Andersonville Pike
Halls High School, 4321 E Emory Rd
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Pilot # 121, 6900 Maynardville Pike
Smoke Pit, 7316 Norris Fwy
St. Mary's Residential Hospice, 7447 Andersonville Pike
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Sunny Brook Apts, 4500 Doris Cr
Tractor Supply, 7580 Maynardville Pike



From State Representative Harry Brooks

With all the headlines swirling out of Capitol Hill this week, I wanted to bring light to some great projects in our district that are not being discussed yet. I requested an update on local road improvement projects from Steven Borden, a regional director of Tennessee Department of Transportation. I received the updates for projects along Emory Road, Chapman Highway and Millertown Pike, all of which are ongoing and currently being worked on.

Emory Road

The most requested road improvement in the immediate area is the intersection of Emory Road and Tazewell Pike. There will be a stoplight added, as well as right and left turn lanes to each road. Bike lanes will also be added to both Tazewell Pike and Emory Road. An archaeological issue had delayed the project, but it is solved and plans will be finished soon.

The bridge over Kerns Branch in Harbison Crossroads will be replaced

to improve safety. Travel lanes will be extended to 12 feet from the current 10 feet. Many area residents have requested this improvement for a number of years, and we finally were able to include it in the budget.

Thompson School Road and Fairview Road will be realigned to create one intersection with a traffic light and left-turn lanes on all sides of the intersection. A number of citizens contributed to compiling an accident history at the intersection, which became the basis for the improvement. This was a project that former Commissioner Jack Huddleston advocated for many years, and current Commissioner Dave Wright continued to support.

A right-turn lane will be added to Tazewell Pike at Gibbs Elementary School. This will allow the safe deceleration of motorists turning into the school.

Chapman Highway

There will be widening and safety improvements from Evans Road in Knox County to Burnett Lane in Blount County. A center turn lane will be added to Chapman Highway for the majority of the project in order to improve safety. A right-turn lane will also be added to separate motorists wishing to turn right onto East Simpson Road.

Connecting side roads will be realigned to improve sight distance for motorists. Right of Way plans are tentatively scheduled to be complete in late February 2014.

Widening and safety

improvements will also be made from south of Simpson Road to Hendron Chapel Road in Knoxville. This section of Chapman Highway will be widened to include a center turn lane to improve safety. The ground survey is expected to begin in May 2014.

Intersection improvements at Millertown Pike and the intersection at Millertown Pike and Millertown Road are also underway. Right of Way plans are complete and utility coordination is currently underway.

Completed improvements and suggestions

The intersection of Loves Creek and Millertown Pike has recently been completed. This is a very welcomed improvement that was fully funded and developed by the city. Please show these city officials your appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

We are also continuing to review potential safety and repaving issues in the John Sevier Highway area. If you have any traffic improvements you would like to see tended to, please do not hesitate to contact me with your suggestions. Even if it is a county or city issue, I will be more than happy to pass your thoughts along.

I am excited about having the opportunity to serve the people of Tennessee and especially those of the 19th District. Please let me know how I, or my office, can be of service to you. I can be reached at my Nashville office at 615-741-6879 or rep.harry.brooks@capitol.tn.gov. It is an honor to be your representative.

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 2011 Triumph Thunderbird S/E Red in color with 18,080 miles. B0XAT656 \$8,999	 2012 Harley-Davidson Nightster Blue denim in color with 795 miles. B08HD07 \$7,999
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Attempted goal stopped! Blocking the shot are (l-r) Criss Fausto, Ishmael Fausto, Dreyton Long

New coach says Beavers already working hard

By Steve Williams

Tobi Kilgore, new head football coach at Karns High School, already is in attack mode.

"There are several challenges we have to attack immediately at Karns, but a couple stick out more than others," stated Kilgore recently via e-mail.

Creating "a culture of winning" tops the list.

"Every single day we have to teach our kids how to win," pointed out Kilgore, who made his debut as a head coach last season at Powell High. "This will take place in the weight room, the film room, the classroom, practice field, etc. Until they know what it takes to win, and can win Monday through Thursday, the Friday wins will never come."

"We have put together a great staff to this point that can really push those kids in the weight room and they are getting a taste of what it takes to be successful."

Karns finished 1-7 in District 3-AAA and 1-9 overall in 2013 under interim coach Travis Tipton.

Karns lost a 19-13 decision at Powell in Week 3 last season. The Beavers also were competitive in games against



Tobi Kilgore

Clinton and Gibbs, but their only victory came against winless Halls 33-16.

At Powell last season, Kilgore's Panthers were 4-1 in 3-AAA and 5-2 overall heading into their Week 9 game against Oak Ridge. That was Powell's first game without senior quarterback Hagen Owenby, who had suffered a season-ending knee injury the week before against Halls.

With Owenby out, Powell dropped its final three games, finished 5-5 and missed making the playoffs.

As for the challenge at Karns, Kilgore said the second thing to do is "recruit the hallways and have more involvement within our youth program."

"We are also upgrading all of our facilities at Karns. We already have one of the best practice

Continue on page 2

Emerald Indoor Soccer League spreads love of the game

By Ken Lay

Knoxville may be suffering through its coldest winter in some time but that doesn't mean that some of city's youth soccer players have been sitting around.

The Emerald Youth Foundation and the Knoxville Football Club recently joined forces to run a youth indoor soccer league for boys and girls. The league,

which recently completed its second season, was open to players age 5-15 and the games were played at the Emerald Gymnasium.

"This was our second season and last year, our turnout wasn't all that good," said Emerald Youth Sports Director Derrick Long. "Last year, we only had 82 kids."

Well, what a difference a year makes. During the

2013-2014 season, the league had 174 kids and Long said that shows just how much the sport of soccer has grown in the north and east parts of Knoxville.

Participation more than doubled in the indoor league this winter but the fall outdoor league also had rising numbers in 2013.

"The outdoor league doubled as well," Long

said. "It's exciting any time you have kids eager to play soccer."

"This spring, Emerald Soccer will have five [outdoor] club teams and that's exciting because East Knoxville is a big area for soccer players and they're starting to understand the game. They love it. They eat it up and the parents eat it up."

The Knoxville Crush was

Continue on page 2

Lady Panthers get defensive to down Halls

By Ken Lay

A tenacious defense spelled victory for the Powell High School girls basketball team Tuesday night.

The Lady Panthers smothered Halls en route to a 35-15 District 3-AAA win in the Emory Road rivalry on Senior Night for the Lady Devils. The win helped Powell (19-3 overall, 14-0 in the district) keep its perfect league record intact and remain in sole possession of first place.

The Lady Panthers defense would carry them

to the hard-fought victory. Powell also battled its share of offensive woes but the Lady Panthers did just enough to claim a crucial late-season win over their rivals.

Powell held Halls (14-8, 12-2) to just seven points over the 16 minutes and led 15-7 at halftime. Furthermore, the Lady Panthers surrendered just two points in the first quarter.

The Lady Devils' only points of the frame came on a basket from Katelyn Cantrell.

"Halls is a very good defensive team," Powell

coach Caitlin Hollifield said. "They're long and they're tall and they do a good job."

"They're also a very good offensive team. They're averaging 50 or 60 points a game and we held them to 15 points. We preach defense and these girls come to practice every day and they work hard. We made the big offensive plays when we had to have them."

Powell's Tori Lentz had 10 points to lead all scorers. Lentz scored seven points before halftime

Continue on page 2



Powell High's Keelie Lusby dribbles while Kaitlyn Lentz evades Halls' Lauren Biliter in the Lady Panthers 35-15 win at Halls last week.

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Lady Admirals hold on to eliminate defending champ Northwest

By Ken Lay

By week's end Knox County will have a new middle school girls basketball champion.

Farragut Middle School assured that when it outlasted defending Knox County Middle School Champion Northwest 30-24 Thursday afternoon in the first round of the James A. Lively, Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament at Farragut's Bobby

J. Henry Gymnasium.

The seventh-seeded Lady Admirals (7-7) also avenged a regular-season loss to the Lady Rangers (5-9) in the finale between the two schools two weeks ago.

Both teams battled offensive woes in the first half but Farragut, which was set to play second-seeded Cedar Bluff in Saturday's quarterfinals at Karns Middle School (results were not available at press time), did enough to open a 14-8

lead by halftime.

The Lady Giants, along with top-seeded West Valley, enjoyed an opening-round bye Thursday.

The Lady Rangers, who seemed a bit lethargic in the first half, was able to tie the game at 20 when Amiana Grady buried a 3-point shot with 50 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Farragut scored the last basket of the frame and held a 22-20 advantage heading to the final

stanza.

"Northwest is a very athletic team and they're well-coached," Lady Admirals' coach Susan Davidson said. "They beat us 33-28 [in the regular season finale]."

"I don't know much about them but I know they're good and athletic and I know their coach does a great job."

The Lady Rangers scored first in the final quarter on a bucket by Jordan Ragland. FMS then took a 23-22

lead on a free throw from Madison Hodge.

Northwest, the tournament's 10th seed, took its only lead of the contest when Maedaysia Rodgers scored a basket with 4 minutes, 19 seconds left.

The Lady Rangers' lead was short-lived as Farragut went ahead 25-24 on a put-back layup by Morgan Car-bough, who led all scorers with 16 points.

When the dust had settled, the Lady Admirals

held the defending champs scoreless over the final 4:18. Farragut finished the game on a 7-0 run and got a defensive spark from eighth-grade point guard and three-year starter Keyonna Bourne, who had several steals down the stretch that led to most of Farragut's final points.

Rodgers scored 12 points to spark the Lady Rangers in their final game of the season.

New coach says Beavers already working hard

Cont. from page 1

fields and game fields in the area, and we are going to have one of the nicest facilities very soon."

The Beavers' new coach is encouraged by the progress that's already been made.

"I think a lot of great things have happened in the program in the first month or so," he indicated. "We have a plan in place to ensure we have some of the nicest facilities in the area."

"We have spoken with over 30-plus people regarding coaching positions at Karns and will have the best staff that has been in place at the school when it is all finished."

"Most importantly, the kids are working hard and putting in the effort that is needed to win come fall."

One of the reasons Kilgore made the move to Karns, he said, was an opportunity to grow professionally in education administration. He said there was a connection with the

current Karns administration, and he has a desire to advance his career off the football field.

Charles Sheets, current Karns athletic director, was the AD at Central when Kilgore was on the Bobcats' staff prior to his move to Powell.

A 2003 Halls High graduate, where he was an outside linebacker and fullback for Coach Gary Shepherd, Kilgore went to UT and got the chance to start coaching under Shepherd just one year out of high school. He ended up coaching six years at Halls before joining the Central staff in 2010.

Kilgore was special teams coordinator in veteran Coach Joel Helton's last season at Central. In 2011 and 2012, he was associate head coach and defensive coordinator for new Bobcats head coach Joe Hassell.

Only 29 years old, Kilgore already has 10 years experience coaching high school football.

Emerald Indoor Soccer League spreads love of the game

Cont. from page 1

also instrumental in the league's success according to Long.

"The Knoxville Crush kids are really good about helping our kids," he said. "We've paired them up with some of our kids because anytime you play with and against better players; you learn the game faster and understand the game better."

Emerald Youth Foundation plays a 4-on-4 version of the indoor game called Futsal. It's played with a heavier ball which speeds up the action.

"We play 4 v. 4 out here and the game is always moving," Long said. "We

play with a heavier soccer ball and that emphasizes quick dribbling and passing.

"Soccer is different than other sports because you don't have timeouts and you have to make changes on the run and you make adjustments on the fly."

The indoor game is a conditioning tool for outdoor players as it allows players to stay in playing shape and keep their skills sharp but it's also meant to be fun.

"This is fun and it gives the kids a chance to just play and not worrying about making a mistakes and having us harp on them," Long said.

By Ken Lay

The Powell High-Halls High basketball rivalry is always intense and has a flare for the dramatic but the latest chapter of the Emory Road saga was even more dramatic than usual.

It finally ended when Red Devils' guard Peyton Booker buried a short shot as time expired in the second overtime to give host Halls a 64-63 victory on Senior Night for the Red Devils.

Booker's basket helped Halls complete a regular-season sweep of the Panthers on Monday, Feb. 3 before a packed and boisterous house at Halls. The basket also ended a long night and rescued the Red Devils (16-6 overall, 10-4 in District 3-AAA) from the depths of despair that they were feeling just two seconds earlier.

The Panthers (15-7, 9-5) took a 63-62 lead when Conley Hamilton converted a pair of free throws with seven seconds left.

Halls then fired an errant shot that went out of bounds and time appeared to run out as the clock operator didn't hear a whistle which stopped play with one second to go. Two officials left the floor while the Powell fans stormed the court. One official remained on the floor and conferred with the scorer's table and put two seconds on the clock.

Halls then inbounded the ball to Booker, who promptly hit the game-winner, leaving the Panthers and the Powell faithful in stunned disbelief as the Red Devils and their fans stormed the floor.

"I just tried to do what I had done all game," said Booker, who scored 24 points and had several crucial rebounds. "I couldn't have done this without my teammates and our fans who were huge for us."

"Most of all, you have to give the glory to God for giving us the ability to play. This was the most intense game that I've ever played but I loved every minute of it."

Halls coach Randy Moore agreed with his senior guard.

"This was a great game and this is a great rivalry," he said. "Our guys played well and their guys played well."

"It was just a great game."

The game had more twists and turns than a game depicted in on a Hollywood set. Halls had a 14-11 lead after the opening quarter only to see the Panthers storm back and open a 28-19 lead by halftime.

The game was then knotted at 34 after the third quarter, 51 at the end of regulation and 57 after the first 4-minute extra session.

Halls appeared to have the upper hand midway through the fourth quarter when Braxton Moore hit the third of his four 3-pointers to give the Red Devils a 45-40 lead.

Moore's final 3-pointer with 2 minutes, 10 seconds left in regulation gave the Red Devils a 48-42 advantage. He would finish with 12 points.

The Panthers, however, would answer thanks to the

effort of senior guard Dallas Fields who buried a 3-point shot and convert an old-fashioned three-point play to even the score at 48 with 1:36 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Booker answered with a 3-pointer to give the Red Devils a 51-48 lead with 40 seconds to go before Fields, who had 25 points to lead all scorers, sent the game to OT with a 3-pointer of his own in the waning seconds.

"He's a great player," Coach Moore said of Fields. "I told the guys that somebody was going to have to guard him."

"We'd be up by three or four and the next thing I knew, he would hit a couple of shots and tie it up or put them ahead."

Halls again looked to take control in the first overtime when Booker buried a pair of foul shots to give the Red Devils a 55-52 lead with 1:25 left. But Fields knotted the game a short time later with old-fashioned three-point play.

Halls then retook the lead on free throws by Kenny White, who scored 13 points, with 42.1 seconds left.

Hamilton, who finished with 14 points, extended the game with a field goal with 9.2 seconds left.

And that set the stage for a wild and crazy second extra frame.

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Holcombe signs with Carson-Newman

By Ken Lay

Central High School football player and recent graduate Johnathon Holcombe will continue his gridiron career in college.

Holcombe, an offensive guard and defensive end who graduated high school in December, will continue his football career at Carson-Newman University.

"I went to several schools but I went to Carson-Newman three or four times and every time I went, it opened up something new," said Holcombe, who will major in biology. "I loved the spiritual vibe that you get there and it just felt like a family.

"I know that they always go to the [NCAA Division II] playoffs and I want to be a part of the next championship team there."

Holcombe, who also entertained offers from East Tennessee State, which will reinstate football in 2015, Wofford and Middle Tennessee.

Wofford and ETSU are Division I FCS schools while Middle Tennessee is a mid-

major Division I program and Holcombe said that he peeled away the labels when he chose to play for the Eagles in Jefferson City.

"I took the Division I and Division II signs away when I looked at this because the ultimate goal for me is to play in the NFL," he said. "And even though I'm not playing Division I football, the dream of the NFL is not dead."

Holcombe also noted that it was important for him to play close to home where he could get maximum support from his family.

"I'm a family person and I felt like if I stayed closer to home that I would get more support from my family."

His sister cheered at ETSU and that was a factor in his decision to stay in Tennessee.

"My sister cheered at ETSU and I saw how much joy that that brought to my family and I wanted to do the same," Holcombe said.

Stinson signs to play football with Bucs

By Ken Lay

In 2015 East Tennessee State University will field a football team for the first time in more than a decade.

The Buccaneers, who last played a football game in 2003, have recruited the Knoxville area extensively and Central High School senior Jajuan Stinson is a part of coach Carl Torbush's inaugural recruiting class.

Stinson made that official Wednesday when he signed his National Letter of Intent at Central High School.

"It's close to home and when I went on my first visit, I saw some people I knew," said Stinson, who officially announced his decision with many other college football prospects on National Signing Day. "I know a bunch of those kids and that was another reason that I chose to go there."

Stinson is slated to play running back for the Bucs, who played their last football game on Nov. 22, 2003 against The Citadel.

"I want to help make history and I want to be one of the first people to come and bring football back."

Jajuan Stinson

He said that he's awaiting his chance to make an impact on a new chapter in ETSU football.

"It's really exciting," said Stinson, who will enter the school as an undeclared major. "I want to help make history and I want to be one of the first people to come and bring football back."

Stinson and the Buccaneers will play as a club team in 2014 before returning to NCAA competition in 2015.

Stinson said that the fact that Johnson City was close to Knoxville was a minor factor in his decision but he could've played a little farther away.

"That didn't really matter to me," he said. "I just wanted to play football."

Todd Kelly Jr. Stays Home

By Alex Norman

It used to be a day of surprises... but more and more, National Signing Day... the day high school football players sign their Letters of Intent to play at the college level, is a coronation and not an announcement.

Most players make up their mind weeks or months before the big day.

Webb School standout Todd Kelly Jr. made up his mind well in advance of February 5, 2014.

On March 10, 2013, Kelly called head coach Butch Jones (who was still six months from actually coaching a game at Tennessee) that he wanted to be a Vol.

"It feels awesome, the day is finally here. I've been dreaming about it for the past 18 years," said Kelly. "Just to realize that I am signed and committed to the University of Tennessee, it is just a blessing."

Kelly, rated as a four-star safety and one of the top high school players in the state, made these comments at a ceremony in the Webb school

gymnasium just after 12 noon on National Signing Day. In actuality, the important business was completed hours earlier, when the proper paperwork was faxed to UT.

"I told my Mom... she wakes up at the crack of dawn and I said make sure you get that right at 7 a.m.," said Kelly. "That's what I was expecting and it ended up happening that way. The coaches were calling me and I wasn't even awake yet."

Kelly smiled proudly, wearing an orange and white checkerboard tie, and a Tennessee cap with the words "Brick By Brick" underneath the Power T. That is the slogan Butch Jones says all the time, as he continues rebuilding the Vols football program.

Getting players like Kelly to buy in is a sign that Jones has made a convincing argument to some of the best football players in the county. The Vols Class of 2014 is a consensus Top 10 group according to the major recruiting services.

Had Derek Dooley been

given a fourth year in charge of the Tennessee program, the odds are Kelly wouldn't have picked UT.

"Before Coach Jones got here I was kind of leaning towards Alabama," said Kelly. "You know my sister was down there edging me a little bit, trying to get me to join her. It was very tempting but once Coach Jones got here they were recruiting me hard, did what they were supposed to do, and that is why I am a Volunteer today."

Kelly is one of five legacies in the Vols Class of 2014. Kelly's father Todd Sr. was a star on the Tennessee defensive line in the early 1990s. Todd Jr. has done a nice job making a name for himself thus far.

"Todd is a winner all of his life, a three-time state champion, and a Gatorade Player of the Year," said Vols defensive backs coach Willie Martinez in a statement released by the University of Tennessee. "I love his physicality and his play making ability and we will be leaning on his leadership qualities this



Todd Kelly Jr. with family and supporters on National Signing Day.

upcoming season." Kelly could make an immediate impact in the Tennessee secondary.

"Every athlete wants to go out and play from day one," said Kelly. "When everyone comes in, they are all gonna expect to play. You just have to play hard and give it your all."

The Vols have suffered through four straight losing

seasons, with a combined record of 21-28 over that span of time. If Tennessee is to return to elite status in the Southeastern Conference, Kelly and the Class of 2014 will be a big reason why...

"We want to bring Tennessee back to the winning tradition," said Kelly. "They've been losing these past couple of years, and

the fans have been getting tired of it so, we are excited about Team 118 (2014 will be the 118th team in program history) and we are gonna bring it next year and the years after that, so we are excited for what the future holds."

Super blowout could turn out to be Peyton's last game

The biggest worry going into Super Bowl XLVIII was the weather. But that turned out to be the least of worries.

Still, the most watched game of the year in all of sports was a disaster, if you were pulling for the Denver Broncos and specifically Peyton Manning, as so many of us around here were.

Yes, Mother Nature did her part, providing an unseasonable temperature of 49 degrees at kickoff and holding off the snowstorm that blanketed Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey just a few hours after the game ended.

Holding off that ferocious Seattle pass rush was a different story. It simply prevented Peyton from being the quarterback we've known and admired for so long.

The result was embarrassing . . . er, uh, make that shocking.

The Seahawks, 2½-point underdogs, romped 43-8. Super Bowls have seen



By Steve Williams

better days, that's for sure.

One TV columnist called it a "total bust as a game, middling year for ads..."

Super Bowl III

quarterback Joe Namath, dressed in a fur coat despite the mild weather, even botched the pregame coin toss, flipping the coin in the air before the Seattle captain had selected "heads or tails." The alert ref, fortunately, snagged the coin before it hit the ground, preventing a lot of confusion among bettors across the country.

Problems started for Denver on its opening play, as the football was errantly snapped past an unexpected Manning and recovered in the end zone for a Seattle safety. Give the loud Seahawks fans, known as "the 12th man," an assist for the quickest score in Super Bowl history.

Those two points, incidentally, turned ball boards across America upside down. All of a sudden,

numbers like 2, 5 and 9 looked good, for entertainment purposes only, of course.

I wasn't on a ball board this year. I was pulling strictly for Peyton. I wanted to see him add another Super Bowl win to his resume, even though ranking the NFL's greatest all-time quarterbacks shouldn't be based on Super Bowl wins alone, as some national pundits spin it.

The 2-0 deficit wasn't alarming. After all, Manning had yet to touch the ball. But going three-and-out on the second possession wasn't a good sign. And things got worse, instead of better.

Denver's suspect defense did hold the Seahawks to a pair of field goals. An 8-0 deficit at the end of the first quarter still didn't look too bad, but the first of two interceptions thrown by Manning led to a Seattle touchdown. Then a fluttering Peyton pass was turned into a pick-six by MVP Malcom Smith, giving the Seahawks a 22-0 cushion late in the

second quarter.

Instead of barking "Omaha" at the line of scrimmage as he had done often in Denver's first two playoff victories, Manning might have been

muttering: "Ohmygosh."

At halftime, this Super Bowl, for me, felt like a nightmare. Peyton even had that look on his face - I call it a funk - the one I've seen before when the

former UT quarterback has struggled in big-time games.

There wasn't a second-half comeback. In fact, Percy Harvin, former Florida

Continue on page 4

LOVE

makes 'a good team'

It was likely the most popular decade of our time. Rock-n-roll music, poodle skirts, and bobbysocks were images of the fifties. Eisenhower was our nation's leader, "Don't Be Cruel"



By **Ralphine Major**
ralphine3@yahoo.com

was made popular by a young Elvis, "Tennessee Waltz" topped the charts, and Dean Martin's "Memories are Made of This" all helped define the era so many like to remember. I missed out on the fun of the fifties. My generation came along during that time; but, by the time I was old enough to remember, the fifties were gone. One couple's memories of the fifties, however, are intact—and special.

1956 was the year. In late September, Perry McGinnis entered The University of Tennessee's College of Dentistry. A few days before Perry was to enroll, he and sweetheart Carol Jean Golden drove to Hancock County, Tennessee, instead of going

to the Tennessee Valley A&I Fair as others thought. They were married in the First United Methodist Church in Sneedville by Reverend Claude C. Snapp. Perry says, "Carol and I, as teenagers and by choice, immediately thrust ourselves into life's realities in Memphis, Tennessee, far away from the security of home and families back in Corryton. We literally grew up together and now, after 57 blessed years, there were never second guesses by us about our early decisions. Any doubts that our families may have had disappeared with the passing of time. Carol and I have been a good team and neither could have done without the other."

Memphis was a long way from their rural roots in Corryton. Back then, it must have seemed even farther. The young couple, both graduates of Gibbs High School, faced joys and challenges of their new life, but always together. I am reminded of the Old Testament scripture in the Book of Ruth: "for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God" (Ruth 1:16, KJV).



From the McGinnis archives, a picture of Carol and Perry at Clapps Chapel United Methodist Church shortly before leaving for Memphis.

This husband and wife team has been featured in earlier Focus columns as we followed them on their journey to dental school and beyond. We last left them on an army base in Texas. Their story will continue in a future column as they move to Missouri.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Pictured with Hagen are father, Tony Owenby, brother, Drake Owenby and Kristie Owenby, mother.

Powell's Owenby signs with East Tennessee State University

By **Bill Mynatt**

Powell High School's Hagen Owenby will continue to be a multi sport athlete at the next level of competition. Owenby signed a Letter of Intent with East Tennessee State University to play both football and baseball for the Bucs on National Signing Day last week.

A four year letterman in football, Owenby began his football career at Powell as a freshman quarterback, seeing varsity action as a backup to then All State quarterback Dustin McPhetridge. During his sophomore year, Owenby started at a wide out spot, while backing up the QB position, and helped the Panthers to a run to the Class 5A Blue Cross Bowl, where Powell lost in a heartbreaker to Henry County 17-14. Powell finished 14-1 on the year, and set school records for wins and winning percentage.

Then as a junior, with McPhetridge moving on to Austin Peay State University,

the 6'1" and 205 pound Owenby assumed the quarterback position full time and had a fabulous season, garnering Associated Press First Team All State honors in the process. A natural leader by example, Owenby led a young and inexperienced team to a semi-final berth, losing another heart-breaking game at Columbia Central, before ending the season 12-2.

As a pitcher, Owenby has been amazingly consistent during his entire career, and has been Powell's number 1 or 2 starter since he stepped foot on Danny Maples Field as a freshman. He has also played several positions for the Panthers – center field, short stop, third base, and catcher among them. A versatile athlete, indeed.

Hagen's parents are Tony and Kristi Owenby. His older brother, Drake, is currently a sophomore left-handed pitcher at The University of Tennessee, and a candidate to fill the closer role for the Volunteers this spring.

Super blowout could turn out to be Peyton's last game

Cont. from page 1

Gators star, returned the kickoff 87 yards to make it 29-0.

I was disappointed for Manning. He might have had his best season ever, passing for 5,477 yards and 55 touchdowns – new NFL records – and doing it at 37 years old and after four neck surgeries.

Had he won in impressive fashion, I believe he would have retired on top.

Now, I'm not sure if Manning will ever win another Super Bowl. Like he said after this last one, it's hard just getting there.

Next season's Super Bowl will be played in Arizona. There won't be any worry about the weather, but the thought of facing that ferocious Seattle defense again might just be enough to drive a future Hall of Fame QB like Peyton into retirement. We'll see.

What's so bad about this life

Cont. from page 1

the rich and famous ones but all that come as a result of people giving up and giving in. Despair is a miserable condition, and maybe all of us must reach out and lift others who are in the depths of it.

What I don't think we should do is sing praises of a person who had the world in his hands but chose, instead, to end his existence with a drug. Heroic status is due to

those people who persevere in the faces of deadly diseases, debilitating war injuries, or vicious abuse. They have the courage to go on in spite of having the odds stacked against them. These individuals refused to blame someone or some past occurrence to define who they would become.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, rest in peace. You will be missed as much for what you failed to fulfill as for what you achieved.

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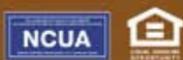
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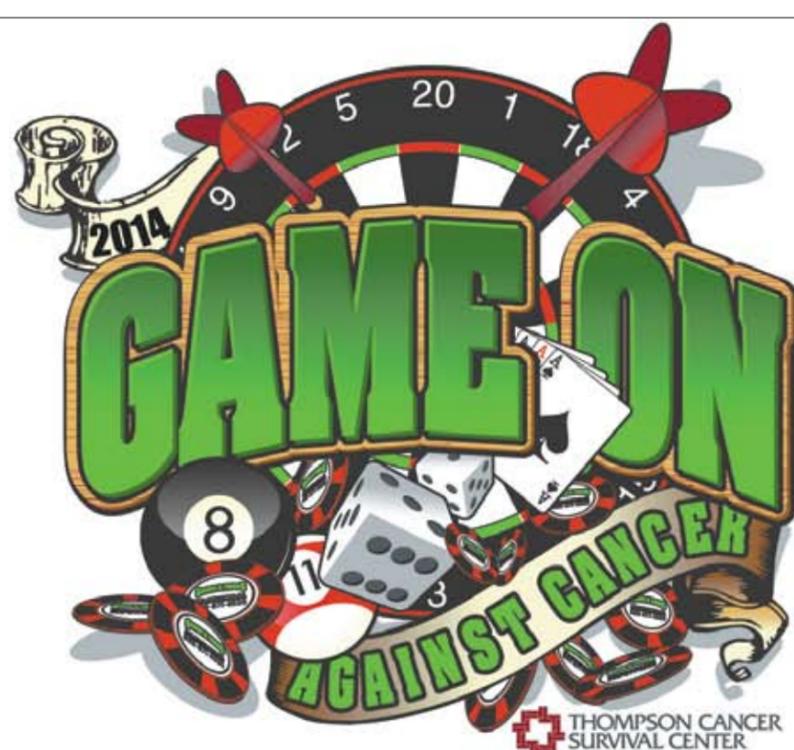
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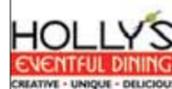
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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Something Happens

The other day my mother-in-law called me to say she's been thinking about pharmaceutical development. She wondered if this might be a topic for my column. After our conversation I thought, how remarkable is the curiosity of this ninety-seven year old woman. I can only hope that I remain inquisitive through the last third of my life. Joanna would have made a good internist!

As an internist and geriatrician, I use more medication than my surgical colleagues. Actually, I'm glad we have lots of drugs. The trick is to use medication when good science supports its use, and when the benefits of therapy outweigh the risks. These days I'm struck by the number of "guidelines" promulgated by "experts." Too often these seem to focus on the herd rather

than thoughtful consideration of the individual steer. As an example, the complex decisions of vascular disease treatment cannot be reduced to an algorithm no matter how well intended. And drugs are everywhere, including the streets. I continue to be amazed by television ads and disclaimers for "little blue pills" or male hormone replacement therapy. There must be some pretty desperate folks out there willing to override government mandated disclaimers and warnings.

Before the big government types begin to howl, let me assure you that I'm not overly critical of the FDA (Food and Drug Administration). This agency is responsible for, among other things, the safety of pharmaceuticals. I've written favorably of the FDA in past columns. The

thalidomide tragedy is an example of the benefits of our Federal watchdog. Americans were spared Europe's heartbreak when the pregnancy-associated nausea drug, thalidomide, which caused phocomelia (seal babies), was not allowed in the US.

However, we now live in a global economy, and the lure of less expensive drugs from overseas may pose additional risks. I personally read labels and refuse to give my dog food made in China. Unfortunately, many components of the manufacturing process originate in countries with different regulations. A serious bleeding problem surfaced some years ago in patients treated with the anticoagulant heparin traced to a defective component procured from China.

Drug development begins when a chemical is conjured up in a laboratory and then registered with the US Patent Office. This intellectual property is secure for twenty years unless stolen and sold elsewhere. The recording industry is a frequent victim of intellectual property theft as pirated versions of their property is sold on the streets of New York alongside "real" Gucci watches. And industrial espionage has been taken to a new level by

internet cyber-attacks.

After the formulation and patenting process, the first stage of drug development is pre-clinical. In this stage a drug's activity against a germ or its ability to lower cholesterol might be considered. Additional important aspects of the chemical are its metabolism and dosing, and toxicity issues in animals. If favorable results emerge, the data are sent to the FDA for review and approval before any clinical phase of testing can proceed.

You may have seen advertisements seeking participants for "clinical trials." Phase one clinical trials are usually done in young healthy male volunteers and focus on safety and dosing issues. It's easier to study results in a subject who doesn't have confounding medical problems. Obviously, pregnant females are precluded to avoid harming the baby. Phase two trials look at efficacy and safety of a drug in patients with a medical problem like pneumonia. In phase three trials large numbers of patients are treated with the study drug. This often necessitates multiple clinical research sites and pooling of results. As a doctor I've supervised many patients in phase three clinical research protocols. I've also done

phase four post-marketing studies after a drug has been approved by the FDA for the general public. Sometimes, it is during the after marketing experience that infrequent, but severe toxicities surface.

It's difficult to determine the cost of discovering a drug and bringing it to market because a company's capital costs may be co-mingled with the "out-of-pocket" costs of developing a single drug. A realistic cost of R&D (research and development) and bringing a drug to market may be one billion dollars. Furthermore, it often takes in excess of ten years to recover some of the investment costs.

The cholesterol lowering drug Lipitor and the potency agent Viagra made lots of money for Pfizer pharmaceuticals. On the other hand, a Pfizer phase three drug designed to raise HDL (the good cholesterol) resulted in several unexpected deaths and the loss of two billion dollars invested in the project. This disaster led to the layoff of thousands of workers. Clearly, it is risky business to try and pick a winner from thousands of synthesized chemicals.

I sometimes wonder how anything gets done given the complexity of life. I love Gary Larsen

cartoons and one of my favorites depicts a scientist with a Sigmund Freud like beard and a white flowing lab coat standing at a chalk board covered with mathematical equations and formulas purporting to explain the origin of life. Right in the middle of all the chalkboard scribbles is a box stating "something happened" enabling the scientist to balance his equation and explain the results.

We certainly know more than we did in the past. And we are more efficient in our industries than before. Sometimes I envision our individual small efforts as ants working to drag bits of food back to support the colony. One ant seemingly does little, but together the ants mysteriously accomplish great things.

The mystery and majesty of the universe abounds for those who have eyes to see these wonders. I believe pondering mysteries is what humans were designed to do, and our pursuit of truth is worshipful. You see, all that is exists is a result of and within the Master's Creation. It is our job to seek the magical ingredient, the "Something" in the equation we call life.

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

Aid for Homeless Female Veterans, Veterans with Families available

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Let's assume you are a female military veteran or a veteran with children. Now, let's say you are homeless or almost homeless, and need help to find a job.

You may or may not have had a meeting before discharge about what services are available. You may be reluctant to admit you are unemployed or admit you are homeless.

And what is homeless? You may think that living on the streets is the only "homeless" category accepted for any help, but you are

incorrect. Homelessness can also mean living with friends or relatives, or living in a place but facing an eviction notice.

You may need funds for car repairs, gas, or public transportation so you can get a job or get to a job. You may need the proper clothing to get or keep a job. Or you may need a bus pass, a fuel card, or even a bicycle.

Probably you don't think you qualify, especially if you were discharged early, got a "general discharge" or just served a short time in the military.

Where do you go for help?

The Volunteers of

America, located at 511 North Broadway in the Volunteer Ministry Center, has some answers to these questions and can help. They have received the Homeless Female Veterans' and Homeless Veterans' with Families Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor in order to help reach out to homeless female veterans and veterans with children under 18 years of age. Twenty-one East Tennessee counties are included in the region.

Program manager Byron Dickerson explained that the organization works with qualifying veterans and

manages their cases. "We walk with them in the county in which they live, offer some financial assistance and connect them with resources."

Tyerika Gibson, the outreach worker, told The Focus that a lot of VOA's clients are in a slump. She said she visits a lot of libraries, thrift stores, soup kitchens and other agencies to leave flyers and to get the word out about the special program.

Diane Kaczmarczyk, the program assistant, said that the need may be clothing, assistance with a resume, or something else. She explained

that Volunteers of America will encourage veterans seeking help: "I'm their cheerleader, trying to keep them focused."

Kaczmarczyk explained that VOA will refer veterans to their appropriate Career Center Veteran Representative and connect them to Veterans Affairs or other helpful agencies, such as Community Action Committees, the Homeless Coalition, Veteran Centers, etc., as well as interfacing with employers, temp agencies, job fairs and family resource centers on the behalf of the veteran. "We stay in touch

with these other agencies and complement what they are doing," Dickerson said. "If we can't enroll someone, we pass them on to an appropriate agency."

"It's not a hand out, it's a hand up," Gibson said.

"They've earned it," Kaczmarczyk agreed.

The Volunteers of American office also has two other veteran programs and even manages an apartment complex for veterans. They provide case management, job training, transportation assistance, and referrals and links to other local service providers.

Continue on page 2

Five Medication-Free Strategies to Help Prevent Heart Disease



Featured Speaker
Rachel Bowman, M.D.

While heart disease may be one of the leading causes of death, that doesn't mean you can't take steps now to help reduce your risk. Although you can't control all of your risk factors, like family history, there are some key heart disease prevention steps that you can take. Join Dr. Bowman as she presents five strategies to preventing heart disease.

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Faith

The Problem of Idolatry

The Ten Commandments used to be posted in schools and the court houses throughout our nation. Not anymore. I guess things like lying, coveting, murdering, disrespecting parents, and having idols are no longer struggles for students in school or for the people who visit courtrooms. (OK, I admit to being a bit sarcastic here).

But as I think about the list of ten, which one do we struggle with the most? I have to say it is the one about idols. Martin Luther said you can't violate the other nine without breaking the first one: "Thou shall have no other Gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). This leads right into "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below" (Exodus 20:4).

Maybe you are thinking right now: "I don't know what you are talking about, Mark. Some of the other commandments I have struggled with but idolatry? I don't worship any idols." In fact, when you think of idols, we conjure up images of ancient pagan idols or idols in Greek mythology. You probably don't know anyone who kneels before golden statues or bows down before carved images. Aren't we past all of that? So why do we need to talk about idolatry in Knoxville, TN, in the year of our Lord 2014? Well, it is still a problem today, just in different forms. Idolatry is the number one issue in the Bible and that should cause us to sit up



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

and take note. More than fifty of the laws in the first five books of the Bible are aimed at this issue. In Judaism, it was only one of four sins to which the death penalty was attached.

Understanding the importance of this issue is a game changer in our faith walk. There is a war going on for the throne of your heart because all of your dreams and who you hope to become all depend on which god wins your heart. The idols we have don't have strange names. They take identities that are so ordinary that we don't recognize them as gods at all. We do our "worship" with our thoughts, our checkbooks, our search engines, and our calendars.

It is probably true that every sin you are struggling with right now, every discouragement you are facing, and even the lack of purpose or direction in your life is because of idolatry. Idolatry is not just one of many sins, but it is the one great sin that all others come from. Underneath whatever struggle you have, you will find a false god. Until that god is dethroned, and the Lord God takes his rightful place, you will not find victory.

Anything can be an idol once it becomes a substitute for God in our lives. Think of what you have pursued and ask "Why?" God is the only one who can direct us and save us. The one true God has had it with the substitute gods. So God tells Israel (Ex. 20) to pack up the false gods and get rid of them. Let us do the same.

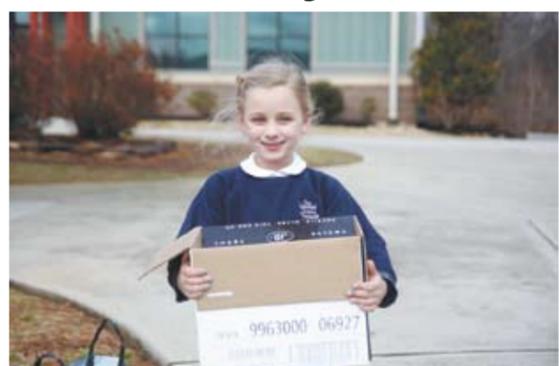
Episcopal First Graders Take Truckloads to Holiday Bureau

Thirty-one first graders at The Episcopal School of Knoxville spent time last Monday morning loading enough toys, books, clothes and bicycles to fill a 26-foot U-Haul truck and then helped deliver them to the Holiday Bureau in Oak Ridge.

It was the culmination of the school's 13th annual drive to help supply Christmas gifts for needy Anderson County families. The Holiday Bureau on Emory Road in Oak Ridge will take those items and refurbish them as needed in time for Christmas 2014.

The project is an eye-opening experience for these very young students, who plan the Episcopal School drive, solicit toys from others and give their own, and then sort and deliver them. The first graders have an able partner in the well-organized Holiday Bureau, which serves about 800 families yearly and operates wholly on volunteer effort. The Holiday Bureau has been in operation for 67 years.

"I think the best part of it is that we're taking something that they've had in their possession and they are having to make a decision about giving that up for someone else to use," ESK



ESK First Grade Chanel Lee carries toys donated by the student body to the U-Haul truck to be delivered to the Holiday Bureau.

first grade teacher Chris Bishop said. "There is that immediate conversation that we can have with the kids, that there are people who are less fortunate than us, and it is our goal and our responsibility to help those people."

Last year alone, the Holiday Bureau was able to purchase 700 food gift cards, provide over 800 children with new toys, bicycles and helmets, and to assist another 1,000 individuals with clothing.

The Episcopal School drive began with a school-wide call in early January for good, used toys. The first graders took the donated toys and stored them, first in bags in their classrooms and then in a giant bin behind the school gymnasium. Just prior to February 3, the delivery day, they sorted the toys into categories:

things in bags, including clothes, things in boxes, such as games, and things with wheels, like bicycles, tricycles, and scooters.

On delivery day, the first graders with the help of parent volunteers loaded the sorted items onto the trucks. The things with wheels entirely filled one 26-foot truck.

Bishop, who has participated in the Episcopal collection project for each of its 13 years, said the first graders were surprised at the number of volunteers they found working at the Holiday Bureau and at how the building they visit in the fall that is filled with toys is empty again awaiting their delivery in January.

"It is a happy thing all the way around - there are so many positives to it."

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

Aid for Homeless Female Veterans, Veterans with Families available

Cont. from page 1
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bdickerson@voatn.net.

Homeless or almost homeless, female veterans and veterans with families are less than likely to know where to find help. That's what the special grant program allows Volunteers of America to do: serve these special veterans.

Located in Powell, Volunteers of America's Candleridge Plaza Apartments provide 100 quality, affordable housing units to extremely-low income individuals who are 62 years of age or older or mobility impaired. The Service Coordination Program helps residents maintain their independence by networking residents with community resources such as transportation, housekeeping assistance, meal delivery, and legal advocacy. Additional services include helping residents access benefits, providing wellness and preventative health care opportunities, monitoring services, and promoting continued self-sufficiency. All services are free and confidential. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

House to Home

East Knox Republican Club Meeting

The East Knox Republican Club meets this month on February 13 at the East Town's O'Charley's. The meeting begins at 7 p.m., with dinner and meet and greet at 6 p.m.

Foothills Craft Guild Jury Fest

Become a member of the Foothills Craft Guild! Entries from fine craft artisans will be accepted in March for those interested in joining the Foothills Craft Guild. Chartered in 1968, the Foothills Craft Guild is the oldest artisan's guild in Tennessee and is dedicated to promoting and preserving the finest handmade crafts in the state. Their annual Fine Craft Show is one of the Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Events in the U.S! Membership applicants must reside in Tennessee, and crafts must be of original design produced within the past two years. Applications may be mailed in early, and entries must be hand-delivered to the Foothills Craft Guild office at the Emporium Building, 100 South Gay Street, on Monday and Tuesday, March 10 and 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Jury Fest will be on March 12, and applicants will be notified about the results. For more information or an application form, please visit the "How to Join" section at www.foothillscraftguild.org or contact Ann Lacava, (865)938-4180.

Fountain City Business and Professionals February Meeting

The February Fountain City BPA Lunch Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12, at 11:45 a.m. at Central Baptist Church in Fountain City. The lunch sponsor this month is Mark Enix and Fountain City Jewelers. G. Larry Hartsook, President of Global Integrated Security will present "School Safety and Security Program - Being Proactive not Reactive!"

Fountain City Republican Club Meeting

The Fountain city Republican Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Shoney's on Broadway. This month (Feb 11), the Speakers for the February 11 meeting will be Jason Emert, candidate for State Representative Dist. 13 and Scott Green, candidate for Criminal Court Division III. The meeting begins at 7 p.m., with meet and greet as well as dinner preceding at 6 p.m.

Fountain City Town Hall Meeting

The Fountain City Town Hall meeting for this month will be Monday, February 10, 7:00 p.m., at Church of the Good Shepherd, 5337 Jacksboro Pike. Amber Sparks, emergency preparedness educator for Knox County Health Department, will present, "Are You Prepared for a Public Health Emergency?" Miss Sparks has a Master of Science in Safety Management with a concentration in Emergency Management and is a licensed emergency medical technician. For information, please call (865) 688-9525.

Heiskell Community Center Monthly Seniors Meeting

The Heiskell Community Center, located at 9420 Heiskell Road in Heiskell, will hold its monthly Seniors Meeting on Thursday, February 13 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The speaker this month will be Commissioner R. Larry Smith, who will speak at 11 a.m. on the history of UT Men's Basketball. Smith will bring some items from his private collection to display. This meeting will also feature the annual Chocolate Fest celebration for Valentine's Day. Bring your favorite chocolate dessert to enter in the judging. Lunch at noon; bingo at 1 p.m. For more information, call Janice White at (865)548-0326.

Knox County Democratic Women's Meeting

The oldest county Democratic women's club in the United States meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Shoney's on Western Avenue in Knoxville. New members are always welcome! Call (865) 742-8234 for more info. Join us for our 85th anniversary celebration March 8 at Southern Depot. www.knoxvillemocrats.org/women_s_club_85th_anniversary.

North Knoxville Business and Professionals Meeting

The February meeting of the North Knoxville Business and Professionals will be held Friday, February 14, at 7:45 a.m. at the Emerald Youth Foundation, 1718 N. Central Street. Breakfast will be donated by the Emerald Youth Foundation. Steve Diggs, Executive Director of the Emerald Youth Foundation will speak on "New Charter School Application."

North Knox Republican Club Meeting

The North Knoxville Republican Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at Shoney's, 4032 N. Broadway. Dinner and fellowship at 6:00 p.m., meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

This month's meeting falls on Tuesday, February 11 and the featured speakers will be Jason Emert, candidate for State House District 13, and Scott Green, candidate for Criminal Court Division III.

PK Hope Is Alive Parkinson Monthly Meeting

PK HOPE IS ALIVE Parkinson Support Group of East TN will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 11:30 a.m. at Kern United Methodist Church in their Family Life Center, located at 451 East Tenn. Ave., Oak Ridge TN.

The topic this month will be "Cold War Patriots" presented by Susan Adkisson, RN. Shasta Hubb, will also talk about Professional Case Management. These are two very important topics for local people with Parkinson's disease. A light lunch will be provided by East Tennessee Personal Care Services. For information, please contact Karen Sampsell at (865)482-4867 or e-mail: pk_hopeisalive@bellsouth.net. www.pkhopeisalive.org.

STFK Science Café Meeting

The next meeting of the STFK Science Cafe takes place on Tuesday, February 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. at Ijams Nature Center. Returning guest speaker Dr. Andrew Kramer, Professor and Head of the Department of Anthropology at UTK, will be discussing and answering questions about a recent discovery called "Skull 5", a cluster of complete or nearly-complete skulls of early humans from the same time period that vary in size and shape outside of the range expected for a single species. The STFK Science Cafe is free to attend, and refreshments are provided. Please call Ijams Nature Center to let them know how many in your group, (865)577-4717 ext. 110. Or, you can RSVP to rsvp@knoxsciencecafe.org.

Vegan Supper Club to Focus on Soups, Salads & Hydrotherapy

The Knoxville Vegan Supper Club will meet on Sunday, February 16, at 5 p.m. at the Knoxville First Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3611 Kingston Pike. Attendees will enjoy a plant-based soup and salad bar. Participants will see live food demonstrations, and hear a presentation on "Hydrotherapy" by Dr. Eugene Runne. Dr. Runne is a Chiropractic Physician and a pain and movement specialist. The supper club is open to the public. There is no entrance fee but a suggested donation of \$10 per person can be made on site. Registration is limited to 50 people and the registration deadline is Thursday, February 14, 2014. For more information and to register, visit knoxvilleinstep.com or contact Kimberly Crider at (865)264-3894.

Volunteer Republican Women's Club Meeting

The Volunteer Republican Women's Club Meeting is Monday, February 10 at Buddy's Banquet Hall. The speaker is Patti Jane Lay, candidate for Circuit Court Judge, Division IV. Buffet opens at 11:30 a.m. and Meeting begins at noon. Cost is \$12.00.

West Knox Republican Club meeting

The West Knox Republican Club meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Red Lobster on Kingston Pk. This month's February 10 meeting will have Stacy Dunn, the Knoxville director of Tennessee Right to Life as the speaker. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Meet and greet is at 6 p.m. as well as dinner if you wish.



Happy Birthday!

Harrison Lee Andriopoulos celebrated his third birthday on February 3, 2014 with a minion party. His parents are Tom and Cindy Andriopoulos. His sister is Marinna Corinne Andriopoulos. His grandparents are Leon and Connie Wyrick and Harry and Maria Andriopoulos.

UT Seeking Entries for 'Tales from Rocky Top, Volume II' Children's Book

Your writing could be featured in the second volume of an interactive children's electronic book that will be produced by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The UT Rocky Top Institute is accepting entries for "Tales from Rocky Top, Volume II." The contest will run through Feb. 28. The short stories should translate the meaning of Rocky Top from the author's perspective.

Submissions will be accepted from East Tennessee high school students and from UT students and alumni. The stories must be a maximum of 1,000 words, be geared toward children in preschool to primary grades and be designed to be read aloud. Stories must be submitted by email to rockytopinstitute@utk.edu.

Winners will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize.

The entries will be judged in March and winners will be notified by May 1. Once the stories have been selected, illustrations, interactive components, music and narration will be developed. "Tales from Rocky Top, Volume II" is expected to be available for purchase in the fall.

For submission forms, guidelines and other information, visit <http://rhtm.utk.edu/rocky-topinstitute.html>.

The first volume of "Tales from Rocky Top" was released in December 2013. It is available for purchase at the UT Vol Shop and area retailers including Walgreens.

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1 (4 ounce) can green chilies
1 can Rotel tomatoes (mild or hot)
1 small red onion, diced
2 to 3 cups Mexican cheese blend

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, combine beans, seasoning mix, green chilies, tomatoes and onion. Spread 2 to 3 tablespoons bean mixture down the center of each tortilla.

Arrange 3 to 4 tablespoons shredded chicken atop the bean mixture. Sprinkle liberally with cheese. Roll up tortilla. Wrap individually in foil. Place on a baking sheet. Bake 15 to 20 minutes. Serve with guacamole, sour cream and additional cheese.

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