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Off To the Races

By Steve Hunley
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Knox County is only weeks away from the May primary which will determine the nominees for every office on the ballot. Judges and the attorney general, all of whom have eight year terms, are up for election this year. Five seats on the Knox County Board of Education are being contested and those races have attracted a great deal of attention.

Mayor Tim Burchett is cruising to reelection unopposed, as are Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin, Cathy Shanks, Clerk of the Circuit, Civil Sessions & Juvenile Courts. Charme Knight, a Republican running for Attorney General, is unopposed in both the primary and general elections.

Some of the hottest races are on the Knox County Board of Education. Incumbents Gloria Deathridge, Lynne Fugate, and Pam Trainor are all seeking reelection. Incumbents Thomas Deakins and Kim Sepesi opted not to run again.

Deathridge, Fugate and Trainor all have one thing in common; all have been rubber stamps, unswervingly dedicated to Superintendent Jim McIntyre and his administration.

Deathridge, who represents the First District, surprised some by going so far as to back McIntyre when the superintendent proposed outsourcing school custodians. Deathridge is opposed by Marshall Walker and Robert Boyd.

Fugate, like her mentors Karen Carson and Indya Kincannon, has slowly been moving up the Board ladder, serving as Vice Chair and finally Chair of the Board of Education. Fugate has presided at Board meetings somewhat curtly, giving short shrift to those she perceives as unfriendly to the superintendent and his agenda.

Fugate is being challenged by Sally Absher, a very articulate and well informed first time candidate who criticizes Fugate for not being more independent of McIntyre. Fugate is also being challenged by Scott Clark.

Pam Trainor is thought to be the incumbent most

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Commission Candidate Ed Brantley visits Corryton



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Ed Brantley, candidate for Knox County Commissioner At-Large, 11th district, visits with friends at last Tuesday's Super Seniors Dinner at the Corryton Senior Center.

By David Klein

A retired Knoxville radio executive is looking for a new way to serve the citizens of Knox County. Former radioman Ed Brantley, who was a long-time afternoon DJ at WIVK and station manager for Citadel Broadcasting, is running for Knox County Commissioner At-Large, 11th district. The primary election day is May 6. There are no Democrats or independents opposing in the race, so the primary winner will be the next 11th district commissioner.

Before entering the commission race this year, Brantley has always worked in radio. His start in radio began in high school. While zoned for Bearden High School, he got his mom to transfer him to Fulton High School where he could go to a radio speech class that was not offered at Bearden. He rode a bus every morning and afternoon from West Knoxville to Fulton.

"I worked night and day to

do what I wanted to do at that radio speech class," he said of his beginnings in radio. "I started WIVK at \$75 dollars a week," he added. "I went from working part time to being the number one country afternoon disc jockey in America (at WIVK)." From there, he went into radio sales, then became director of radio sales, then eventually became general manager of five radio stations with annual revenues of more than \$10 million a year.

For several years, Brantley hosted the immensely popular Sunday radio show on WIVK, aptly called Sound Off. The show was primarily dedicated to local, state and national politics and current events.

"I've always been interested in the issues of the day," Brantley said, of his desire to become commissioner. "Now I want to serve the citizens of Knox County."

Brantley said his experience

"Job creation is one of the most important roles that what we should play in Knox County government. Help industry come to this area and help our kids have a place to work."

Ed Brantley

managing Citadel broadcasting gives him an advantage. "Knox County government spends about two million dollars a day," Brantley said. "It takes someone with business experience to deal with those numbers. I know what it is to deal with budgets. I know what it is to make every dollar count."

He is in favor of fiscal responsibility for government. "We want to reduce our debt and not increase our taxes." As a former manager of

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Schools might ask for \$10.5 million more

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County School Board met last Monday to begin working on its budget request for the 2014-2015 school year and to hear the Parthenon Group's recommendations on the school system should do over the next six years.

Superintendent James McIntyre promised a final budget proposal

by March 31 and touched on some of what his proposals might include. Board members must approve his budget plan before sending it on to Count Commission for approval. County Mayor Tim Burchett has said that his budget will not include any increases for the school system.

Ron McPherson, Executive Director of Finances for the Knox County School System, told the

board that while county sales taxes are down, property taxes may be up a bit, and that he won't know how much the state will allot until April. He said this year the system got \$173 million from the state.

McPherson estimated that the board may be given a proposal for \$10.5 million increase from County Commission and may budget to spend \$ 19 million

more above what is the current year budget.

Twice during the meeting Chairperson Lynn Fugate reminded the audience and TV viewers that the budget discussion and the Parthenon recommendations are discussions only and that no decisions have been made.

BOE member Indya Kincannon asked why the budget needs to

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FOCUS Weekly Poll*

In your opinion, should State Government or the Federal Government determine the curriculum in public schools?

STATE GOVERNMENT 82.29%
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 17.71%

Survey conducted March 13, 2014.

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

Knox Countians Favor State Control of Schools

By Focus Staff

This week's Focus poll posed the question, "In your opinion, should state government or the federal government determine the curriculum in public schools?"

82.29% of respondents said they favor control of school curriculum by the state government rather than the federal government. Only 17.71% of those likely voters polled said they believe the federal government should control school curriculum.

The district with the highest proportion of support for federal control came in the First District, home to most of Knoxville's African-American community. More than 43% of likely voters in the First District said they favor federal control.

Conversely, more than 90% of voters in the Seventh District said they favor state control.

More men than women favor state control.

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Focus on the Law

The death penalty in Tennessee

When Tennessee became a state in 1796, its Constitution allowed capital punishment. As was the case in those times, this punishment was typically accomplished by hanging. Hangings



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

often resulted in death by slow strangulation or even decapitation of the condemned. In 1913, due to a wave of abolitionist sentiment across the nation, capital punishment was repealed in Tennessee only to be reintroduced in 1916. Electrocution became preferred to hanging to death as being a more humane method of capital punishment. The electric chair was first used to electrocute an inmate in Tennessee on July 13, 1916. From 1916 until 1960, 125 inmates were executed by electrocution. The United States Supreme Court in its 1972 Furman v. Georgia decision declared that

the imposition of the death penalty was cruel and unusual punishment and, therefore, unconstitutional. Due to this decision, there were no inmates sentenced to death from 1972 to 1978. In 1979 the Tennessee Supreme Court upheld a new death penalty statute. In 1998, state law made lethal injection the method of execution in Tennessee for those committing a capital crime after January 1, 1999.

In 2000, the law was amended to allow inmates who committed their crimes prior to January 1, 1999 to choose electrocution rather than lethal injection. This was the choice of Daryl Keith Holton convicted of killing his 3 sons and their half-sister. He became the first electrocution in Tennessee since 1960. Only 5 other executions have taken place since 1960 and those were all by lethal

injection. Interestingly enough, state law requires that the Commissioner of Correction must keep and maintain "an electrical apparatus, together with all necessary appliances sufficient for the infliction of punishment of death" in a permanent death chamber within a penitentiary of the state. There are still inmates on death row who could choose electrocution so it requires the maintenance of an electric chair.

As of December 31, 2013, Tennessee Department of Corrections incarcerated a total of 19,345 males and 1,461 females in their adult institutions. Of these inmates, 76 are on Death Row. The only female on Death Row is Christa Gail Pike who, at age 18, brutally murdered her purported romantic rival on the UT Agriculture Campus in Knoxville back in 1995. Pike is housed at the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville. She is now 37 years old and has been on Death Row for 18

years. Except for a few who are housed at Morgan County Correctional Complex, the male inmates on Death Row are housed in a separate unit at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville. The youngest inmate on Death Row is John Freeland, 31. He was sentenced to death by lethal injection for kidnapping a 61 year old woman, shooting her in the head while she lay in a ditch and then stealing her car in Henderson, Tennessee. He has been on Death Row since May 2011. The oldest inmate on Death Row is Jerry Ray Davidson, 70. Davidson was sentenced to death for kidnapping, killing and decapitating a woman he met in a bar in Dickson, Tennessee. He has been on death row for almost 17 years.

Sharon Frankenberg is an experienced attorney licensed in Tennessee since 1988. Her office number in Knoxville is (865)539-2100.

FOCUS Weekly Poll

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STATE GOVERNMENT 82.29%
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 17.71%



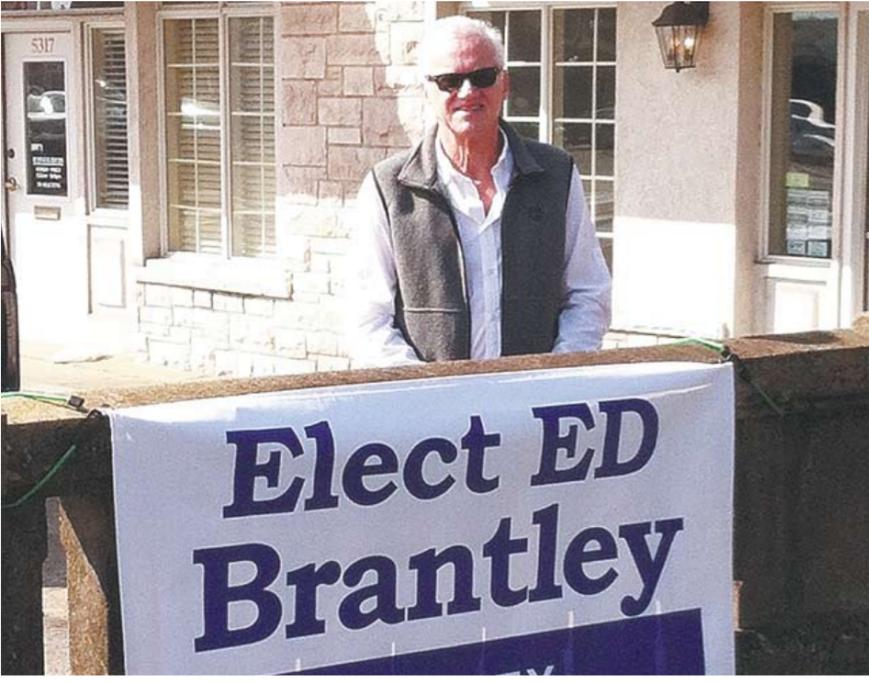
By Age	State Government	Federal Government	Total
18-29	100.00%	[None]	2
30-49	80.56%	19.44%	36
50-65	75.00%	25.00%	88
65+	86.42%	13.58%	162
Total	82.29% (237)	17.71% (51)	288

By District	State Government	Federal Government	Total
1	56.25%	43.75%	16
2	83.33%	16.67%	36
3	78.79%	21.21%	33
4	85.00%	15.00%	40
5	76.00%	24.00%	25
6	83.87%	16.13%	31
7	91.18%	8.82%	34
8	87.10%	12.90%	31
9	83.33%	16.67%	42
Total	82.29% (237)	17.71% (51)	288

By Gender	State Government	Federal Government	Total
Unknown	72.73%	27.27%	11
Female	78.79%	21.21%	132
Male	86.21%	13.79%	145
Total	82.29% (237)	17.71% (51)	288

Survey conducted March 13, 2014.

Commission Candidate Ed Brantley visits Corryton



Cont. from page 1
five radio stations and with extensive business experience, Brantley promises to watch every dollar that is spent in Knox County.

When it comes to job creation, Brantley would like to see a greater effort to bring industry to Knoxville. "To bring in the type of industry that Chattanooga and Nashville and other cities have accomplished, we have to have trained workers. Job creation is one of the most important roles that what we should play in Knox County government. Help industry come to this area and help our kids have

a place to work." He expressed concern that some citizens have to drive to other counties to work. "A lot of people from Knox County are driving to Anderson County to work and to other counties to work. We should do everything possible bring more jobs here into Knox County. That's how the Knox County is going to grow by bringing businesses and new residents in to increase the tax base."

Brantley expressed support for the current Knox

County Mayor. "I do believe Mayor Burchett is doing a very good job in watching our finances."

As for one idea he wants to do if elected county commissioner, Brantley wants to visit each of the nine districts in Knox County on a monthly basis and have a meet the commissioner meeting. At these meetings, he would seek input from citizens on any type of issue they are interested in. "That's who I will work for, the citizens of Knox County," he said.

Left, Ed Brantley on the campaign trail. To find out more information about Ed Brantley, go to electedbrantley.com. or call (865)321-1016.

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Publisher's Positions Gypped Again



By Steve Hunley,
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Education having spent around \$1.2 million for a study to show them where there is waste in their operation. That contract was given to the Parthenon Group and those folks made a presentation to the Board last week that just boggles the mind. About \$360,000 of our tax dollars went to this study and the Gates Foundation apparently picked up the rest of the tab.

The Parthenon folks gave a mind-numbing presentation, yet at the conclusion of that snooze-fest there really seemed to be no savings at all; in fact, the study recommends an increase of some \$45 million of your tax dollars. Go ahead and pick your glasses or

yourself up off the floor, you read that right. Ultimately, these consultants recommended the school system receive an increase of \$45 million of your tax dollars.

We're supposed to trust the very same people with 45 million (that's 45 cents on the property tax rate) MORE dollars who just conducted a study about waste and instead found a way to squeeze more money out of us?

These folks have bragged about this study leading to a "smart budget," but to my mind it looks more like smoke and mirrors and sleight of hand.

Superintendent Jim McIntyre was plum giddy to get \$800,000 from the Gates Foundation but apparently

thought nothing of spending \$360,000 of our money for a study that is unlikely ever to be implemented by the Board. McIntyre's rubber stamps, the Board, went right along, as they always do, and now have nothing to show for it, except perhaps for some well deserved embarrassment.

Maybe McIntyre actually wanted a study recommending he get another \$45 million to spend, but the study is so devoid of any legitimate use that all he did was show he either doesn't know what he's doing or just doesn't give a hoot how he spends our tax dollars.

To add insult to injury, the savings the Parthenon

folks identified included such clever ideas as getting rid of the custodians and school librarians, as well as increasing the number of students per classroom and hiring teachers who are better equipped to handle these larger populated classrooms. Yet at the same time, state law is being changed so that teachers with advanced degrees will earn no more for having those advanced degrees. Huh?

The same recommendation also urged the Board to cut back on school nurses and eliminate paying for poor children to go on field trips while at the same time urging at least seven more bureaucrats be hired downtown.

The bottom line is the recommendations could not possibly be taken seriously, except perhaps for someone from another planet and I'm beginning to wonder if there aren't several of those on the Board as it is.

Clearly, the waste most easily identified is the study itself. Just so you know, didn't have to hire a consultant to figure that one out.

\$360,000 of our tax dollars gone for what? Stupid ideas on saving money along with a recommendation to give more money to the same people already doing a great job wasting our money.

Somebody just got robbed and we, the taxpayers, got gypped again.

Just when you think there's nothing more the government can do to bounce against the ceiling of stupidity something always comes along to reassure you.

A lot of folks have been outraged by the Board of

McMillan Disappointed with Study

By Focus Staff

Mike McMillan, East Knox County's member on the Board of Education, issued an apology for having voted for the recent study completed by the Parthenon Group.

"The one time I vote with the administration, this is what happens," McMillan said ruefully. "It was absolutely a waste of taxpayer money, which is ironic because it was supposed to show us how to save money"

The study was urged by Superintendent Jim McIntyre with the funds coming from a grant given by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as \$360,000 taxpayer

dollars. The study was supposed to identify areas where the school system could eliminate waste and operate more efficiently. McMillan denounced the study as "utterly worthless" and "embarrassing."

The study suggested the school system eliminate custodians, school librarians, reduce the number of school nurses, and stop paying for poor students to go on field trips. The study also recommended adding new employees to the administration and increasing spending on schools by \$45 million, which would require a 45 cent hike in the property tax rate.

McMillan was incensed by the proposed increased

spending. "I was literally too stunned to speak upon hearing the recommendations and was so mad I could barely contain myself," McMillan explained. "It was probably best I didn't say anything at the time, but the entire report was a waste of money, resources and time."

Referring to fellow Board member Karen Carson's suggestions the Board might find some hidden gems in the report, McMillan snorted, "While it is possible to find a pearl in pig slop, it's not very likely."

As to the Superintendent's insistence the report is for the "long range" good

of the system, McMillan scoffed the report was not likely to be implemented "now or in the future" and doubted very much McIntyre would attempt to implement any facet of the study any time soon.

"No elected official is perfect," McMillan said, "but when I make a mistake, I want to acknowledge it and apologize for it. I will be highly skeptical of such things in the future."

"I honestly believed we might actually identify some areas where we could eliminate waste and run the system more efficiently. This study was just a complete waste and I am very disappointed in it."

Hammond's Idea Just Goofy

By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
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Knox County Commissioner and candidate for Criminal Court Clerk Mike Hammond just got back from Washington and apparently it's not safe to drink the water there.

As reported in the Knoxville News Sentinel, Hammond returned with an idea: the inmates held at Knox County's Penal Farm should be put on "Obamacare." According to Hammond, this might save Knox County some money.

This is one of the goofiest things I've ever heard and almost impossible to take seriously. First of all, does Commissioner Hammond realize every taxpayer pays federal, state and local taxes? If the money used for providing health care to inmates was moved so the feds pay for it, the money still comes from you and me. In reality, we aren't saving a single dime.

Even with the advent of Obamacare, TennCare hasn't disappeared; in fact, Governor Haslam

fears Obamacare will actually expand TennCare and cost taxpayers even more. Obamacare, as best as I can tell, has not replaced a single health care plan or subsidy created by any government. Thus far all it seems to have done is cost a lot of folks their own private health care plans.

Hammond is the same guy who supported increasing both the sales and property taxes when Superintendent of Schools Jim McIntyre was seeking the biggest tax increase in Knox County history.

If it were possible to unload inmates onto Obamacare (and the general thesis of Obamacare is for the young to pay the way of the old and the sick), every sheriff in the country, along with the governor of every state in the union, would move to stick the federal government with the tab. At best it would be skillful accounting, moving the cost from one column to another.

We, the taxpayers, wouldn't save a single penny.

County still behind on sales taxes

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When Knox County Finance Director Chris Caldwell spoke recently about Knox County's 27% downtick in sales tax revenue for December, he said he'd check back with the state to clarify if that unexpected decrease was correct.

Last Tuesday, he told the county Audit Committee that revenues have been checked and adjusted by the state but that the tax

collection for December is still down by about 11%.

"The problem is with the state; it is never really clear. You never get a true month to month comparison," he said.

According to Caldwell, the increase in paid property taxes may offset the loss of sales tax revenue. "We hope to end the year about even."

Caldwell also mentioned that Mayor Tim Burchett will present his 2015 budget to the county commission on

May 1. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

In Tuesday's meeting, the Audit Committee also discussed the upcoming loss of taxes under the 15 year "sunset" provision of annexations. When the city annexes an area, usually a commercial strip or district, the county continues to receive part of the taxes generated there. That money dries up next year and goes to the city.

The committee agreed with an idea from the new

Internal Audit director Andrea Williams and voted to ask County Commission to change the Audit Commission charter to permit five members: three appointed for four years by the commission and two independent Certified Public Accountants, with one of the CPAs having internal audit experience with a government body. Currently there are only four members, including one outside auditor.

Turning to the committee's **Continue on page 4**

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Inskip's President surprised by award

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

"I was very surprised," she said, "Very surprised that I was nominated and honored that I was selected."

Betty Jo Mahan, President of the Inskip Community Association, was presented the 2014 Diana Conn Good Neighbor Award Saturday, March 8 by Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero at the City of Knoxville's Neighborhood Awards and Networking Luncheon held at the Knoxville Convention Center.

The mayor said that Mrs. Mahan accepted the challenge of overcoming decades of disengagement in a very large and densely populated neighborhood by helping create and lead the Inskip Community Association.

"Ms. Mahan embraced the diversity of Inskip, reaching out to the growing Hispanic community with a dual language newsletter," the Mayor said, adding that Mahan worked with the Knox County Health Department and Transportation Planning Organization to coordinate the Health Kids, Healthy Communities and Safe Routes To School programs; involved neighbors in Paint the Pavement project to promote community identity; advocated reducing speed limits and installing slow down signs; and helped convince City Council to rezone large parts of Inskip to single family and duplex residential.

In recent Inskip Community Association meeting, Mahan polled those attending and it was decided that the long-range goal for Inskip is getting sidewalks, especially for the area leading to the Inskip Pool & Park on Bruhin Road so children can safely enter and exit beside the road.

Sidewalks are also needed along E. Inskip to connect Inskip Elementary with the Inskip-Norwood Center, as well as along Rowan Road and along Cedar Lane.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Betty Jo Mahan and her grandson Braiden stand beside one of the Inskip Neighborhood signs near the Inskip Pool, where a sidewalk is needed to protect children who are coming to and leaving the pool and park.

"Our most immediate goal is beautification and clean ups in Inskip," Mahan said. She told *The Focus* that the association has planted fruit trees in the pool park and that a Frisbee course will be created there. Another need for the community she said is a dog park.

Mahan said that Anita and Bob Case and Jennifer Mirtles played important roles in the Inskip work.

"I think I am realizing it is not just about what we accomplish as much as it is that we get together as friends and have some hopes that things can and will be better because we have a dream and passion for our neighbors," she said.

Mahan is currently an administrative assistant at the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Her husband Steve is a

truck driver. She has three sisters living in Knox County and is currently caring for her 2-year-old grandson, Braiden.

Other nominees for the Good Neighbor award included Calvin Chappelle of the Parkridge Community Organization, Kathy Hitchcox of the South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, Bruce and Tracy Martin of the Delrose Drive Neighborhood Watch, Travetta Johnson of Parkridge Community Organization, and Gerry Moll of the Fourth and Gill, The Bird House.

Six other neighborhood groups were honored for their work: Lakemoor Hills Homeowners Association, Lyons View Community Club, Parkridge Community Organization, South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association and Western Heights Residents Association.

County still behind on sales taxes

Cont. from page 3

outside auditors, Pugh CPAs, they heard from Larry Elmore telling them that a look at the Trustee's office last quarter found no unusual activity. He said the office, troubled by financial and over-pay in the past, is "clean." Elmore said the Trustee's office will be reviewed one more quarter and stressed that the findings could affect the insurance company's bond for that office.

The Audit Committee next heard from Larry Elmore, representing the committee's external auditor, Pugh CPAs. The County Trustee's office, troubled by financial and over-pay in the past, has been under review by Pugh CPAs for the last three quarters and was dubbed "clean" by Elmore as no unusual activity has been found. Elmore said the Trustee's office will be reviewed one more quarter and stressed that the findings could affect the insurance company's bond for that office.

"We're trying to build trust every day," Interim Trustee Craig Leuthold told the committee.

The Knox County Fraud Hotline was also a topic and it was reported the state-mandated service has received about 100 calls over the past three years with only eight in the past six months. The mandated Hotline receives no state funds and the committee members discussed whether or not it is worth continuing. "We're getting our money's worth, I believe it is helping us," Commissioner David Wright said. The committee was told that the Hotline will need to be "rebid" in February, 2015.

In other news, another representative of Pugh's CPAs, Ted Holz, said an audit of the activity funds at the 86 Knox County schools found that \$8.3 million is in school accounts and \$19.6 million in receipts for the year. He presented a 300-page report on the audit and added, "There's lots of activity and a lot of small dollars."

Activity funds at each school are those funds raised by the schools through events, ticket sales, etc., and are not part of the school board's budget.

Schools might ask for \$10.5 million more

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increase or if the board even wanted to consider asking the county commission for an increase.

Board member Karen Carson said "There's only so many dollars, I don't think the county can meet that need." She added that there is some "faint hope" and then asked "What are the county's goals?"

"Our county should be saying something to the mayor and the commission, asking them where do you put your priorities?" Carson said.

"If we can justify our proposed budget and get the support of the public and teachers, we shouldn't shy away from that," Kinnannon said, adding the board should ask for adequate funding.

Superintendent McIntyre introduced Seth Reynolds of the Parthenon Group consulting firm to give recommendations for a long-term education plan for Knox County.

Among the Parthenon suggestions were a \$9 million (in addition to the \$10 million possible budget proposal) for the next school year. To help save the increase the

advisory group suggests increasing class sizes, having fewer but "better" teachers, discontinuing automatic pay increases for advance degrees, strategic recruiting and staffing, and increasing the base pay for principals.

Parthenon also recommended moving money from teaching assistants to intervention monitors and student support staff, discontinuing part of the TAP program, and stopping free waivers for student fees for activities like field trips.

Carson asked if the remarks were a summary of a study "from a business prospective" and then made clear that the presentation was Parthenon's plans or proposals to the BOE, not from the BOE.

McIntyre said the plans, or recommendations are, "a long term conversation and any area would require a lot more conversation."

Chairperson Fugate again cautioned the audience and viewers that "This is (only) a recommendation for us to consider."



A celebration of life for Sara Wright Neblett is planned for Sunday, March 23rd. It will be held at the Lion's Club Building in Fountain City Park from 2-5 p.m. Friends and acquaintances are welcome to come and share memories of Sara.

Off To the Races

Cont. from page 1

likely to lose and she faces a tough challenger in Amber Rountree, a spunky and extraordinarily bright young woman who is a school librarian. Trainor has a scant record except for having almost always backed McIntyre in whatever the superintendent wished to do. While claiming to be a politician which is laughable considering she was an unsuccessful candidate for the Knox County Commission against Paul Pinkston shortly after incumbent Howard "Nookie" Pinkston passed away. Trainor's commission campaign was well funded, but she lost badly to Pinkston.

Two years later, Trainor won a close and hard fought race that saw incumbent Board member Robert Bratton lose in the primary. Trainor narrowly defeated businesswoman Tammy Summers. Since her election to the Board, Trainor's numerous critics say she has done little or nothing for her South Knoxville district.

Rountree has been campaigning hard and has demonstrated an impressive command of the issues and calls the Board's extension of McIntyre's contract

"needless." Rountree promises to be an independent voice on the Board and refuses to be a "rubber stamp" for the superintendent.

"South Knoxville needs a leader, not a cheerleader," Rountree says.

In the Sixth District, where incumbent Thomas Deakins is retiring, Terry Hill, Tamara Shepherd, Bradley Buchanan and Sandra Rowcliffe are all competing for election. None seem to be especially favorable to Jim McIntyre. Hill seems to be building momentum in this race.

The race for the Seventh District school board seat ended abruptly without a contested election. Both Larry Smith and Andrew

Graybeal withdrew, leaving Patty Lou Bounds as the only candidate.

Ms. Bounds is herself a teacher and a very impressive candidate even without opposition.

It appears as the elections approach, the composition of the Board of Education is going to be very different. There may be hard days ahead for McIntyre.

Concerned Citizens' Candidate Town Hall

WHERE: Knoxville Expo Center on Clinton Highway
WHEN: April 10, 2014

Doors Close at 9:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.: Candidates are present at their booth or have a staffed table -- meet and greet.

5:15 p.m.: We will have audience take their seats, explain the program format and say the pledge of allegiance.

5:30 p.m.: The Town Hall will focus on Knox County Commission races.

6:30 p.m.: Introduction of those candidates present who are running county-wide races (and any other candidates/dignitaries that are in attendance)

7:00 p.m.: The Town Hall will focus on the Knox County School Board races. (The Town Hall portion of the event will take place in the Grand Ballroom.)

This event is FREE to the public and the candidates.

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Our Neighborhoods

NORTH KNOXVILLE

Old North Knoxville, Old City, Happy Hollow

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

North Knoxville is primarily fed by two main roads, Broadway and Central Street. Both Broadway and Central offer strips of mixed businesses, chic little clubs and shops, thrift stores, strip malls, fast foods and local restaurants and, of course, unique neighborhoods. This week, we'll look at the area from Old City to Happy Hollow on Central and North Broadway to I-640, all in a hop-skip-and-jump view of the area's neighborhoods, businesses, and other interesting features.

North Knoxville began to boom in the 1880s with the coming of the railroad. By 1889, the area was incorporated as its own town with L. A. Gratz as the first mayor. The neighborhood had a mainly well-to do populace, enjoyed its own water and electric lighting, and businesses thrived there. In 1897 the area was annexed by the city of Knoxville.

Trolley tracks connected North Knoxville with downtown and the coming of automobiles brought more streets and thus neighborhoods developed. Many of the finer homes that still exist today were built between 1880 and 1930.

Several remarkable changes are taking place this year in the North Knoxville area. The Old Knoxville High School is becoming senior living apartments. The John H. Daniel clothing company is leaving Jackson Avenue and moving into a totally renovated Star Sales company building on Central Avenue. Old City is getting a face lift and something is beginning to happen on Broadway...

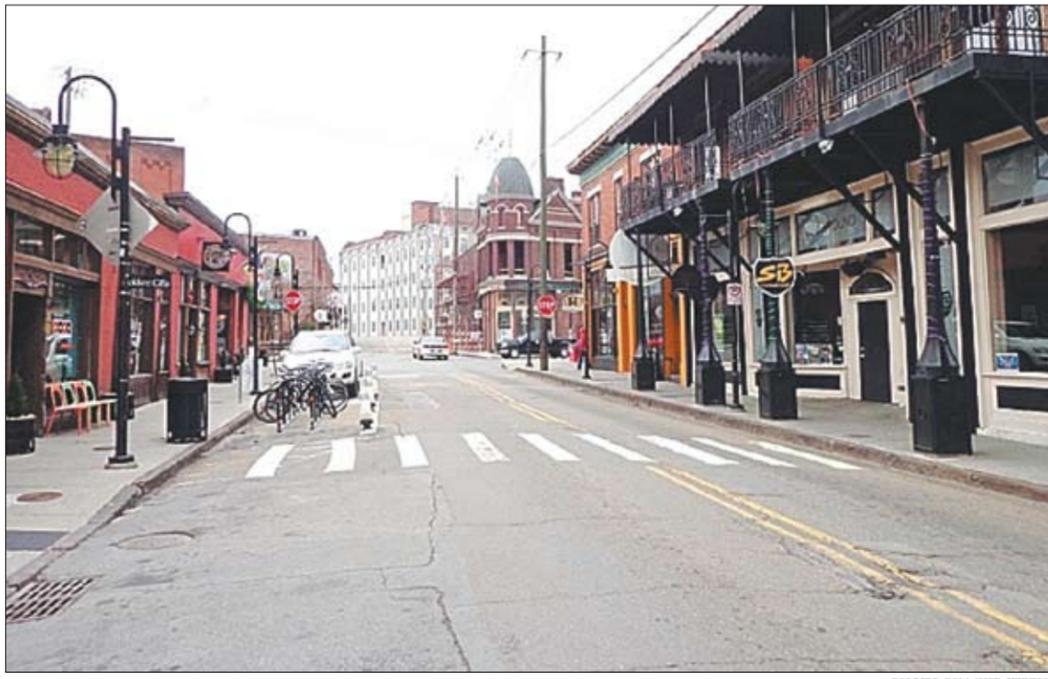


PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The Old City has become the nightlife attraction for many young professional in Knoxville. Currently the history district is being spruced up.

discuss potential improvements to the corridor. Invited to the first meeting were representatives of the neighborhoods of Belle Morris, Edgewood Park, Fairmont-Emoriland, 4th and Gill, Oakwood Lincoln Park, and Old North Knoxville.

"As you are aware, there are

many challenges facing neighborhoods and businesses in the North Broadway Corridor, especially in light of the potential closing or down-sizing of Tennova Healthcare's Physicians Regional Medical Center," the mayor told the group. She said the meeting was a "starting point" toward establishing realistic priorities.

"It's an exciting thing," Cate said. "It's informal right now. Downtown has developed so much that the entrance ways need to be addressed also."

Andie Ray, the new president of Old North Knoxville, Inc., echoed Cate's excitement. She said that all the neighborhood representatives that attended the meeting are looking at what assets they have and making a list of houses and businesses in each neighborhood as a tool for the project.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Homeowners in Old North Knoxville are proud of their neighborhood and strive to keep it residential. They sponsor various events each year including an upcoming Easter Egg Hunt.

OLD NORTH KNOXVILLE

Old North Knoxville, Inc. is an active neighborhood group established in 1978 to preserve, promote, and protect its historic neighborhood. ONK has been involved in planting and maintaining the playground on old Oklahoma Avenue, even building a Gazebo there. The group

has applied to the TVA for solar panels for the structure to supply light and power.

Andie Ray said ONK is a combination of the old and new. The association is planning a park clean up April 6 and an Easter Egg Hunt April 19, which Ray says is a "huge event." On April 25, Ray says they will do a clean-up of First Creek Greenway and creek and will supply work gloves for anyone who volunteers. They also sponsor a Holiday Home tour the first Saturday and Sunday each December.

Old North Knoxville is a wonder of different architecture, everything from Queen Anne to Colonial Revival. Most homes there date, at the latest, about 1940. In 1992 the area became a Historic District and home prices increased more than 150%. The streets are lined with trees, sidewalks, and shade. The homeowners are proud to live in one of the oldest neighborhoods in Knoxville and fight hard to keep it up and keep it residential.

"I love that almost everything our family needs are right here in our community - great food, shopping, recreation, fantastic neighbors, and schools our kids attend. And we can walk or bike it!" says Knox County Commissioner Amy Broyles, who represents the North Knoxville district.

"I'm excited about all the new

developments and the continued vitalization of our historic neighborhoods. We often remark that there is no where in Knoxville we would rather live."

OLD CITY

Knoxville's Old City is located just south of the Central-Broadway intersection and for locals is often the entrance into Knoxville and access to Gay Street and downtown.

Oddly enough, the Old City isn't the oldest part of Knoxville. In its early days it was much like a wild-west town with saloons, crime, and general havoc. Immigrants and railroad workers partied there and wholesale warehouses cropped up to supply regional merchants.

By the late 1980s, Old City began getting a better reputation. New businesses arrived, more peaceful taverns and restaurants opened, and the young professionals began not only shopping there but living in loft apartments there as well.

Many of the neighborhood's historic buildings are on the National Registry. Currently many of the buildings are being repaired or restored, getting ready for a busy nightlife visitation by adventurous singles and couples. The construction is visible now along the street and life is returning, as sure as spring is coming.

Three of the region's most noted brand names once occupied Old City. White Lily Foods was there since 1885 and closed in 2008. JFG Coffee once took up many buildings there on West Jackson Avenue and became JFG Flats, a residential loft habitat. The John H. Daniel Company, known nation-wide for custom tailored clothing, operated there since 1928 and is currently renovating the former Star Sales building on Central where it plans to relocate.

Old City has been the location in novels of the earlier, rougher history of the neighborhood. Today it has been reborn and is flourishing as "The" place in Knoxville to dine, hear music, and gather.

Continue on page 2

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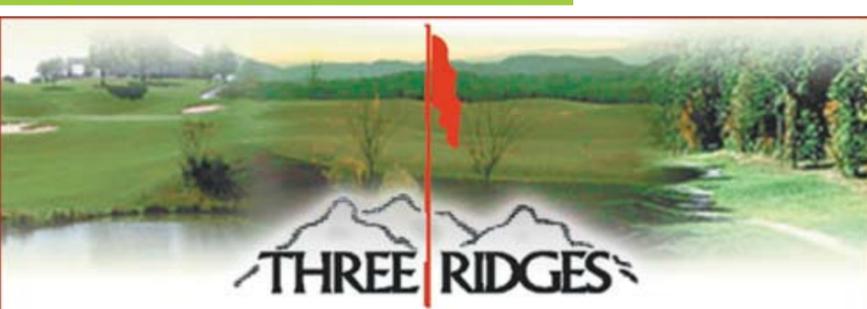
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Our Neighborhoods

NORTH KNOXVILLE

CENTRAL STREET, HAPPY HOLLOW

So, is it Central Street or Central Avenue Pike? What's the difference?

North Central Street begins downtown and runs up through the corridor until it ends at Heiskell Avenue. The name disappears and it becomes Bruhin Road as it crosses the gap below Sharp Ridge and then reappears just across I-640. A left turn there is where it becomes Central Avenue Pike.

At one time, before the interstates, Central Street was the main route into Knoxville from the north. Highway 25W, more locally called Clinton Highway, brought traffic downtown. The heyday of the corridor ended with the completion of Interstate 75 as Highway 25W dumped travelers onto the interstate highway.

Today, Central Street is struggling to be restored. The northern section is a hodgepodge of various used tire dealers, used car lots, recycling businesses, and thrift stores. One Central Avenue community, located between Baxter and Scott Avenues, is pulling itself back into the commercial spotlight. It became official three years ago when Dan Brown, the city's first African American mayor, officially recognized "Happy Hollow." A nameplate hangs now above the avenue, designating that section of town.

In recent years the homeowners around Happy Hollow have been reviving their streets and Victorian-style homes and new businesses are claiming buildings that had been empty or little used. The city created the Downtown North Redevelopment Area in 2007 to promote economic development there and has worked with the area on improvements and streetscapes.

The HappyHollow stretch of Central has some very unique and eclectic businesses. City Councilman Nick Della Volpe highly recommends the Flats and Taps Neighborhood Pub and the Taoist Tai Chi Society, at 1204 and 1205 Central. Both were part of a section of renovated



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The Original Freezo on Central, still open after all these years, is a nostalgic tasty treat of ice cream and pleasure foods.

buildings a few years ago. Della Volpe also likes the North Corner Sandwich Shop at 2400 Central and mentioned the Time Warp Tea Room at 1209 Central.

"Downtown North is extending that way and I'm excited about the fixing up of all the old Victorian homes," Della Volpe said.

Three Rivers Market, at 1100 North Central Street, is one of the unique businesses in the area and is a community owned cooperative natural foods grocery. The coop owes its existence to the Knoxville Community Food Cooperative founded in 1981 with the idea of serving its members with local, natural, and organic foods. In 2005 the group became Three Rivers Market, a customer-owned food co-op. The market is open to the public although the co-op is there to serve its members, with the idea to create and nourish a healthier environment, healthier people, and a healthier community.

Another unique business is Chicken City at 2115 North Central. It's a favorite of locals looking not only for fresh chicken, but other meats as well. The busy little business is known for its staff as well as its meat.

Further down the street from Chicken City is an icon on Central, the Original Freezo. The drive-in restaurant began in the early 1940s and has been there ever since. The ice cream and food is a nostalgic trip to earlier times and the restaurant was a forerunner of today's fast-food national chains.

Freezo is at 1305 Central

Street and is owned and managed by Darrel Dalton. The nostalgic Freezo sign reminds local people of earlier days when a trip to the drive-in restaurant was a special outing. And what kid wouldn't want to stop by for a tasty cone, even today?

The Retrospect Vintage Store, at 1121 North Central, is a partnership between two former shop owners that came together to create a retro-themed business. Although they do rent space to other sellers, the store is mostly things the partners have collected and offer for sale, including collectables, clothing, shabby chic, local art, books and retro toys.

The partners, Gina Alazawi and Tree Ely-Griffin, proclaim their store as for "men, women and toy geeks." You might find anything from 45 RPM record players to a Hardy Boys lunchbox there.

"The rejuvenation of Happy Hollow is an example of the good results that come from providing façade loans to fix up storefronts and business expansion loans," Mayor Rogero told *The Focus*.

OTHER NORTH NEIGHBORHOODS

There are many other thriving and active neighborhoods in North Knoxville. Recent local changes, like the selling of Old Knoxville High School, rezoning, and proposed improvements have seen the neighborhood residents and their associations publically speak out for and against changes.

Other neighborhoods in the area include North

Hills, 4th and Gill, and Fairmont and Emoriland.

Kim Trent, director of Knox Heritage, Inc., said her organization has worked with 4th and Gill and Old North Knoxville associations in restoring blighted homes and finding new residents. She said that Knox Heritage also helps with neighborhood tours, citing the tour of the George Barber houses. Barber was one of the prominent Knoxville architects that designed and built many homes in North Knoxville.

She also said she is working with the developer of the Old Knoxville High School on a preservation tax credit.

Mayor Rogero lived in Oakwood-Lincoln Park, North Hills and the Fairmont and Emoriland neighborhoods for more than 16 years. She now lives in South Knoxville but said she raised her children and cut her political teeth in North Knoxville. North Knoxville has benefitted from her initiatives, first from serving as the city's Community Development Department director and now as mayor.

5th District Councilman Mark Campen told *The Focus*, "Good things are happening and I'm very pleased." He said he will be pushing for new funds in the 2015 budget for improvements between Woodland and Heiskell Avenue and that the John H. Daniel Company's move to North Central is a great bonus for the neighborhood.

Looking ahead, he also said that the First Creek Greenway needs to be completed and a pedestrian and bike route needs to be at the Broadway-1640 intersection, maybe along Old North Broadway.

"We just need to keep the momentum going," Campen said.

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

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Senator Estes Kefauver had made a spirited bid for the 1952 Democratic presidential nomination, only to lose to a candidate who had never entered the first primary and remained coy until the last minute. Kefauver was profoundly disappointed but that did not keep him from campaigning for the Democratic candidates in the fall.

Kefauver was also dismayed by the loss of his friend Gordon Browning. Having been governor three times, Browning had lost a fourth reelection bid to Frank Clement. According to his biographer, Kefauver would sip his Scotch and murmur repeatedly, "I just can't understand what happened to poor old Gordon."

Kefauver was much happier with the result of the race for the United States Senate in Tennessee. Senator Kenneth D. McKellar had finally been defeated by Congressman Albert Gore. McKellar's dislike of Kefauver had been palpable and his return to Memphis didn't hurt Kefauver's feelings at all.

Senator Kefauver had to start thinking about his own standing in Tennessee. He would be up for reelection to a second six-year term in 1954 and it was clear he would have significant opposition inside the Democratic primary.

Governor Frank Clement was the opponent that worried Kefauver the most, but Clement was the first chief executive in Tennessee to qualify to serve a four-year term. Clement opted to run for reelection in 1954, once again facing Gordon Browning, who was determined to vindicate himself. It was Browning's seventh and final race for the governorship and his humiliating defeat ended his political career. Thereafter, Browning would retire to the political sidelines and assume the status of an elder statesman.

Estes Kefauver, being more liberal than many, if not most, of his constituents, always seemed to be a target in Tennessee. Kefauver never enjoyed the widespread appeal that K. D. McKellar had for the majority of his Congressional career. Throughout much of 1953, Kefauver's opponents tried hard to recruit former Senator Tom Stewart and former governor Prentice Cooper to run for the Senate. Stewart had been defeated by Kefauver in

1948 in a three-way race and would have almost certainly have won had it not been for E. H. Crump's refusal to support him once again. Stewart had resumed his law practice in Nashville following his defeat and took the attitude he had enjoyed serving in the United States Senate, but the people had spoken and they did not want him as their senator. Stewart had been strongly urged to consider a political comeback in 1952 when it appeared K. D. McKellar might be too ill to run again. Had McKellar retired, Stewart very well might have become a candidate that year. In 1954, he had no interest in returning to the Senate.

Prentice Cooper had wanted to run for the U. S. Senate in 1942, but McKellar had preferred Tom Stewart, so Cooper ran for reelection as governor. After leaving office in 1945, Cooper had secured an appointment as Ambassador to Peru, a post he acquired through the offices of Senator McKellar. After his stint as ambassador, Cooper returned to Shelbyville and married for the first time. Cooper kept himself busy practicing law, supervising the family interests, and raising three small sons.

Cooper remained interested in holding office and his name floated about as a possible candidate for either governor or U. S. senator throughout the decade of the 1950s. Cooper would announce his candidacy for governor in 1958, but would drop out of the gubernatorial contest to run against Senator Albert Gore.

Neither Tom Stewart nor Prentice Cooper would enter the 1954 senatorial contest against Estes Kefauver. The candidate who did file to run for the United States Senate was Congressman James Patrick "Pat" Sutton of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

There was also the question of Ed Crump.

E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political machine, had somewhat revived his reputation by backing Frank Clement over Gordon Browning in 1952. Crump had remained loyal to his old friend and political partner K. D. McKellar in McKellar's final Senate race. Still, Crump was a much diminished political figure in 1954 and in fact was approaching the end of his life.

Pat Sutton had been elected to Congress in



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Tennessee Senators Albert Gore (left) and Estes Kefauver holding a king-sized Tennessee ham

1948, the same year Estes Kefauver had first been elected to the U. S. Senate. Sutton had defeated an incumbent Congressman, Wirt Courtney, by less than sixty votes. Congressman Courtney had been an old New Deal Democrat, while Sutton, a veteran of World War II, was far more conservative. Sutton was reelected to Congress in 1950 and 1952 and had expressed an interest in moving up to the Senate in 1952 should Senator McKellar retire.

Sutton was only thirty-three when he beat Wirt Courtney for Congress. He had returned from the war with an impressive record. Possessing a charismatic and flamboyant personality, Sutton was also a compelling speaker. Sutton's career in Tennessee politics was short and controversial.

Pat Sutton naturally hoped to have Crump's support in the senatorial primary and was prepared to wage an expensive and hard fought campaign.

It soon became readily apparent Pat Sutton had access to considerable campaign funding. He traveled the state via helicopter, then quite a novelty. Sutton's financing from one oil millionaire alone was supposed to be in the range of \$150,000.

Senator Kefauver's campaign was managed by his friend and former Administrative Assistant, Charles Neese. Neese counseled Kefauver to run off his record and largely ignore Pat Sutton. Kefauver moved through Tennessee's cities and small towns, shaking

hands and stuck to Neese's advice until Pat Sutton began hammering the senator over the recent decision by the United States Supreme Court. That particular decision, barring school segregation had inflamed a goodly number of people in the South and Tennessee was no exception.

As Charles Fontenay points out in his excellent biography of Estes Kefauver, the senator addressed the issue in his opening speech of the 1954 campaign.

"I refuse to appeal to prejudice in connection with it. Men and women of good will, of both races, should be giving their best thoughts to these very knotty problems, with the end in view that nothing must be allowed to disrupt our fine public school system or destroy the good racial feeling that exists."

It was a particularly bold statement by a statewide official in Tennessee for the time.

Aside from doing his best to inflame racial discord, Congressman Pat Sutton returned to the old charge that Senator Kefauver was soft on Communism. That was a particular theme when Sutton opened his own senatorial campaign.

A generally genial man and good natured, Estes Kefauver soon tired of the harsh criticisms leveled at him by his opponent. Increasingly irritated, Kefauver mildly told one close friend, "I'm getting awfully tired of Pat saying all those things about me." Despite the mildness of

the statement, Kefauver was boiling mad. He began lashing back at Congressman Sutton and while campaigning in Shelbyville, snarled that "little Hitlers and little Stalins" who craved nothing but "personal power" were dangerous.

The Kefauver campaign suspected Sutton was the beneficiary of heavy contributions from organized crime figures who had not forgotten the Senate crime hearings chaired by the Tennessean.

At the beginning of July, former Senator K. D. McKellar issued an endorsement of Pat Sutton. McKellar apparently knew little about Pat Sutton, which is odd considering they served together in Congress for four years before the old senator had been beaten by Albert Gore. Still, McKellar retained his active loathing of Estes Kefauver and openly supported Sutton. It made little difference; having been out of office for two years, the once powerful McKellar organization had largely withered and died. The days of coalition tickets and open alliances between candidates had largely disappeared from Tennessee politics.

Toward the end of the campaign, Sutton claimed to have the support of Memphis Boss E. H. Crump, a claim Crump immediately denied. Crump took little part in the Senate race, although he did say a few nice things about Kefauver, praising the senator for his support for the Tennessee Valley Authority. It was the last campaign of Crump's life as the Memphis Boss

would die in October of 1954.

Pat Sutton evidently realized his Senate campaign was not going as well as he hoped and he began to become more reckless in making charges, one of which was his accusation that a prominent Kefauver supporter was a Communist. Quickly realizing his mistake, Sutton retracted his statement and issued an apology, but he was later successfully sued by the individual he had named as a Communist. That same individual won a \$25,000 suit against Sutton.

Election Day brought Estes Kefauver a resounding victory.

Kefauver won 440,497 votes to a paltry 186,363 for Pat Sutton. Kefauver won 68% of the vote to Sutton's 28%. Considering the aggressive nature of Pat Sutton's campaign, as well as his access to campaign contributions, it was an overwhelming endorsement of Estes Kefauver by Tennessee Democrats.

Governor Frank Clement had won an almost identical victory in his own reelection campaign. Clement won 68% of the vote against former governor Gordon Browning, tallying 481,808 votes to Browning's 195,156 votes.

Both Estes Kefauver and Frank Clement had established their primacy in Tennessee politics and it would not be long before their ambitions collided.

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More Telecom Towers are Coming

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Jerry D. Perry, a consultant on towers, spoke briefly at the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) meeting last Thursday and his words were a warning to the commission and homeowners alike.

The MPC had approved and heard two requests from AT&T to build 141-foot monopole towers, one off Rutledge Pike and one near Jim Sterchi Road, when Perry rose and spoke.

"You're going to see a lot more of these over the next few months," he said.

"Carriers are going to need more tower space," Perry told *The Focus*. He said that due to changes more towers are needed for the increasing number of personal electronic devices. "Don't think cell phones, think smart phones."

AT&T had initially asked the MPC for approval of a third tower, off Bearman Lake Road south of Sunset Avenue, but postponed that request.

The proposed tower near Jim Sterchi Road drew some objection from neighboring property owner, Ellen Silver. She said the tower would be near her back yard and told the planners that no one from AT&T had notified her of the plans. She said her family had been out of town and only received a small card notifying her of the hearing. She asked for



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

The scene at Thursday's MPC meeting.

the decision to be delayed for 60 days.

An AT&T spokesman told the MPC that the homeowner had been notified by the planning staff, that the plan was for the least intrusive tower and the appearance would be extremely minor.

The MPC approved the tower and the homeowner and the AT&T representative were seen talking in the hallway after the meeting.

In other action, MPC approved a final plat for a 72-acre subdivision in Hardin Valley, but not without some objection. Attorney Steven Schmidt, representing subdivision home owners downhill from the proposed development, said that the new addition would put a lot of waste water into the subdivision.

The Annex at the Glen was approved by MPC more

than five years ago and has a new developer. Schmidt said the homeowners feel a drainage problem will be disastrous for them.

"You have been misled. They do not have a right to use this drainage area," he said, adding, "We will stop it."

Attorney John King, speaking for the developer, said that the drainage field there was originally designed to be used by both subdivisions and only the economy delayed the second subdivision. He also said that using the area has the approval of the land owner.

"They want to force us to be a part of the Home Owners Association," King said.

The MPC staff was asked about the drainage area and replied that the area was part of the original design. The plat approval passed unanimously.

In other actions the MPC sent back to the city their recommendations to the Zoning Ordinance regarding corridor overlay zone district. MPC Director Mark Donaldson said the MPC had dealt with it the same ordinance three times. He said the language has been revised on four matters the city council wanted changed but that two changes MPC staff made were different than requested.

Donaldson said that each time an overlay zone has been established, a board has been created to oversee it. This time the MPC would be the overseer this time. He also said that MPC will offer "alternative standards" to the ordinance and let the council pick whichever they wish.

MPC Director critical of County, City decisions

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In a pre-agenda meeting last Tuesday, Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) Director Mark Donaldson brought the planners up on what had taken place since their last meeting and expressed some frustration with City and County bodies rebuffing several of the commission's recommendations, meaning some of the decisions will be returning to face the planners for a second or third time.

Donaldson expressed some concern about the Board of Zoning Appeals' decision concerning the Westland Cove Apartment Complex.

"It is not clear that the BZA knew what they were voting on," he told the planners. Although one attorney present at the BZA hearing said that any decision to approve or disapprove of an objection must be a "Yes" vote, the matter was decided with a majority "No" vote, leaving the large development approved but without the marina the developer had requested. Both the development and the marina were initially recommended by the MPC.

"It is out of our hands," Donaldson answered when asked if the Westland Cove issue will go to court.

An issue coming back to the MPC in April from the city involves a bus operation or yard on Dutchtown Road who wants to sell busses. Donaldson called the matter "spot zoning."

Another April return is the expansion of the Northshore Town Center and the local home owner objection put forth by some local neighbors.

Donaldson expressed disbelief that a Day Care was denied by an 8-1 vote by City Council although it was recommended by MPC.

"I've been doing a lot of research and can't find anywhere where day cares are not allowed," he said. He added that the use of a home as a day care for up to four children, not counting the family children in the home, should be "by right" in all zonings instead of in the category of "home occupation."

What the heck is a 'Rubric?'

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

If you've attended any of the Board of Education (BOE) meetings, heard Superintendent James McIntyre speak, or heard some of the many teachers speak at the public forums at BOE or County Commission you're heard the word "rubric" often.

It's one of those words that came along with Common Core requirements and one that wasn't used in education in the mid-1990s. It's a word that doesn't flow off the tongue and is sometimes said with disdain.

So, what the heck is a "rubric?"

Rubrica is a Latin word meaning red ochre or red chalk. Originally the word rubric meant red or red ink. It was used to decorate text in medieval times. "Red Ink" is a slang term meaning a financial loss, circled or underlined in red. Business and government financial statements are often highlighted or underlined in red ink or said to be "in the red."

Rubric appeared in medicine in the 1970s and the term has been used in medical labels for diseases and procedures. As it migrated to education it came to mean the standard for testing and assessment.

Scoring rubrics, according to the educational definition, is supposed to help students become evaluators of their own and other's work and was intended to reduce the time teachers spend evaluating student work. A rubric is also a guide listing specific criteria for grading or scoring academic papers, projects or tests.

Every profession has its own verbiage that may not be readily understood by those outside the group. For instance, "deadline" was once a term used for a mark or location where the enemy or prisoners could not cross. It was literally a line in the sand. If the line was crossed, they would be killed. In business, the term now means that date or time when a project must be completed. Newspapers know the term well.

But rubric has jumped into our language now, even outside the educational system, and joins words like spam, bazinga, and picante. Words come and go; they often change meaning, become popular and then fade away. Seems each new generation adds new words to our culture. Remember "bomb or right-on?"

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Vols beat South Carolina 59-44 in SEC Tournament Quarterfinals

By Alex Norman

It wasn't a thing of beauty by any means, but it was a win... and in the SEC tournament, wins are not always easy to come by for the Tennessee Volunteers.

The Vols knocked off South Carolina 59-44 in the SEC quarterfinals in Atlanta on Friday, March 14th. It was their fifth straight victory... and for the fifth straight game, Tennessee (21-11) never trailed. As a matter of fact, the Gamecocks didn't even score their first points until the game was more than 6 minutes old.

"(It) was exciting to see those guys get out the gates the way they did and just really defend," said Tennessee head coach Cuonzo Martin. "That's the thing we talked about, defending the way we wanted to defend, at the beginning of the season. Our guys have done it the last five games and it's fun to watch."

The Vols knew they would have the advantage inside against the Gamecocks (14-20). And while the rebounding stats didn't tell the story (Tennessee 36, South Carolina 35), Tennessee junior forward Jarnell

Stokes certainly did. Stokes matched a season high with 22 points, plus 15 rebounds. South Carolina simply had no answer for him.

"I'm excited because I feel like we didn't have a good offensive game, but our defense still led us to win by 20-plus (final margin actually 15)," said Stokes. "The last couple games we shot the ball tremendously well and we didn't shoot the ball as well today, but I'm excited because we still won... just off defense."

Tennessee senior guard Antonio Barton had been red hot lately, but not on this

day at the Georgia Dome, scoring only one point and missing all three of his field goal attempts. However, the Vols didn't need that much scoring in this contest. Tennessee senior guard Jordan McRae had 14 points. He and Stokes were the only Vols to reach double figures.

Considering how well the Vols have played over the past couple of weeks, Martin admitted he was concerned going into the tournament because his team hadn't played in six days. That could knock a team off its rhythm. But this is an experienced

group of players, and the veterans guarded against any kind of letdown.

"You haven't done it all season, so much time, because it's a fine balance of when you practice, how you practice, how long you practice," said Martin. "You got to have some contact in there. You want to go in transition but not too much. So that was the tricky part for us as a coaching staff, to make sure we had the fresh legs to compete and play the game. We know the emotions and the energy would be high coming in... but I knew the guys would play hard and

compete. They're playing well together as a team."

The win put the Vols in the SEC semifinals for the first time since 2010. They would face top-seed Florida in that contest. Results of the game were not available at press time.

The much maligned Martin likely has earned a fourth year as Tennessee's head coach. The question remains as to how much further this team can go. The Vols are playing their best basketball of the season at the perfect time.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Halls High's Skylar Dreier (19) and Farragut's Konner McCarley battle for the ball in the Admirals' 11-0 victory Wednesday night in Farragut, while Austin Ballenger looks on. McCarley scored two goals in the match.

Running on empty (zero 3s), Carter makes early exit

By Steve Williams

A team known for its running and scoring, Carter ran into trouble at the TSSAA Boys' State tournament last Thursday afternoon and saw its exciting season come to an end.

Greeneville stopped the Runnin' Hornets 67-64 in the Class AA quarterfinals at Murfreesboro, as Carter failed to connect on all 11 of its 3-point attempts and scored 28 points below its 92-point average.

The Greene Devils, led by Hayes Culbreth, overcame a seven-point deficit in the final 5 minutes, 25 seconds. Culbreth scored a game-high 22 points and hit four 3-pointers - all in the fourth period. As a team, Greeneville connected on 8 of 20 from 3-point range.

Carter coach Joby Boydstone said the bigger arena - MTSU's Murphy Center - didn't have anything to do with his team's shooting woes.

"Not at all. The other team was hitting 3s. We practiced at UT twice (in preparation).

"We came out flat and didn't execute. We didn't play up to the standard of Carter basketball. Give Greeneville credit. They did things they had to do to stay in the game and come back and take the lead."

Carter, which had won 15 straight, hangs up a 26-8 record. Greeneville (26-9) advanced to play East Nashville in Friday's semifinals.

Raheem Young contributed 16 points to the Greene Devils' attack. Anton Almquist added 10.

Charles Mitchell's double-double (18 points, 13 rebounds) led the Hornets. Jordan Bowden scored 17 but was 0 for 6 outside the arc. Toy'Shaun Winton had 11 points - nine in the first half - but committed seven turnovers. Blake Dutton chipped in nine points.

Tucker Greene, Carter senior and the team's second leading scorer with a 15.1 season average,

Continue on page 2

Horner, Halls 'learn from' opening loss to Farragut

By Ken Lay

At first glance Farragut High School's 11-0 soccer victory over Halls Wednesday night looked like a devastating loss for the Red Devils but Halls coach Mike Horner didn't see things that way.

"I have a young team and I started four freshmen and this is good for them because they see another

level of soccer," Horner said after his team was routed on a chilly, soggy night at the Farragut Soccer Stadium. "This is good for us because our guys get to see another level of soccer. And it's a level you don't see when you play teams in the same circle.

"This was good for these freshmen because I'll have them for four years and this

is the level where we want to be."

Horner was upbeat after Wednesday's loss and he didn't sound like a coach who watched his team surrender seven goals in the first half of the season opener.

It was a long night for the Red Devils (0-1).

The Admirals, who lost in the Class AAA State

Championship match in 2013, scored in the fifth minute on a goal by Konner McCarley.

Farragut, which opened its 2014 campaign with a 1-0 win over District 4-AAA rival West on Tuesday night, took a 2-0 lead when Kai Miettinen tallied in the 11th minute. It was the first of three markers for Farragut's **Continue on page 2**

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Slowly but surely, I've become a fan of Speedy

It took me over three years to become a fan of Meighan Simmons.

The Tennessee Lady Vol who Pat Summitt nicknamed "Speedy" was a turnover machine as a freshman in 2010-11.

I used to think there's no way the UT women can win big on the national scene with Simmons on the floor.

How bad did I dislike Simmons' style of play? Read the following excerpt from a column I wrote for *The Knoxville Focus* in April, 2011:

The long-awaited matchup (between UT and Connecticut) would have been this past Sunday at the women's Final Four in Indianapolis, but the Lady Vols didn't hold up their end of the deal. As bad as they played against Notre Dame, I still blame Summitt for this loss - the first in 21 games against the Lady Irish.

I'd seen it coming. I'd seen enough of freshman Meighan Simmons' out-of-control play from the point guard position earlier in the season to know that would cost Tennessee dearly, if it was allowed to continue. And it was. And it did.

"Obviously, Meighan was not herself today," said Summitt after the game. "Just looking at her stat line, 1 for 11 in field goals and 0 for 5 from the three, you can tell she was very anxious so we had to look to other people to do stuff for us. She is a freshman and sometimes we forget that with a great future ahead of her, but she had 4 turnovers. This was a big game that seemed a little bit different to her than playing through the SEC and getting here."

In Simmons' defense, point guard is not her true position. She will move to shooting guard next season (2011-12).

Simmons had 104 assists but also 104 turnovers as a freshman.

Even after she moved to shooting guard, I still didn't become a fan of Simmons. I thought the Lady Vols had better outside shooters that didn't get to pull the trigger as much.

Meighan sometimes didn't strike me as being a team player.

That first impression - Simmons' freshman season - was hard for me to



By Steve Williams

shake.

When Simmons was named co-SEC Player of the Year as a junior, I tried harder to get behind her.

When Holly got Speedy to start focusing on being a better defender and a more complete player this season, I finally started

to come around. When Simmons lets the game come to her, she's at her best.

Simmons' total field goal shooting percentage is .422 - best in her career. She's averaging 16.2 points per game, just a little behind last season's 16.8. Her assist/turnover ratio of 75 to 87 is her best since moving to the No. 2 position. Her 38 steals are the second most she's had in a season. She and freshman point guard Andraya Carter combine to make the fastest backcourt duo I've seen in the game.

Simmons, who is from Cibolo, Tex., was never more a factor in a big win than she was in the 71-70 win over Kentucky in this season's battle for the SEC tournament championship. Even though she had not played well over the course of the tourney, Meighan didn't let that stop her in crunch time.

She knew her team needed her. She had to get in there. She stepped up for the team.

With 1:45 on the clock, and the score tied, Simmons went to the free throw line. You could see the determination on her face. Swish. The 2,000th point of her career gave her team the lead for good. Her second free throw made it 65-63.

Simmons' work still wasn't finished. Her driving layup made it 69-65 with 20 seconds to go. She knocked down two more foul shots with 10.7 left to make it 71-67.

"Everybody came out and did their roles," a happy and appreciative Simmons told ESPN in the post-game celebration. "I just happened to be one (of them)."

The week before, on her Senior Day and after the Lady Vols toppled SEC regular season champion South Carolina, Simmons said Tennessee was going back to the Final Four this season, which would end a five-year absence.

In my book, Simmons is no longer the player the Lady Vols can't win the big one with - she's the player they can't win without.

Horner, Halls 'learn from' opening loss to Farragut

Cont. from page 1

Farragut's other first-half markers came from Tyler Klarner, McCarley and Ethan Snow.

Most of the Admirals' players sat out the second half and gave way to some younger players.

Farragut (2-0) picked up where it left off at the break. After halftime, the Admirals got a pair of goals from Zach Humphreys, who scored in the 59th and 62nd minute respectively.

Juan Aranda tallied in the 65th minute before Freddy Bahati closed the scoring in the 70th minute.

The loss could have hurt morale for the Red Devils but Horner said that his team wasn't frustrated after the lopsided loss.

"These kids are just happy to play," he said. "They're not frustrated and we learned from this."

The loss could have hurt morale for the Red Devils but Horner said that his team wasn't frustrated after the lopsided loss.

"These kids are just happy to play," he said. "They're not frustrated and we learned from this."

"He's a good arm and he's going to beat a lot of people," Hurley said. "This was a

Chambers, Farragut rout Panthers in opener

By Ken Lay

LENOIR CITY---Chase Chambers started his senior season with the Farragut High School baseball team with a bang --- literally.

Chambers, the Admirals' first baseman hit a three-run homer in his first at-bat of the 2014 season. His home run gave Farragut a 3-0 lead and set the tone for his team's 15-3 six-inning District 4-AAA victory over Lenoir City Tuesday at LCHS.

And he was far from finished. He finished 4-for-4 with a homer, a double and five runs batted in.

He also got plenty of help from his supporting cast and a shoddy Panther defense as the Admirals (1-0 overall, 1-0 in the

district) scored five runs in each of the first two innings.

In addition to the round-tripper by Chambers, Farragut scored another first-inning run when Duncan Pence reached on an error. The Admirals then took a 5-0 lead on an RBI ground-out by Roy Mutta that plated Chase Fullington, who also reached on an error.

The Panthers (0-2, 0-2) committed four defensive miscues in the opening frame.

Farragut scored five more runs in the second inning. It was again aided by two Lenoir City errors. In the inning, Admirals catcher Nico Mascia hit a three-run blast over the center-field fence. Chambers added an RBI double and scored

when Pence reached on an error.

Farragut coach Matt Buckner said he hoped that the fast start would begin a big year for his squad, which lost in the Class AAA State Championship Game in 2013.

"It was great to get off to a good start," Buckner said. "We scored five runs in the first inning and 10 in the first two.

"Hopefully, this is the start of big things to come."

The Admirals extended their advantage to 12-0 with two more runs in the top of the third. Pence had an RBI single and Chambers scored on a sacrifice fly by Fullington, Farragut's third baseman.

The Panthers scored

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Beavers outlast Eagles in pitchers' duel

By Ken Lay

On the opening night of the 2014 baseball season it was the pitching that stole the show at Karns High School.

The host Beavers and Gibbs were locked in a pitchers' duel and when the dust had settled, it was Karns that escaped with a 2-1 District 3-AAA victory on Monday, March 10 at Coach Dwight Smith Field.

The Beavers (1-0 overall, 1-0 in the district) got on the board in the bottom of the first against the district's newest team. Karns took a 1-0 lead when Hagan Kennedy's single plated Donovan Butler, who singled to lead off the game.

The Beavers, who left the bases loaded in the frame, could've scored more but Gibbs left hander Andrew Willis averted further damage when he induced Eric Briegel to fly to center to end the inning.

Willis' effort certainly turned some heads and especially got the attention of Karns coach Matt Hurley.

"He's a good arm and he's going to beat a lot of people," Hurley said. "This was a

great baseball game and in the end, we just had one more than they did.

"Either team could have won this game. It could've gone either."

The Eagles (0-1, 0-1) had a chance to tie the game in the top of the second when they had the runners on first and third with one out but Karns right hander Aaron Clark got a pair of strikeouts to end the inning and extinguish the threat.

"We had some chances and he wiggled off the hook," Gibbs coach Geff Davis said. "This was a great game and both pitchers threw really well.

"Early in the season, this is what you expect because the pitching is ahead of the hitting. But the hitters will catch up."

Indeed it was Clark and Willis (who despite the loss hurled a complete game) who took center stage.

Clark went 5 2/3 innings. He surrendered a run, three hits and two walks. He struck out seven. He gave way to Chase McCallister, who recorded the last four

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Running on empty (zero 3s), Carter makes early exit

Cont. from page 1

failed to score in 18 minutes of action. He was 0 for 4 from the field, with three of the misses coming from 3-point range.

Carter had a big edge at the free throw line, making 16 of 24 to Greenville's 7 of 11. But that wasn't enough to make up for the Hornets' deficiency in the 3-point department.

Carter sputtered at the start, fell behind 6-0 and tallied only four points in the game's opening four minutes.

An impressive drive by Hank Black - his only basket of the game - gave the Hornets their first lead at 15-14. The score was knotted at 17-all at the end of the first period.

The Hornets scored six straight points to start the second period but managed only three more points before halftime and took a 26-25 lead

into the dressing room.

Carter maintained a three to five-point lead most of the third period until Bowden sank two foul shots and then cashed in a turnover with a driving layup to give the Hornets their biggest lead of the game (43-34). But Greenville closed out the period strong and Trevor Wright's 3-point basket capped a 9-1 run to get the Devils back within one point (44-43).

Bowden was fouled just before the third period horn but missed the front end of a 1-and-1.

Defensive play helped Carter pull back out to a seven-point lead (50-43). Then came a key juncture in the physical game. After Mitchell stuck in a rebound to make it 53-46, a technical foul was called on Mitchell. Almqvist's two foul shots with 5:16 remaining negated Mitchell's basket.

The momentum seemed

to swing Greenville's way as Culbreth made two 3-point shots to tie the game at 54-all with 3:30 to go. Winton answered with a jumper and Dutton scored on a layup to put Carter back up 58-54.

But Culbreth struck again with two more 3-pointers to give the Greene Devils a 60-58 lead. They would never trail again. A huge offensive rebound and layup by J.J. Benjamin following a missed free throw stretched Greenville's lead to five (65-60) with 1:08 left.

Two free throws by Culbreth with 12 seconds remaining kept the Greene Devils' lead at five.

Boydstone downplayed the technical on Mitchell.

"The whole game was on us and how we didn't show up today," he said. "A bad game in every phase. We had been able to get away with some ugly wins earlier, but not this time.

"We just didn't come and play our brand of basketball. We didn't get away with it this time.

"It's been a great season. The boys have played hard all season long. But we just didn't show up. We were about as flat as a team can be. I didn't feel comfortable with a 9-point lead."

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Lady Falcons exceed expectations, earn Silver Ball

By Steve Williams

Fulton High's girls basketball team couldn't have done much more.

After becoming the first in school history to make it to the TSSAA state tournament, the Lady Falcons advanced to the championship game before falling to Elizabethton 66-52 on Saturday night, March 8, at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

"I felt like we did something that nobody expected," said Coach John Fisher back in his office at Fulton last week.

"We beat the No. 1, No. 2, No. 4 and No. 5 (ranked) teams in the state. We'd like to have beaten No. 3, but it just didn't happen."

Still, a lot of teams across the state would have liked to have been in the Lady Falcons' place at Murphy Center when they were awarded the Silver basketball for placing second.

Fulton upset No. 5 Gatlinburg-Pittman in the district finals and ousted No. 1 Grainger in overtime in the state sectionals. No. 2 Cannon County, a rock's throw from The Boro, bowed in the state quarterfinals, even though the Lionettes boasted Abbey Sissom, the eventual Miss Basketball Class AA winner. No. 4 Creek Wood was an overtime victim in the semifinals.

Sophomore Kayla Marosites, the tourney MVP, scored 23 points and collected 12 rebounds to lead No. 3 ranked Elizabethton



Fulton receives the Silver Ball trophy for taking second place in the TSSAA Girls' state tourney. The Lady Falcons (left to right) are Dreama Coats, Tyanna Castle, Quay Hines, Tink White and Elicia Faulkner.

(32-3) in the title game. Her twin sister, Kelcie, contributed 15 points and Sarah Robinson added 11 points and 13 boards.

Cold shooting and the Lady Cyclones' press hurt Fulton (30-6), which fell behind 15-6 after one period and 33-15 at halftime.

"We did a poor job on the defensive glass and shot 18

percent," said Fisher in a television interview at halftime. "You can't win shooting 18 percent."

Fulton warmed up after intermission, but the hole was too deep. A fourth period rally got the Lady Falcons as close as 11 (59-48) with 2:10 left.

Fulton was led by their two freshmen standouts. Quay

Hines, a guard, poured in 26 points and had nine rebounds. Six-foot-one post player KeKe McKinney, who sat out most of the third period in foul trouble, tallied 14 and claimed eight rebounds.

Elizabethton made 49 percent of its field goal attempts and connected on 6 of 10 from 3-point range. Fulton's

first-half shooting woes: 5 for 27 from the field, 0 for 6 outside the arc and 5 for 10 at the free throw line.

In its semifinal win, Fulton relied on the outside shooting of Moneisha Thomas and Brittani Whiteside, who combined for seven 3-pointers, as McKinney managed only five points. Senior Tyanna Castle chipped in 10 points

and 10 rebounds. McKinney also snatched 10 boards as Fulton won the backboard battle 39-23. Rachel Bell, a Miss Basketball finalist, powered Creek Wood with 25 points. Hines, McKinney and Castle represented Fulton on the all-tournament team. Looking back on the

and 10 rebounds. McKinney also snatched 10 boards as Fulton won the backboard battle 39-23.

Rachel Bell, a Miss Basketball finalist, powered Creek Wood with 25 points.

Hines, McKinney and Castle represented Fulton on the all-tournament team. Looking back on the

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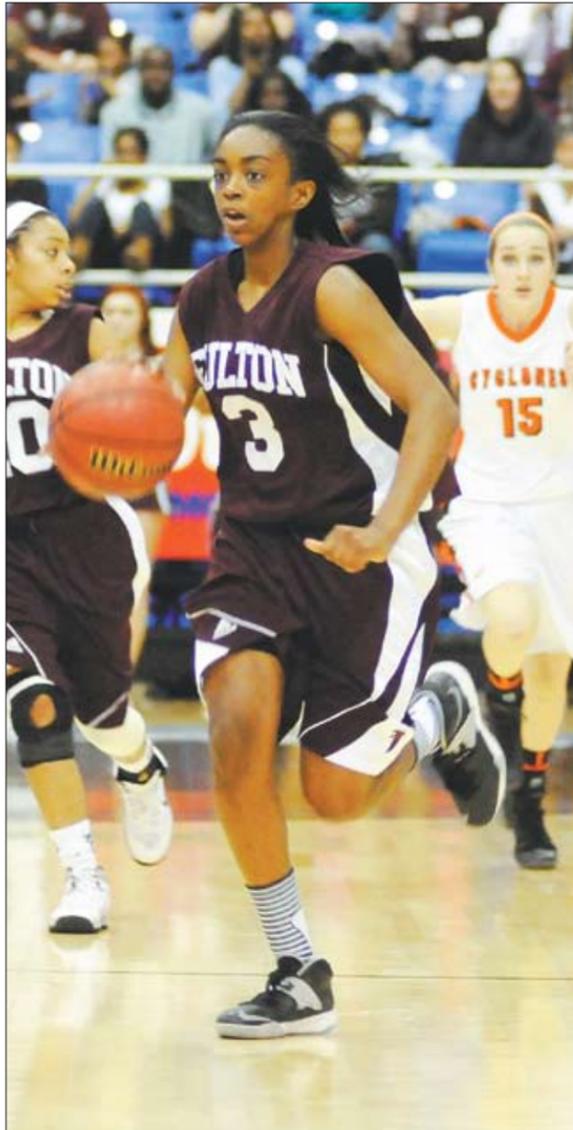
Lady Falcons exceed expectations, earn Silver Ball

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STEVE MORRELL/FULCOM

Above, Fulton High School's girls basketball team with the Silver Basketball trophy after taking second place in the TSSAA state tournament March 8 at MTSU's Murphy Center in Murfreesboro. From left to right, Head Coach John Fisher, Assistant Coach Tyler Howell, KeKe McKinney, Dreama Coats, Elicia Faulkner, Tink White, Jametri Mathis, Moneisha Thomas, Tyanna Castle, Brittani Whiteside, Quay Hines and Assistant Coach Sir David Pettus. Right, KeKe McKinney, Fulton's 6-1 freshman post player, drives against Elizabethton in the Class AA state finals.



season, Coach Fisher knew right from the start the two freshmen were going to be "really good." His team went 12-0 in summer ball. Even though Kay Kay Fain, an athletic junior guard, went down with a season-ending knee injury in the last preseason scrimmage, "I knew this team had the potential to be very good," said Fisher.

Losing a few games helped.

"We had a renewed focus after we lost to Gatlinburg-Pittman a second time," pointed out Fisher. "We got a little bit tougher . . . We didn't lose again until the state championship game."

Fisher also called his kids "tough-minded," for surviving in overtime "four or five times" during that stretch.

The future of the program is "extremely bright," said Fisher, "(but) we've got to work like every team in the state. You start off 0-0. You can't show up and win - we know that.

"Is the talent there? The talent's there. But it's what you do with your talent.

"I like what we have coming back."

Beavers outlast Eagles in pitchers' duel

Continued from page 2

outs en route to his first save. He gave up a two-out single to Brandon Hall in the top of the seventh before striking out Zack Beeler to end the game.

Karns took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the fourth inning. McCallister, who started the game in left field, walked to lead off the frame and later

scored when Will Harris reached on an error.

"We were a little lucky but I'll take it," Hurley said. "Sometimes it's good to be lucky."

Gibbs scored its lone run in the sixth.

Beeler led off the frame with an infield single. He advanced to third on Austin Breeden's hit and scored on an RBI groundout by Pierce Elliott.

Chambers, Farragut rout Panthers in opener

Continued from page 2

their first run of the contest in the bottom of the inning when Jonah Hartline rapped a scoring double off Farragut sophomore pitcher Dylan Pacifico.

Hartline's hit scored Wes Hutton, who reached on a leadoff single. The run was the only blemish in Pacifico's first varsity start. He also surrendered a walk and three hits and struck out three in four innings.

"He did a good job," Buckner said of his starting pitcher. "This was his first varsity start and he threw strikes and gave us a chance.

"He wasn't as sharp as I'd seen him but he did a pretty good job."

The Panthers, who opened the season with a 13-3 loss to Hardin Valley Academy on March 10, scored two runs in the fifth off reliever Carson Strickland.

The Admirals scored three runs in the top of the sixth. Pence blasted a two-run homer and Chambers had an RBI single to make the score 15-3.

Strickland retired Lenoir City in order in the bottom of the frame and the game ended when the 10-run rule was invoked.

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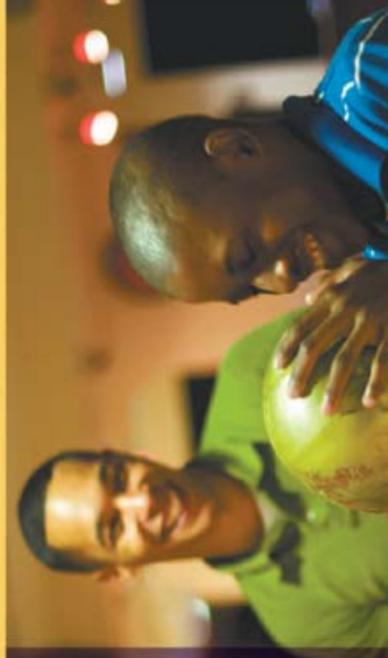
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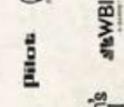
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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

The Window on Disease

The chief professor of medicine during my internal medicine residency held that all disease was the result of some infectious process. Jesus used hyperbole (exaggerated speech) to get people's attention, and I suspect my professor was doing the same. Because Dr. Stollerman was an expert in infectious diseases and did the original investigations of streptococcal infections, such as strep throat and nephritis (kidney inflammation), he was vigilant that germs were the root cause of disease.

We take for granted a functioning immune system until it is damaged by chemotherapy, radiation or with autoimmune diseases like Lupus. Lupus occurs when the immune system dysfunctions and begins to recognize a patient's own blood vessels as alien. The resulting attack produces inflammation in the

vessels, a process doctors call vasculitis. A similar immune mechanism occurs in rheumatoid arthritis when the immune system pathologically identifies a person's joints as foreign and attacks them. The resulting pain, swelling, and redness is the result of joint inflammation.

Our immune system consists of white blood cells made in the bone marrow, the lymph glands, and blood stream antibodies produced by certain white blood cells. Cancer specialists (oncologists) often give chemotherapy that hopelessly does more damage to out of control and rapidly growing cancer cells than healthy tissue and the immune system. You may find it surprising, but antibiotics merely support the patient until their marrow recovers from harsh chemotherapy. Inevitably, without bone marrow and immune system recovery,

death ultimately ensues from microbial invasion.

Most of us have read about the atom bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end World War II. As horrible as it seems today, all-out war was then waged not only on military targets, but on civilian populations who supported war industries. However, that was long ago and we've forgotten that many died after the blast from radiation damage to the survivor's bone marrow. The closest modern equivalent is the Chernobyl meltdown in the Ukraine and the Fukushima disaster in Japan. We probably will never learn the number of later deaths from radiation exposure in the Ukraine. Many emergency workers died from acute exposure as they fought the meltdown generated fires. We do know that the supervisor at the Fukushima plant stayed at his post and ultimately died from acute radiation exposure.

Many of us remember the story of Alexander Fleming who fortuitously discovered penicillin in 1929, ushering in the antibiotic age. Fewer of us know about Ignaz Semmelweis. This Hungarian physician challenged established thought in 1847 with his proof that the life threatening infections associated with labor and delivery called child-bed fever

(puerperal sepsis) could be drastically reduced by doctors washing their hands with a chlorinated lime solution. He was ridiculed and ultimately was committed to an asylum where he died after being beaten by guards shortly after his incarceration. He was ultimately vindicated when Louis Pasteur established the "germ theory." We now take for granted hygienic measures and use hand sanitizers and sterilize the skin before surgery.

I still read multiple medical journals, and recently the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) closed the loop for me on the common disease age-related macular degeneration (AMD). My grandmother lost her vision to the "dry" subset of this disease associated with proteinaceous deposits in and atrophy (withering) of the retina. The "wet" type also has the additional feature of abnormal blood vessels (neovascular) in the retina. These new vascular structures bleed more easily accelerating damage to the delicate retina. Scientific advances have led to therapies that retard growth of these unstable vessels and limit bleeding. Interestingly, when doctors look through the pupil (window) they can directly observe the vascular system and the course of disease.

Researchers have recently discovered a genetic aberration that can lead to dysregulation of the immune system and produce an inflammatory complex in AMD called an inflammasome. This in turn activates components of the inflammatory cascade similar to that seen in gout and another joint problem called pseudogout. I have written previously about inflammatory mechanisms in diseases like Alzheimer's Disease and arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries). I find it fascinating that AMD, another disease associated with aging, is also associated with dysregulation of the immune system and inflammation.

The immune system regulates itself through proteins produced by white cells called cytokines. These signaling chemicals enable cells to "talk" to each other and modulate the immune response to foreign invasion or injury. Apparently, congenital genetic defects and those acquired through radiation, chemo or even aging can lead to immune system dysregulation and disease. Perhaps my old professor was, in part, correct. If the skin is damaged allowing bacteria to invade, or if the immune system breaks down, disease results. We now see farther into the mechanisms of disease. At one

time we asked the question, "what went wrong?" Now, we ask "why did it go wrong?"

Science explores the universe with what is called reductionism. This is a process where a complex whole is broken down into its component parts in an attempt to understand the whole by comprehending the integral parts.

Yes, we do see farther than we once did, and I suspect this will continue as we strive to learn about our world and explore our purpose. I've been in medicine forty years and it is intriguing to find that complex and seemingly diverse conditions like heart disease, dementia, gout, and AMD may all have a similar etiology. Maybe my old professor was right and these common diseases are all triggered by some obscure viral or other infectious stress on the immune system of a genetically predisposed patient.

The Apostle Paul once observed that we "see dimly as in a mirror." Someday we will see more completely. Until that time I'll keep my eyes open. After all, they are the windows of disease and the soul.

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

Mayor urges health care enrollment ahead of March 31 deadline

Mayor Madeline Rogero is urging Knoxville residents lacking health insurance to learn about their options, as the March 31 deadline nears for enrollment under the Affordable Care Act.

Local residents seeking information can find it on the City of Knoxville web site at www.cityofknoxville.org/AffordableCareAct, as well as at healthcare.gov, the federal government website. Or call 1-800-318-2596.

In partnership with the non-profit group Get Covered America, Mayor Rogero hosted an interfaith breakfast Tuesday morning for local ministers to encourage them to provide enrollment information and assistance to members of their congregations.

"For the first time, those

who have been shut out of the health insurance system in the past have a new way of accessing quality, affordable options," Mayor Rogero said to more than 50 representatives of area churches last week. "Faith leaders like you share a vision of a moral responsibility to care for our nation's sick, our nation's children, and the overall health of our community."

The mayor spoke Tuesday morning to a group of volunteer canvassers, who have been going door to door throughout Knoxville neighborhoods since October to raise awareness about the new health insurance marketplace set up under the ACA.

The City of Knoxville is

sponsoring an enrollment event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, at Pellissippi State Technical Community College's Magnolia Campus, 1610 E. Magnolia Ave. Trained enrollers will be on hand to provide free assistance to people who want to apply for health coverage.

For more information or to volunteer to help at the event, contact Elizabeth Wright at ewright@enrollamerica.org or (865) 203-4691.

Here's the full schedule of local enrollment events from now until March 31:

- Every Saturday and Sunday through March 29 (1-5 p.m.) - Blount County Library, North Cusick St., Maryville

- Wednesday, March 19 (3-7 p.m.) - South Knox Community Center, 522 Maryville Pike
- Saturday, March 22 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) - Pellissippi State Technical Community College's Magnolia Campus, 1610 E. Magnolia Ave.
- Saturday, March 29 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) - Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 1807 Dandridge Ave.
- Monday, March 31 (3-8 p.m.) - Cherokee Health Systems, 2018 Western Ave.

Anyone wishing to enroll will need these documents:

- Social Security numbers (or document numbers for

legal immigrants)

- Employer and income information for every household member to be covered (numbers from pay stubs or W-2 forms - Wage and Tax Statements, modified adjusted gross income)
- Policy numbers for any current health insurance plans covering household members
- A completed Employer Coverage Tool for every job-based plan for which a member of the household is eligible (www.healthcare.gov/downloads/ECT_Application_508_130615.pdf)

It's Sneezin' Season!



Featured Speaker
Mark Gurley, M.D.

For many East Tennessee residents, spring means a stuffy nose, scratchy throat, watery eyes or a sinus headache. This year, don't let your allergies keep you indoors. Come learn how to clear your head, get rid of a stuffed up nose and be able to hear again.

Monday, March 31
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Turkey Creek Medical Center
 Johnson Conference Center
 10820 Parkside Drive

Lunch included. Space is limited.
Call 1-855-TENNOVA (836-6682) by March 29 to register.



Homeless Plan moves ahead

By Mike Steely
Steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville's proposed Homelessness Plan was presented to City Council last Thursday afternoon and seems to have strong support. The council had a few questions about the mayor's proposal but reaction so far is positive.

Initially presented in public hearing on February 11, the plan was introduced to the council by Mayor Madeline Rogero.

She said she wants to see collaboration and engagement with faith-based groups and business and civic organizations. She also said the effort cannot be to end homelessness because there will always be

homelessness, but to target segments of that population such as families, veterans, the elderly, and people with addictions and mental illness.

"The plan is not a solution to any single problem. It is a framework that we will use to coordinate efforts to address both short-term and long-term challenges for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless," the mayor said.

The plan would be coordinated by the city's Office of Homelessness, part of the Department of Community Development. She said she will officially present the plan to the city council during the April 1st meeting. She said two new members will be

added to the working group, including one representing the Homeless Collective and Dr. Martha Buchanan. Dr. Buchanan was suggested by County Mayor Tim Burchett.

Michael Dunthorn, Project Manager for the Office, presented the plan and said it includes a crisis response plan, prevention, rapid rehousing, coordination of services, targeted assistance for special cases, including recently discharged veterans.

Councilman Finbarr Saunders, one of the Mayor's Roundtable that worked on the plan, said, "This is not a 'city' plan, we think it is doable." He said the idea is "Not a static plan and will be

tweaked. We will adjust."

Councilman Nick Della Volpe asked about the expected cost of the program and Dunthorn responded the plan "is a frame work, a set of goals and a process that gives you a starting point to look at funding."

Mayor Rogero mentioned that the city is not receiving as much federal funding as in the past and the city will not fund the entire plan.

"Adopting the plan does not require funding at this time," she said.

"It's great to have a plan," said Councilman George Wallace. He said the city should also look at getting private funding.

Councilman Duane Grieve asked for a breakdown of

what the city gets from the federal government and the mayor said some federal aid formerly coming to the city are now going to the state and the city must apply to the state to receive the money.

Councilman Nick Pavlis asked if the city is partnering with the Veterans Administration and said, "I commend you all, it seems organized and transparent." The response was that 12% of the homeless in Knoxville are veterans and Dunthorn said they are working with the VA.

"It is a major step in the right direction," said Councilman Dan Brown.

Councilman Brenda Palmer said it appears "all the stakeholders are buying

in" and the plan is "a step forward."

Della Volpe then asked if the plan would try to concentrate the homeless population in one area for housing and Dunthorn replied, "The base line is getting people into housing throughout the community."

Vivian Shipe, a homeless advocate, spoke to the mayor and council and suggested the group reach out beyond the current faith-based organizations involved in the plan to other faith-based groups. She also suggested including the Salvation Army's Boot Strap program which assists homeless men with transitional housing and provides work opportunities.

Faith



Faith United Methodist Church celebrated Scout Sunday on March 9, 2014. The girl scouts earned their My Promise, My Faith pin and the boy scouts earned their faith pin from PRAY pub. They earned community service work by bringing food pantry donations. The scouts participated in the service and memories were made. Faith UMC is located at 1120 Dry Gap Pike. www.faithchurchknoxvilletn.com

Church Happenings

Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church
Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church (the church with a heart in the heart of Karns) is offering the LENTEN STUDY "A World Worth Saving." There are two opportunities to participate: Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 and Wednesday evenings at 6:45. All are welcome. For more information please call the church office at 690-1060. See this and other activities on the web: www.beaver-ridgeumc.org.

Glenwood Baptist Church of Powell
Glenwood Baptist Church of Powell, 7212 Central Ave. Pike, is accepting appointments for the John 5 Food Pantry. Phone 938-2611 or leave a message.

New Hope Christian School
New Hope Christian School will have a 20th year celebration on Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 10:45 a.m. All former students and families, staff, former school board members and everyone who has been a part of the ministry are invited. For more information, contact New Hope Baptist Church Kim Smith 865-688-5330

Seymour United Methodist Church
The youth's annual "Amazing Race" will be held on Saturday, April 5th. Volunteers for drivers and coordinators are needed. Next Sunday, March 23rd, is the 3rd Sunday of Lent, and has an Administrative Council meeting scheduled for 12:15 p.m.

God's Gift of Intimacy

God is the giver of many gifts to His children, and one of these is sexual intimacy. Unfortunately, you don't have to look far in any culture to see how humans have taken this gift and twisted it into a destructive idol. This gift of



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

intimacy goes all the way back to the first two chapters of Genesis. God created man and woman in His own image and presented them the gift of sex to be enjoyed as a way to connect a husband and wife in an intimate bond. "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one" (Genesis 2:24).

This union is not just physical; it is an emotional and spiritual union as well. In fact, one of the Hebrew words for sex is translated: "a mingling of the souls." This is exactly what is meant to happen

as the husband and wife come together and celebrate this beautiful gift from God.

This act of intimacy in marriage brings amazing pleasure. It is also designed by God to produce children.

How thankful we can be that God did not make reproduction a joyless or mechanical act. God wants us to experience pleasure in a relationship of permanence where the bond of trust, strength, and safety can grow. This gift from God should cause us to worship Him and to thank the giver. Unfortunately, God's gifts can become the greatest competition to having a relationship with Him.

For example, consider the gift of a car to your child. You knew the excitement your child would experience when they received this gift, and at

first your child was grateful. But now that your child has a vehicle, they spend less time at home and in communication with you. They no longer have time to spend around the house when there is so much to experience away from home now that they have wheels. Not only that, but your child begins to complain that his car is not as nice as the car of his friends. So now you have a child you see less of and who is not as content as before you bought them the car. How could such a nice gift go wrong?

Well, the gift became more important than the giver. The true beauty was not in the gift itself, but the love that bought this gift. This is precisely what takes place when God has to compete with all the blessings He gives us. The blessing of sex is a beautiful gift until it loses its spiritual context. When this happens, the gift becomes a god and the god turns into a slave master. Countless numbers of lives are ruined each day by this god.

God designed sexuality to be relationship based. It is to be enjoyed between a husband and wife in the confines and protection of marriage. It was never meant to be a private and selfish experience. This god of sex reduces others to mere objects of pleasure. Let us serve rather than use others. Let Jesus be your satisfaction and ultimate pleasure.

Christian Fiction

by Steven A. Vaughn



Temani: Odd Angel Out

Is all about "why" your Guardian Angel needs to protect you ... and from whom!



Temani: Odd Angel Out II

Is "not" a book you want to read if you plan to claim "innocence thru ignorance" as your defense on Judgement Day.

Trust me on this!



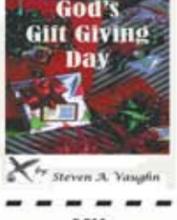
Christians In Space? Protecting Us From What?

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God's Writers

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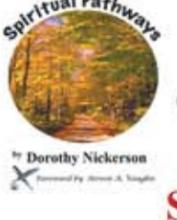


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House to Home

Back Rubs

Feeling low? Feeling lost? Feeling left out? All of us hit bottom several times in our lives. It's during those blue periods that we most crave something to soothe the soul, to find a



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

healing balm for the pain. I'm pretty sure that's just what a back rub is. No, I'm not talking about the back rub that a masseur gives as he works to knead muscles in order to bring on relaxation and take away pain. The kind that I have in mind is gentler and comes from the hands of those we love.

When I was a kid, my temper too often got the

best of me. It had something to do with being called "Round Man" because of my excessive weight and "Bucky" because of a terrible overbite that kept my top teeth protruding through my lips. I'd explode over some small thing, and Mother would make me sit at the kitchen table until I could regain my composure.

The best medicine for those times when the world could go to hell for all I cared was my Mother's hand rubbing my back. Her hands weren't soft; too many hours of yard work

kept them rough and calloused. Still, she'd sit silently and rub back and forth across my shoulders. It made things somehow okay. Just knowing that she had taken time out of a schedule filled with too many tasks and duties helped to calm the anger that came over the sometimes cruel things that others said or did.

Years later, it was my time to be the one to give comfort to my children. I loved to hold them when they were around the age of 3-5. Then, they would sit beside me or on my lap, and I rubbed their backs and talk to them. Their skin was smooth, and it surely was one of God's most wonderful blessings

to this parent. If they were crying, the back rub helped to calm the hurt from a scrape or ear ache, and if they were fussy because of being tired, it relaxed them until they fell asleep and leaned heavily on me.

At other times, I tried to console my children when they tasted defeat. A loss of an important ball game or the failure to make a team or be accepted into an organization might have booted them in the behinds. While I wanted to rage against those who denied them, I knew doing so would change nothing. So, instead I just stood there, quiet for one of the few times in my life, and rubbed my hand across their backs. I hoped it

would help in some way to take away some of the sting of disappointment.

Sometimes those back rubs have come in times of grief. So many wonderful people have wrapped an arm around us to offer condolences over the losses of loved ones. At some point during the conversation, they gently rubbed their hands across backs as they reassure us of their help in getting through the worst of the pain. Those hands moved across shoulders as if doing so could somehow erase the pain and emptiness that came from the loss.

Through a lifetime of marriage, I've on occasion offered a back rub to my wife. She's faced plenty of

rough times. Some came with the passing of family; others came when our children left home; still, others occurred when evil people committed a wrong against her. I'm a man, so I want to "fix" things, but too often that isn't possible. That's when the best I can do is offer a gentle back rub as she cries or despairs or rages. I hope it does help.

This life can throw us plenty of pain. Most of it affects our emotional health. No prescription from a doctor can heal that kind of hurt, but just placing a hand on another's back and rubbing seems to offer some comfort. I believe that no better medicine exists.



SURPRISE!

"Is it true you once held Tommy Everette to 41 points?" I asked the Central High School standout of the sixties.

"He was the best high school player I ever played against," the tall-gentlemen answered.

Everette was the center player on Coach Bob Dagley's 1964-65 Gibbs Eagles' basketball team that capped an amazing year with a 31-2 record. The next year, Central beat Gibbs and knocked them out of the tournament even though Everette scored 41 points.

The tall gentlemen is a prominent Knoxville Cardiologist Dr. Michael Underwood. By coincidence, I saw Dr. Underwood at a recent Tennova seminar on heart health. He served on a panel with Cardiologists Dr. Kyle McCoy and Dr. Malcolm Foster. Underwood has practiced in Knoxville



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

for 35 years and is married to the former Linda Clabo, daughter of former Coach John Clabo. Clabo coached football and basketball early in his career at Powell High School, but may best be remembered as the football coach at Young High School.

After the meeting, I caught up with Dr. Underwood to talk basketball. "He was 6-8," the doctor said of Everette. As he talked, I listened and tried to imagine the good doctor and Everette battling it out on the boards. "I think he is now retired to his farm and riding his tractor," Dr. Underwood added.

"You're right," I told him. "I have seen the farm and the tractor." Interestingly enough, I had just finished the series on Tommy. This week, I have included for Focus readers a picture of the Everette family in a beautiful setting on their farm in Corryton.

Getting your pond spring ready



By Mike Cruze, Master Gardener

In March in our area, the weather can be all over the place. One day its winter, the next spring, then back to winter and so on and so on.

But assuredly, spring is coming!!!

Now is the time to spring-clean your house, your garden and I am specifically going to talk about spring cleaning your water garden.

Early spring clean-up will give your water garden a good start for the up-coming active season and will save you lots of work later on.

First you will need to remove all organic matter from your pond such as leaves, sticks and debris. Leaves are one of the worst items because when they decay, they release toxins that are dangerous to both plants and animals.

This is a good time to remove all your aquatic plants and clean and prune them.

Throw away any plants that did not survive the winter.

Be sure to check the roots of the plants for decomposition. You may need to re-pot some of your plants that are overgrown.

Check your pumps to make sure that they are working properly and clean any debris off the intake. Also check your filters at this time and replace any worn filter pads.

Next, it is time to do a water change. Drain the pond 1/3 to 1/2 and add clean water.

Be sure to then add a dechlorinator. Some people choose to drain their pond completely and power wash it. However, I don't advocate that because the chlorinated water will sterilize all the good bacteria your pond needs to be healthy and the water clear.

If you are adamant about draining it completely, be sure to keep a bucket or two of the water you are draining to add back after you have filled your pond with clean water to add that good bacteria back.

Again, a partial water change is generally all that is necessary. The addition of a sludge remover product in early spring and all during the season would help keep the pond cleaner and also help your filtration to be healthier and have a higher oxygen content.

You will notice as the water temperatures start to warm,

your fish will become more active and will appear hungry.

Do not feed them until the water temperature stays above 50 degrees or higher. With water temperature at 50 to 65 degrees you can feed your fish once a week.

With water temperatures 65 degrees or higher your regular feeding schedule can be resumed.

Foods high in carbohydrates are recommended during the spring and also fall.

A good cold-water food to start with in the spring is wheat germ pellets. Once your water is over 65 degrees you can start adding a higher protein food to their diet.

With this jump start, you can now sit back and enjoy your pond!!! Oh, maybe not quite yet, you still have to spring clean your garden and home... That's another story!!!

"How often it is that a garden, beautiful though it be, will seem sad and dreary and lacking in one of its most gracious features, if it has no water."--Pierre Husson

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688-5330
You are cordially invited to join us for Open House and Kindergarten Round-Up on Thursday, April 17, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:00pm.
You may tour the school, meet with teachers and view the curriculum. The PTF is hosting an Art Auction featuring exhibits by NHCS students.
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From State Representative Harry Brooks

There is plenty of good news coming out of Tennessee this week when it comes to economic development. Between the state lowering its debt and announcements regarding new incoming business, our state continues to work toward financial gains.

House lawmakers joined with Comptroller of the Treasury Justin P. Wilson today to report Tennessee's total debt fell during the last six months of last year by \$347 million—or more than a third of a billion dollars.

Of that decrease, the state reduced the debt on its general obligation bonds, which are used to pay for most of the government's capital projects, by more than \$95 million. That represents a two-year decrease of nearly \$190 million.

Lower debt translates into lower interest payments on money owed, which translates into substantial savings for Tennessee taxpayers.

The report from the comptroller further enforces the fact that the

conservative principles and sound fiscal policies implemented in our state are paying dividends for our taxpayers.

In addition, this news comes a few months after a report issued by Fitch Ratings, one of the country's largest bond rating agencies, concluded that Tennessee's debt ratio was the lowest in the entire nation.

Major Business Expansions in East Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development joined House leaders this week to announce a major business expansion in East Tennessee.

Fresenius Medical Care will locate their new East Coast manufacturing facility in the Panasonic building in the Forks of the River Industrial Park in Knoxville. The expansion will result in 665 new jobs and a total \$140 million investment.

The new Knox County facility will produce dialysis-related products, which will be distributed to Fresenius Medical Care's clinics and distribution centers located all over the eastern part of the United States.

Toward the middle of 2014 it will begin hiring for support jobs, such as engineering facilities management, and in the fourth quarter of 2015, it plans to begin hiring for other positions such as supervisors, technicians, production line workers and maintenance. Job opportunities will be posted on the Fresenius Medical Care North America

website located at <http://jobs.fmcna.com>.

The business expansion comes after lawmakers worked diligently during the last legislative session to cut taxes, remove bureaucratic barriers to business and create an overall friendlier, more business-oriented environment across the state to help spur job creation. The news also follows Business Facilities magazine, a national economic development publication, officially naming Tennessee as its '2013 State Of The Year' for economic development, based on the state's huge success over the last twelve months in recruiting new business and promoting economic development.

House lawmakers are optimistic that additional expansions will be announced in the coming days as even more pro-business policies are put into place by the state legislature.

School bus bill moves ahead

Back in the middle of February, I mentioned that multiple senators and representatives were working together to combine multiple school bus mileage bills into a single piece of

legislation. The proposed bills would extend the mileage restrictions on school bus lifespans as long as each bus passes annual inspection tests.

The result of this effort was seen when House Bill 1507 passed the House Transportation Committee

on March 11. We anticipate the bill being heard by the House Education Committee in the near future.

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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3 cups green tomato, diced
1 cup coconut, flaked

Preheat oven to 350°. Blend together sugar, shortening, eggs and vanilla until smooth. Add flour, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg into egg mixture. Stir until well mixed. Stir in nuts, raisins, tomatoes, and coconut. Pour into a large loaf pan which has been greased and floured and cook until brown. About one hour.