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Great turn out for Patti Bounds

"The last 24 hours has been very exciting"

By Mike Steely
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School Board candidate Patti Bounds held her campaign kick-off at Beaver Brook Country Club Thursday evening with a great turn out.

The 7th District School board race began in January and had five declared candidates to replace Kim Severance, who is not seeking reelection.

The School Board elections are drawing much attention with several candidates challenging incumbents because of the continuing revolt by teachers concerned about new teaching standards, pay, evaluations, and excessive student testing under new state and local standards, and a heavy-handed superintendent.

After the filing deadline in District 7, only three candidates remained: R. Larry Smith, Andrew Graybeal, and Patti Bounds. Although the primary election isn't until May 6, lots of things happened last Wednesday and Thursday and the Bounds' kick-off announcement turned into a celebration.

Events began to unfold Wednesday morning with term-limited County Commissioner R. Larry Smith calling a news conference to announce he was withdrawing from the race. He has since said that as qualified educator was in the race, he had decided not to run.

Thursday morning it was learned that Andrew Graybeal had also pulled his name from the race, telling the media that Bounds is qualified and very experienced.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Halls Elementary teacher Lauren Hopson, left, and 7th District School board candidate Patti Bounds, right, at Bounds' campaign kick off at Beaver Brook Country Club last Thursday.

That left a much energized Patti Bounds, who had already scheduled her campaign kickoff, as the only candidate.

The 23-year teaching veteran was introduced at the kick off by her campaign treasurer, Bob Tobey.

"I had this wonderful speech written up, but in the last 48 hours..." he started to say and his sentence was overridden with laughter and applause.

"I started teaching when my

youngest son started school," Mrs. Bounds told crowd of well-wishers. She went on to say she taught at Powell for 13 years and is currently at Brickey-McCloud Elementary.

"I've seen lots changes in education in 23 years but none more dramatic than in the last three years," she said.

"We still have a lot of work to do," she said, asking for volunteers to knock on doors, display yard signs, and encourage others to vote.

Even though Mrs. Bounds has

no opponent, she still believes it is very important to bring her message to the voters of the 7th District. She thanked all those attending for their support and asked for their vote.

Patti and Tommy Bounds have been married 41 years. Their four children are Powell High School graduates. Patti has been named SAM's Regional Teacher of the Year, Brickey-McCloud Teacher of the Year, and WBIR's Educator of the Week.

FOCUS Weekly Poll*

Do you believe that any annexation by the City of Knoxville should be approved by a referendum, voted on by both Knoxville City and Knox County voters?

YES 81.07%
NO 18.93%

Survey conducted February 27, 2014.

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

Freedom of Speech, Annexation, Retreat

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The two items that had the potential for the most debate passed without a whimper at Knox County Commission's meeting last Monday. One dealt with a county employee's rights to free speech and the other regarded the anti-annexation bill before the state legislature; both passed on first reading.

The freedom of speech ordinance, introduced by Commissioner Amy Broyles, had been debated a bit in a workshop recently but passed unanimously without debate in Monday's regular meeting. This ordinance was borne from the current teacher insurrection against teaching standards, the central office, and Superintendent James McIntyre. Many county teachers had publically and privately feared for their jobs because of taking part in public forums at the school board and commission meetings. The wording of the commission ordinance covers all county employees, including teachers. The ordinance will face a second reading this month.

Annexation by cities of adjoining county neighborhoods is currently under a moratorium by Governor

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Get Competitive for a Good Cause

By David Klein

Try your hand in games against local media celebrities for a good cause. Friday night March 7, Game On Against Cancer takes place at Games & Things on Kingston Pike. The event, in its third year, is open to everyone and helps patients of The Thompson Cancer Survival Center. Proceeds go to support the Thompson Cares Fund. The fund gives assistance to patients who need help to meet their basic needs with housing, transportation, and medication. Holly's Eventful Dining is catering the event while Saw Works Brewery will serve beer.

Local area TV and radio celebrities will play games such as table tennis, billiards, air hockey, darts, shuffleboard, foosball and blackjack against the public and each other. At the end of the night, the celebrity winner in each game will receive a plaque called the Sam Littleton Memorial Award, named after a cancer patient at Thompson who worked at several TV stations in town. The public winner has a chance to win a weekend getaway to a cabin in Wears Valley.

Some of the celebrities this year include TV Channel 8's Ted Hall, Mayor Tim Burchett, Hallerlin Hilton Hill, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, and former Biggest Loser contestant Joe Mitchell among

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Billy Stephens running for County Commission, 3rd District

By Focus Staff

Billy F. Stephens will be facing off against Randy W. Smith for the 3rd District seat on Knox County Commission in the election primary this May.

Stephens has been a resident of the 3rd District for 46 years and believes this helps keep him attuned to the needs of the district. He is a 1958 graduate of Rule High School and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1976 with a Bachelor Degree in psychology.

Stephens says that he intends to concentrate on education in Knox County.

"I realize that as a county commissioner I will not be directly involved with the daily operation of our schools," Stephens told *The Focus*. "Knowing this, I still intend to work closely with the teachers and

school administrations as well as all PTA groups. I will also attend the Board Of Education meetings. I firmly believe that as the 3rd district commissioner I should be active in this area."

Stephens also plans to work to make Commission more efficient.

"I will make every effort to see that every penny of the taxpayer's money is spent as efficiently and effectively as possible," Stephens said. "This will require that all commissioners commit themselves to this philosophy as well. I will strive to have all meetings be open and transparent, thus assuring the public that meetings where county business is discussed will be open to all Knox County citizens."

Stephens hopes to bring his commitment to public service to the Commission and truly represent the



Billy F. Stephens

constituents in his District. He mentioned that other than the Republican Party, he has no affiliations with current commissioners or any groups or factions.

Stephens told *The Focus* that "by knowing the specific problems of the 3rd district, I will be able to reach out to those citizens that are affected by a particular situation." He added that he intends to attend every neighborhood meeting in the 3rd District on a regular basis.

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Focus on the Law

Fraud

According to Black's Law Dictionary, fraud "consists of some deceitful practice or willful device, resorted to with intent to deprive another of his right, or in some manner to do him an injury."



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

Fraud can be a criminal offense as well as a civil cause of action.

Tennessee law prohibits numerous crimes involving fraud of some sort. These criminal offenses include, but are by no means limited to, forgery (T.C.A. Section 39-14-114); using false identification for the purpose of obtaining employment (T.C.A. Section 39-17-115); destruction of valuable papers with intent to defraud (T.C.A. Section 39-14-130); fraudulent use of credit cards (T.C.A. Section 39-14-118); fraudulent transfer of motor vehicles (T.C.A. Section 39-14-147); false advertising (T.C.A. Section 53-1-103); theft (T.C.A. Section 39-14-121); and many, many more. Punishments include everything from losing state licenses

to paying fines and/or going to prison.

Criminal simulation (T.C.A. Section 39-14-115) is a crime I had not heard of before writing this column. As in other fraud crimes, the intent

to defraud or harm another is required in criminal simulation. This offense involves making or altering an object so that it appears to have value because of age, antiquity, rarity, source or authorship that it does not have; possessing such an object with the intent to sell or pass it; or to authenticate or certify such an object as genuine. In addition, this offense includes the situation where someone who, "with knowledge of its character, possesses machinery, plates or other contrivances designed to produce instruments reporting to be credit or debit cards" without the consent to produce them from the purported card issuer. It is also illegal to possess any instrument, apparatus or contrivance

designed adapted or used for the commission of any theft of property or services by fraudulent means. Criminal simulation is punishable as not less than a Class E felony.

If circumstances warrant, fraud is also actionable in civil court. "Fraud occurs when a person intentionally misrepresents a material fact or intentionally produces a false impression in order to mislead another or to obtain an unfair advantage." *Lopez v. Taylor*, 195 S.W.3d 627, 634 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2005). A cause of action for fraud must include a false representation of an existing or past fact made by the defendant, action in reliance thereupon by the plaintiff and damage resulting to the plaintiff from such misrepresentation. Even if the misrepresentation of fact was not intentional, there could be an action for negligent misrepresentation where the defendant did not exercise reasonable care in obtaining or communicating the information. The fact must not be based upon opinion or conjecture as to future events

and the plaintiff must have reasonably relied upon the representation.

The measure of damages for fraud is that the injured party should be compensated for the actual injuries sustained by placing him or her in the same position that he or she would have occupied had the wrongdoer performed and the fraud had not occurred. This includes remedies such as rescinding a fraudulently induced contract. For example, the court may set aside a contract where a seller fraudulently misrepresented the condition of a home to the purchaser. Punitive damages may be awarded to punish the defendant for his or her fraudulent conduct and/or to set an example of him or her for other wrongdoers.

If you have been a victim of fraud, you should contact an attorney to discuss your legal options.

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

Freedom of Speech, Annexation, Retreat

Cont. from page 1

Haslam and a couple of bills in the state house and senate are aimed at forbidding any future annexation without a vote by those being absorbed into a city. Commissioner R. Larry Smith introduced a resolution of support of House Bill 2371 and Senate Bill 2464. D. H. (Andy) Andrew took public forum to speak in favor of the resolution.

"I have one question: How can any legislative body fail to support the right to vote?" Andrew asked. Andrew said he was reminding the commission of its "obligation to the Constitution of the United States, Tennessee, and the Charter of Knox County."

He said the state anti-annexation by ordinance law would "enlarge the power of our county government."

Both Commissioners Sam McKenzie and Amy Broyles opposed the resolution, with McKenzie proclaiming that "as a citizen of Knoxville we are fully residents of Knox County." He said the council created a process for annexation with the planning commission and Broyles said she saw no need for the resolution.

The anti-annexation

resolution passed with only Broyles and McKenzie voting against it.

Commissioner Tony Norman told Commission of the public meeting he had with Commissioner Mike Brown to fill Brown in on what he had missed at the Commission-Board of Education Retreat. Brown was not able to attend of the Retreat due to health reasons and Norman had called a meeting that was, as Norman put it, "Surprisingly well attended."

Brown asked who had set the Retreat's agenda. Chairman Brad Anders answered that he and Board of Education Chair Lynn Fugate did.

Brown then gave his opinion of what he'd been told of the Retreat, saying, the Retreat should have "looked at more current problems" than it did and said "We can't tell the schools how to do it (spend their budget) but we can't go along with blinders on."

"They are dumbing down our teachers...they are teaching to a test and worrying about an evaluation," Brown said, adding "We are responsible for how this money is spent."

The commission approves

or disapproves of budget proposals from the BOE and both the commission and the school system are working on their budget for next year.

"We pour more money in across the street," he said, referring to the school administration offices in the Andrew Johnson Building, "and we don't get the job done."

McKenzie, one of the commission members of the Joint Education Committee, said that the group would be meeting for the last time with an outside moderator this month. He said he hopes the Joint Committee will continue to meet.

"I'm in favor of evaluations, but let's tweak it," he said.

Commissioner Richard Briggs said the teacher evaluations may need to be "re-evaluated" but said "We can't go back to where we were."

"The evaluation of our teachers is grossly unfair," said Commissioner Tony Norman, adding that higher standards are not a problem for the teachers. He said the lack of morale is a problem. "We can't allow that to continue."

Superintendent James McIntyre was present and was asked by McKenzie if the teacher situation is a problem in other counties. Briggs asked what the school system is doing is different than the state guidelines.

McIntyre said there are certain state regulations and that one-half of a teacher's evaluation is based on student outcome in testing.

"We continue to try to listen and be responsive," McIntyre said.

"It's not what you do, it's how you do it," Norman responded to McIntyre. "This is a difficult and punitive system." Norman described the teacher evaluations as "fundamentally unsound and unfair."

McIntyre disagreed, saying that the evaluations were not punitive but developmental.

"Teachers are not afraid of higher standards or evaluations. The kinks need to be addressed and addressed quickly," Commissioner Broyles said. "I think that strategic compensation sucks."

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FOCUS Weekly Poll

Do you believe that any annexation by the City of Knoxville should be approved by a referendum, voted on by both Knoxville City and Knox County voters?

Yes 81.07%
No 18.93%



By Age	Yes	No	Total
18-29	[None]	100.00%	2
30-49	80.00%	20.00%	35
50-65	86.32%	13.68%	117
65+	79.19%	20.81%	221
Total	81.07% (304)	18.93% (71)	375

By District	Yes	No	Total
1	71.43%	28.57%	28
2	88.24%	11.76%	51
3	81.40%	18.60%	43
4	85.96%	14.04%	57
5	73.17%	26.83%	41
6	82.50%	17.50%	40
7	93.33%	6.67%	30
8	80.49%	19.51%	41
9	70.45%	29.55%	44
Total	81.07% (304)	18.93% (71)	375

By Gender	Yes	No	Total
Unknown	76.92%	23.08%	13
Female	78.28%	21.72%	198
Male	84.76%	15.24%	164
Total	81.07% (304)	18.93% (71)	375

Survey conducted February 27, 2014.

County Sales Tax Collection Down in December

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knox County Finance Director Chris Caldwell did not have good news to give the County Commissioners during their Chairman's Lunch last Monday. Caldwell told them that sales tax revenue for December appears to be 27% less than last year.

Caldwell based his report on information from the state, which showed revenues up a bit for Farragut and Knoxville, but not for the county.

"I'm hoping it's an error," he said, adding that he's waiting to hear back

from the state. He further explained if the state does find an error, it most likely would not be rectified right away but over the course of several months.

"If the state comes back and tells me this is right... the schools may be good to stay flat," he said of a possible school budget for next year. "It's really going to affect the general fund."

Caldwell also said other revenues are all right and the county should see a growth in property taxes and wheel taxes.

He also said the county would benefit from the new

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Publisher's Position What Should be the Goal of Public Education?



**By Steve Hunley,
Publisher**
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It seems to me many of us are missing the point of public education. We've moved away from the basics of education in this country, despite spending more than ever. Ultimately, the goal isn't passing as many tests as possible, collecting data or even graduating. The ultimate goal is helping a child become a productive member of society, which means going on to further his or her education or getting a job. Frankly, if these youngsters don't

get a job at some point, our entire system will collapse in upon itself. After all, where does the money come from to pay for public education? TAXES.

If these youngsters don't have jobs, they aren't going to be paying taxes, which means there will be less and less money for public education and everything else funded by our tax dollars.

The educational bureaucracy in this country has focused upon just about everything else besides students becoming productive members of society. We constantly hear that education is improving, yet the preparation rates, those ratios of students who are prepared to further their educations or go out and get a job, are abysmal. The highest preparation rate in Knox County is 40% at Farragut High School; the lowest is at Austin-East, which is a dismal 3%. Think about

that for a moment. Only 3% of the youngsters at Austin-East are prepared to further their educations or go out and get a job. Sixty percent of the students at Farragut are not prepared to go out and get a job or further their educations.

What difference does it make, ultimately, if every student in the Knox County school system emerges with a high school diploma if he or she cannot go to college or get a job? To my mind, that is a complete failure of the entire system. Unfortunately, we've reached a point where the thinking of the educational bureaucracy in this country is emphasizing the wrong thing. The goal is no longer to prepare children for the future and there is something profoundly wrong about that.

Like much else in this country, the present system cannot sustain itself, but the results will be catastrophic to our overall society. If these youngsters

aren't out being productive, do they become wards of the state? Just how many wards can we afford? Who will be paying social security taxes so the seniors can receive their monthly checks? Who will be paying the freight for Obamacare? Theories are just that; they are not realities. The reality may be quite different than what we actually need.

It's time for our local system to work harder to emphasize preparation. Let teachers do their jobs and teach. If teachers are merely expected to teach students to pass the next test, are the students really learning anything worthwhile? They certainly aren't being prepared for the future.

Obviously, if students aren't prepared for the future, the future is suddenly not so bright anymore and that will affect every last man, woman and child in this country for decades to come.



In Loving Memory

BARNHILL, KATHRYN (NANAW) - born May 7, 1922, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, at the age of 91.

Mrs. Barnhill was a loving mother, grandmother and friend. She dedicated her life to God, her family, and the community. Mrs. Barnhill served on the Knox County School Board for many years and was past president of the Southern Railway Ladies Auxiliary. She was a very active and loyal member of the Republican Party and a friend to all. Mrs. Barnhill was someone you could count on in a time of need.

Preceded in death by her husband, Delbert L. Barnhill, Sr.; father, Titus Sharp; mother, Anne Coward and step-father, William Coward. Survived by her children, Larry (Libby) Barnhill, Bill (Michelle) Barnhill and Ann (Gary) Orr; seven grandchildren and spouses; 12 great grandchildren and spouses; plus several step-great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. Special thanks to caregivers Dee Dee and Cleve Miller, Jimmy Miller, Anita and Stan Sellers, and all of the caregivers at Kindred Fairpark Nursing and Rehab in Maryville.

Westland Cove wins and loses

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In a long and sometimes confusing and contentious meeting of the Knox County Board of Zoning and Appeals, the large Westland Knoxville apartment development known as Westland Cove received approval for most of the project, but the marina and dry-dock facility was turned down.

The meeting began with the board putting off the Westland Cove hearing until the end of their meeting.

After hearing from Tazewell residents the board postponed a hearing for 30 days on a parking stall reduction request by Neyland Apartment Associates

to give residents near the complex time to meet with the developers.

Neighborhood home owners near the proposed Westland Cove development were appealing decisions by the Metropolitan Planning Commission's Use on Review approval. The MPC, County Commission, and the Use on Review all approved the large development at 909 Emory Church Road for a 312 apartment development, 75 dock slips, 141 dry storage stalls, a marina, and three detached residential lots. Two appeals of the approval, from Wayne Cline and Michael and Sherry Whitaker, were combined into one hearing.

The hearing began with attorney John King, representing developer John Huber, asking that BZA chairman John Schoonmaker reclude himself because lived in the area and was opposed to the project. Schoonmaker said he was a member of the local neighborhood association but had not taken part in any actions or spoken privately or publicly about the project.

"I never make a predetermined decision. I will not step aside and I'm voting," he said.

King then questioned the literature handed out by the development's opponents, saying they had been passed out too late to be

considered by the Board. It was quickly pointed out that King had also presented literature before the start of the meeting.

Wayne Kline, representing the opponents to the apartment complex, spoke to Board regarding the density of five units per acre, charging that the MPC had included a 17 acre "undevelopable" site in its calculations. He said that 154 total units would be more correct. He said the MPC approval was a "failure and a breach of policy."

Michael Whitaker, a Zola Lane resident, said the land there was a known area of caves and there was "no conservation easement" in

the plans. "They know the process, but nothing has been submitted," Whitaker said. He also said there is no public access in the plans and the conditions imposed have not been met.

Developer John Huber said the allegations of violation of the county's general plan were wrong and that the plan is "advisory in nature." He also said that "Class A apartments do not decrease property values" and pointed to Sequoyah Hills as an example.

The BZA moved to divide the appeals discussion into two sections: the marina and the apartment complex. After hearing advice

from the board's law director, the board voted to approve the appeal and prohibit the marina in a 5 to 3 decision.

The apartment development then came to a vote and passed on a 5-3 vote after King warned the board, "I've got a client with a humongous amount of money and time in this. You'll kill the project."

The final vote was on a motion to agree with the appeals but it failed, leaving the development in place without a marina. The only option now for opponents of the development is to take the matter to Chancellery Court.

County Sales Tax Collection Down in December

Cont. from page 2
Amazon internet taxes the

state now requires purchasers to pay, which started on January 1st. "Let's assume it is 9.2%. I don't expect the state to break that down by county," he said, explaining that the state will probably pro-rate it across the state.

Asked what will happen if the state is indeed correct on its calculation of collected sales tax collected in December, Caldwell said, "We'll have to adjust."

He also said that the city, not the county, is the main recipient of the Amusement and Hotel Taxes, saying that the county only gets about \$150,000 per year, or 1/2 of one percent. He mentioned that the University of Tennessee wants to abolish the tax but said they should talk to the city.

"They get the bulk of it," he said.

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Get Competitive for a Good Cause

Cont. from page 1

others. "We have been very fortunate to work with folks in the community and work with media partners," Misty Brown, Director of Development, Covenant Health Office of Philanthropy, said.

"Hallerin Hilton Hill brings his own table tennis paddle," she said.

In addition to the money raised from the tickets, there are about 30-35 auction items for sale, all benefitting the Thompson Cares Fund. Some of the items are Dixie Stampede tickets, Ripley's Aquarium Admission, and framed autographs from former Tennessee football player Justin Hunter, store co-owner Lisa Mellon said.

Mellon said she goes to the Thompson Care Survival Center for injections to keep her blood platelet level up. In going there, and getting close to the people, and seeing the struggles there, "I just had a desire to want to do something," she said about the idea for a fundraiser. She and her husband came up with the idea for the Game On fundraiser three years ago and presented it to people at Thompson, and they loved the idea.

Brown said they raised more than \$40,000 for the Thompson Cancer Survival Center last year and hopes to raise \$50,000 this year. Sometimes the funds go to transportation for patients to get to

the center; sometimes the funds go for help with groceries or utilities. The funds meet whatever basic needs there are.

"That's what this program (Thompson Cares Fund) is there to do, provide some assistance with your basic everyday expenses," Brown said. "You never know when something is gonna happen that is going to, just knock you for a loop, cancer is definitely one of those," Brown added.

"If you find yourself going through treatment and maybe some other unexpected expense comes out, this program has been great to be able to assist our patients through a difficult time, and hopefully make that a little bit easier for them to manage," Brown emphasized.

"It is absolutely amazing to me how upbeat all the patients are, knowing what everyone is going through," Mellon said. "Compassion is huge over there, and I think that's what helps the patients get through stuff," she continued.

"Thompson Cares is close to my heart," Brown said. "We're able to touch the lives of those who get diagnosed. Thompson Cares is here to fill that gap (financial) for patients."

Admission tickets are \$50. Call (865) 541-1227 or email Misty Brown at mbrown@covhlt.com to purchase tickets.

By David Klein

Brenda Cox is not going to let cancer interfere with living her life. "Just cause I have cancer, I'm not gonna give up," she declared in an interview with the Knoxville Focus. She cooks for her and her son Larry when he comes home from work, cleans house, does gardening in her yard, and lives about as normal as anyone else. "My son (Larry) has been my biggest support," she said.

Cox said she was first diagnosed with breast cancer almost eight years ago at Blount Memorial Hospital. After treatments were successful, and after being cancer free for four to five years, she fell nearly two years ago in her front yard while gardening. She thought she was having a stroke. Her neighbor helped her up, and her sister drove her to Fort Sanders ER. She discovered the cancer had come back.

Her cancer is rare and is called adenoid cystic carcinoma. When it was first diagnosed eight years ago, she said it was only the third case anyone had heard of in 30 years. The cancer has spread to her brain, lungs, ribs, spine, and hip.

She said the cancer is hardest for her to deal with in the hip. She had to go to an orthopedic doctor and have three rods put in her hip. "I'm doing good. I've got a little limp, but I'm doing alright," she said. "This has been the hardest I think, because it affected my mobility getting around."

Dr. Joseph Meyer is her radiation oncologist doctor, and just finished 15 straight days of radiation treatments. She goes back March 20 for an MRI and a CT scan to check how she responded to her radiation treatments and to see if more treatments are needed. Dr. Richard Grapski is her medical oncologist and handles her chemotherapy treatment.

"You get tired," she said, from the treatments. She said many times she hasn't had an

appetite, but, "they want you to eat. You have a tendency to lose a few pounds," Cox added.

She said one of the social workers, Becca, has been a big help to her. She said the Thompson Care Survival Center staff has been a huge help to her and paid her electric bill one month and made boxes of food at Thanksgiving for patients.

One of Cox's biggest loves is going to Knoxville Ice Bears hockey games. She started going to games 13 years ago and visited with the hockey players at that time. She started bringing snacks such as pickles, bananas, cookies, to aid with their recovery and rehydration after the games. "They like the white chocolate macademia nut." She also started making meals for them.

"They all come up and holler at me before the game, they all come up and give me hugs and kisses," she said of the players. "I go to my hockey games," she emphasized. "I don't sit at home and feel sorry for myself."

Besides going to the hockey games, Cox said her other great joy is her Blue Tick Hound named Blue. She got him when he was six months old. "He's my baby," she said. "Everybody that sees him wants him," she added.

Cox said she wasn't sure what she would do without him. She says when she comes in from outside, Blue will come and sit down in front of her and grab her hand with his paw. She tells everyone that Blue follows her wherever she goes.

"I'm just thankful every morning when I get up, little Blue gets up and we just go on."

She said her son has a place down in Big South Fork. She has been there to visit him and said that she and Blue have come across a black bear on the back porch. "We walked out on the porch and there was a big 350 pound bear on the porch." She said that they

backed up slowly and went inside.

On another bear encounter in Big South Fork she said, "We heard a racket one night." A bear was eating Honeybuns out of the microwave. "We just let him have it," she added.

Cox said she believes God has a plan for her. "I guess the good Lord knows what's best for us. He's let me live here almost two years. He's led me here for a reason; He's got something else He wants me to do."

For advice to people who discover they have been diagnosed, she said, "you've got to keep going, don't give up, you've got to try to fight."

"I don't know what the good Lord has planned for me, but apparently there's some plan somewhere cause I'm still here, she said. "I just take a day at a time."

"As long as I'm able to walk and still in my right mind, to go do what I wanna do, I'm going to go do it. As long as I can, I'm going to."

CORRECTION

In a recent City Council story the appeal by neighbors of a Day Care being operated in a private home was actually passed. The council voted to overturn a Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) recommendation of approval of the home at 5711 Green Valley Drive by Jacoyia Wakefield.

The vote was 8 to 1 to approve the appeal and deny the operation following a long discussion. Speaking on behalf of the appeal (and denial of the Day Care) were Sandra Woodland, Sharon David and Brenda Brooks. Speaking on behalf of the Day Care and MPC recommendation were Ms. Wakefield, Carol Cook, Jr., and David Hicks.

Councilman Daniel Brown was the lone vote to approve the MPC recommendation.

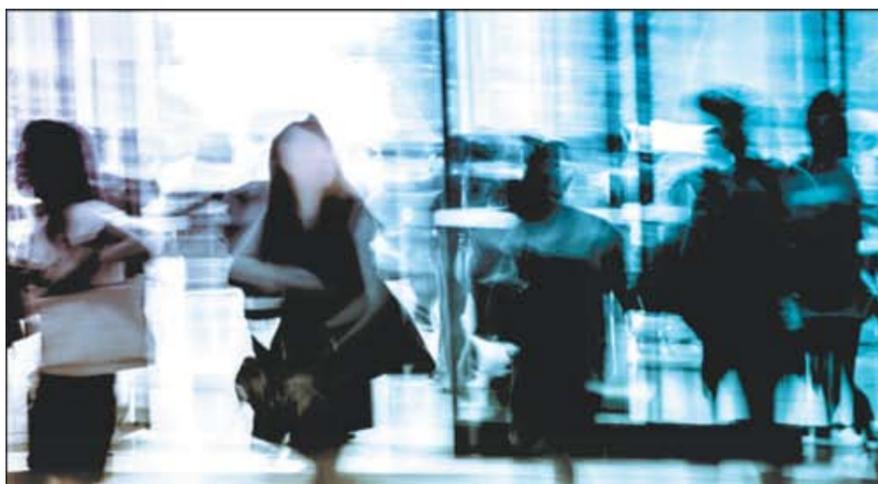
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Our Neighborhoods

SOUTH KNOXVILLE

Island Home, Ijams, Colonial Village

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

As The Focus continues our series about the neighborhoods in Knox County, we return to South Knoxville. The area "across the river" is so large and diverse that any glimpse at that vital part of our county can take several articles. This week we look at the Island Home neighborhood, including Ijams's Nature Center and neighborhoods along Chapman Highway.

The Henley Street bridge is open! All four lanes!

Last week's lane openings opens South Knoxville to direct access for everyone and means that Chapman Highway businesses might resume their normal commerce as the state removes the Interstate and downtown detour signs. The closing had affected commuters coming to work in downtown Knoxville, travelers to the Smoky Mountains, and anyone that normally uses that busy route.

South Knoxville is a vital part of Knoxville and Knox County. Bridges linked the section to the city and the rest of the county in the years following the Civil War and many residents commute from there to their jobs. Many other Knox County residents shop in the Southern part of their county or visit the various parks, Civil War sites and greenways there. South Knoxville began becoming part of the city in 1917.

The area Neighborhood Associations care for their area, sponsor events, and cooperate with local businesses to support commerce there. John Sevier, our state's forefather, lived there, as did Sam Houston, the Tennessee and Texas governor.

Many people, because of the previous re-routing of traffic onto James White Parkway, got to see some neighborhoods they normally would not, including Island Home and the Ijams Nature Center.

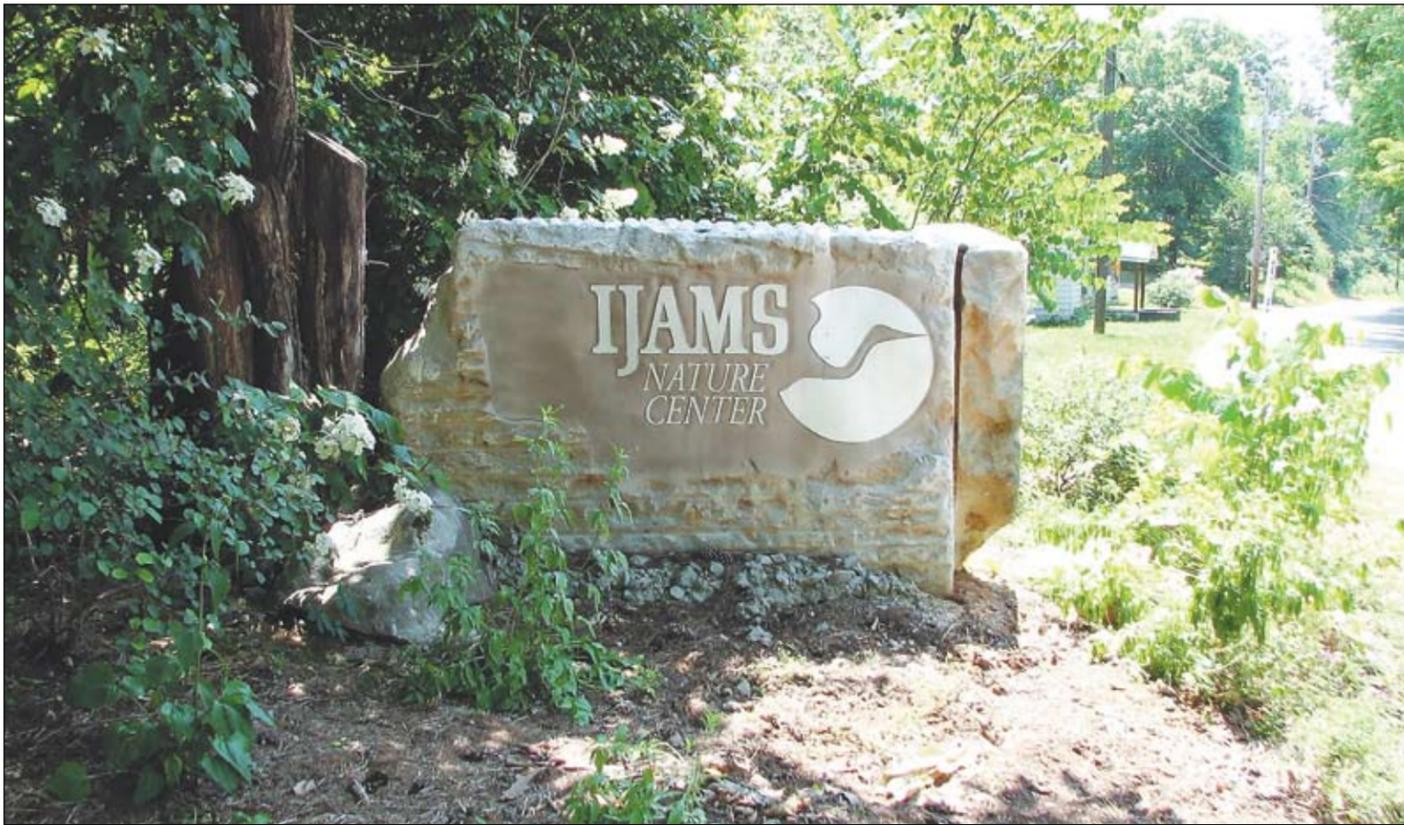


PHOTO BY ROBERT RHODES.

Ijams Nature Center offers 300 acres of protected wildlife habitat and natural areas and is only three miles from downtown Knoxville.

ISLAND HOME

The Island Home neighborhood is a historic area that predates the inclusion of South Knoxville into the city and began as a summer cottage and retreat for Knoxville businessman and educator Perez Dickerson. He owned the land there, including Williams Island where the Island Home Airport is now located. His home still stands on the grounds of the Tennessee School for the Deaf next to the neighborhood and the Dickerson home is now the residence of the school superintendent.

The Tennessee School for the Deaf began in 1844 and, today, is a state operated facility for pre-Kindergarten through 12 grade children who are deaf or hearing impaired. It's on the National Register of Historic Places and the school has many honors, including those of its various sports programs.

With the completion of the Gay Street Bridge came the trolley line and you can still see the rounded curb there in the medium along Island Home Boulevard. The trolley and the bridge spurred the single family homes that were constructed starting in the early 1900's. Today Island Home has many historic bungalow and craftsman type homes, some with cobblestone foundations, columns, and porch posts found nowhere else in the area.

As Island Home developed the Knoxville Trolley ran through the community. The old tracks followed the medium along the street and you can still see the rounded curbs built along the long abandoned line.

"We try to keep our neighborhood vibrant and alive," said Jim Staub, President of the Island Home Park Neighborhood Association. We have events like the Easter Egg Hunt in Island Home Park, and the Covenant Marathon passes through our neighborhood."

Staub said he's lived in Island Home for 6 years in a house once owned by his wife's aunt and uncle. Many residents have lived there for generations and today's population includes both younger professionals and retirees. The South Waterfront Project begins at the entrance to Island Home and extends down the river to beyond the Henley Street Bridge.

He said the neighborhood has a relationship with the Tennessee School for the Deaf and occasionally uses those facilities for meetings. Each year the association presents a student selected by the school with a gift and a plaque.

The Island Home Park neighborhood borders the historic Tennessee School for the Deaf,

The Island Home Park and Will Skelton Greenway stretch along the Tennessee River along the north part of the neighborhood and features tennis, a playground, canoe launch, picnicking, a ball field, and scenic views.

IJAMS NATURE CENTER

Ijams Nature Center is nearby and offers about 100 acres of Urban Wilderness for hiking, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing, bird and wildlife watching. The nature preserve was founded more than 100 years ago by the Ijams family and, in the 1960s, was acquired through the efforts of the Knoxville Garden Club, the Knox County Council of Garden Clubs, and the City of Knoxville. It has a museum store and the greenway connects to the Forks of the River greenway. Two quarries there, the Mead Quarry and the Ross Marble Quarry, have been approved by the state for submission to be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The center began as a bird sanctuary by Harry Ijams and his wife Alice Yoe Ijams. Both were nature lovers and supporters of regional Girl Scout groups. Ijams is the third most popular destination in Knoxville and the paved and unpaved trails take you through both sides of the outdoor park.

At Ross Quarry you can explore the old marble facility, walk through the "Key Hole" and climb on top for the view. You can visit the 25 acre lake at Mead's Quarry. Haywood Hollow features bluffs, sheer rock walls and a gorge.

Ijams has trails leading from the Museum and Gift Shop that wind across the hill either way and down to the boardwalk along the Tennessee River. Jo's Grove is a playscape designed just for children, where they can play and explore nature.

The 1910 home of the Ijams family is part of the park and includes 16 acres where you'll find the Serendipity and Discovery Trails.

March is Hike-A-Than time at Ijams and you can register as a single or team hiking group and help raise funds for environmental and historical resources at Ijams. The special event kicks off March 1st and runs through March 29th. Interested hikers should contact Jill Sblett at 577-4717 ext. 123 or email her at jsblett@ijams.org.

COLONIAL VILLAGE

This South Knox neighborhood started about 1940 on part of what had been the McCall family farm. Colonial Village has grown to include a community with four churches and an elementary school.

"We've adopted Mooreland Heights Elementary School and help raise money for their Safety Patrol's annual trip to Washington," said Terry Caruthers of the Colonial Village Neighborhood Association. She said the neighborhood is made up of 13 subdivisions and 99.5% of the houses are single family homes and 75% are owner occupied.

"The Association was formed in 2002 and we've accomplished several things, including getting the speed on Chapman Highway

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

As Island Home developed the Knoxville Trolley ran through the community. The old tracks followed the medium along the street and you can still see the rounded curbs built along the long abandoned line.

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Our Neighborhoods

SOUTH KNOXVILLE

Continued from page 1

down to 45 miles per hour," she said. They have also created traffic calming and a neighborhood welcome sign at the main entrance.

"Our only fund raiser is our dues," she said, adding that their Association meets every second Thursday of each month and the next meeting is March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Church of God's Fellowship Hall. A Knoxville police liaison officer meets with the association.

"They've been really nice about letting us meet there," Caruthers said. "We're trying to get a new focus, new officers, and new energy," she said.

SOUTH KNOXVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUSINESS GROUPS

The South Knoxville Neighborhood and Business Coalition (SKNBC) is a loose association of businesses and neighborhoods in the area that supports and promotes educational, recreational, cultural and economic assets of the area. It encourages and mentors new South Knoxville neighborhoods and promotes positive relationships between the area and city, county and state governments.

SKNBC also encourages active participation by area residents and businesses in addressing issues affecting them.

Member organizations include the Colonial Village, Island Home Park, Lake Forest, Montgomery Village, Old Sevier, South Woodlawn, and Southside Riverfront Associations as well as the South Knoxville Alliance.

Each of the neighborhood organizations select two members to the SKNBC, which meets monthly, along with two business representatives from the South Knoxville Business Alliance, Monty Stanley of Stanley's Greenhouse and Antoinette Fritz of



Myrtle's Mess Antiques.

"We're really excited," Monty Stanley said, referring to the Henley Bridge opening. "So much has happened downtown and we hope to tap into that market." Stanley added that there may be new businesses opening on Chapman Highway and the Urban Wilderness in the area should help also.

The South Knoxville Business Alliance's goal is to "strengthen our unique district by sharing our hidden treasures." Recent events included a trash clean-up at Fort Dickerson Park. About 40 businesses make up the alliance.

"We're trying to get our feet on the ground," Stanley said of the Alliance.

The next meeting is March 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Labor Exchange (next door to Disc Exchange). You can find the organization at "ktownsouth.org."

SEYMOUR, BLOUNT COUNTY

While not officially part of "South Knoxville" or South Knox County, our southern neighbors of Blount and Sevier Counties are served by Chapman Highway and are unofficially part of our

tour. Knoxville residents know that taking the route is often the quickest way to reach the Smoky Mountains and all the attractions there, but there are places along the way that are interesting and worth seeing.

Seymour is unincorporated but considering becoming a town and is the main community in Blount County between Knoxville and Sevierville. Part of the community is in Sevier County and Seymour is growing quickly and becoming a shopping hub for South Knox and Eastern Blount County.

Blount is named for William Blount, the first and only governor of the Southwest Territory and a later Tennessee Senator.

Blount County is also the home of the Sam Houston School House, located between Seymour and Maryville, and the Boyd's Creek Community, site of a bloody battle between territorial militia and the Chickamauga Cherokee prior to statehood.

The full opening of the Henley Street Bridge now links the entire South Knox area to exploration and travel.

SOUTH WOODLAWN NEIGHBORHOOD

The South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association has become the first and only community in Tennessee to be recognized as a Community Wildlife Habitat. The Association President, Janice Tocher, told *The Focus* that the certification is issued by the National Wildlife Federation for communities that strive to protect water resources, preserve green landscapes, restore habitats, and improved the lives of their residents.

Tocher said the Association felt the project, which took 18 months to complete, was a good way for neighbors in the South Knoxville community to connect with each other and connect with the environment.

The community came together to clean up Baker Creek, label native plants, and participate in the "Vestival" celebration with an information booth and information on wildlife habitats.

Volunteers also started a Facebook group, designed and printed brochures provided a natural plant list and worked with local media for stories about the project.

The South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association also worked with South-Doyle Middle School to create an outdoor classroom, thanks to a \$30,000 DowGives Community Grant and local fund raisers. The large amphitheater seats 100 students and overlooks Bakers Creek. Students work with Americare Volunteers on water quality and ecology. The amphitheater is also available for community use and several elementary schools supported the effort to get the grant.

Grants from TVA and funds from Vice Mayor Nick Pavlis and Commissioner Mike Brown also helped.

Tocher is the neighborhood's representative to the South Knoxville Neighborhood and Business Association and president of Avera Media Corporation. The neighborhood association meets March 24th at the Woodlawn Christian Church, 4349 Woodlawn Pike.

A lesson in selling beer to a minor

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Say someone comes in to your store when you are really busy. Everything is going quickly at the cash register and a young adult carries two tall Budweiser beers up. You ask them for an ID and it looks alright, so you take their cash and go on with your business.

Next thing you know you're in front of the county beer board accused of selling beer to a minor. What do you do?

Obviously you should tell the truth and explain why the mistake was made. What happens

then?

Last week's Beer Board meeting saw one business after another appear before the Knox County Commission and plead their case. In some cases it was an employee or manager who sold to minors and in two cases it was the store owners. The fines ranged from \$500 to \$1,000, depending on if the sales were the first or second offence over a two-year period. In all cases, the owners opted for the fine rather than a 30-day suspension of their permit.

Two owners told the commissioners that they pay a bonus to

clerks who successfully withhold sales of beer and are later notified of the "sting." In one case it was a \$50 bonus and in another it was \$200. The stores never know when their stores will be visited and, in a recent "sting," more than 17 stores were visited during the one-day operation.

In all cases, the sheriff's department was called on and explained the incidents. In most cases the problem was that the ID was not read properly by a computer or the clerk misread the ID. The Alcoholic Beverage Commission also does "stings" for the state and often has

underage criminal justice students make the purchases.

One store owner said she has been in business more than eight years without a violation and that any clerk caught selling to a minor would be fired.

Tennessee drivers licenses issued to anyone 16 to 20 years of age will have a red line next to the driver's photo with the date of their 21st birthday imprinted in bold. The difficulty that can arise is that if a driver renews their license at age 20, the red line will appear until they renew two years later, which means the store has to calculate the date.

Several companies manufacture age verification systems that should show the license as valid or not for beer purchase, but some store owners say the systems don't all work well.

Stores caught in a "sting" and being fined by the commission have seven days to pay their fines at the County Clerk's office.

In all cases, the same brand of beer was being purchased during the "sting" and one commissioner suggested that the stores be suspicious of any younger person "buying Bud."

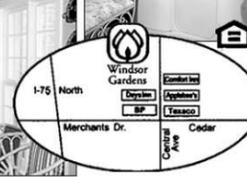
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The Greatest Campaigner of Them All: Senator Estes Kefauver Part Eight

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

The publicity generated by the Kefauver Committee investigating crime had elevated Tennessee's Senator Estes Kefauver into the limelight. It was one of the first Congressional hearings to be broadcast live over television and some twenty or thirty million Americans had been glued to their screens to watch a literal rogue's gallery testify. As often as not, many unhappy witnesses simply rested on their Fifth Amendment rights.

Harry Truman had come to office following the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The little man from Missouri seemed smaller still while trying on the shoes left empty by FDR. He served nearly all of Roosevelt's fourth term and to the surprise of everyone save for himself, Truman won a term in his own right in 1948. By 1952, the United States was at war again, fighting a bloody conflict in Korea. Truman's popularity plummeted even further when he recalled General Douglas MacArthur following the American Caesar's loose tongue, criticisms of the Truman Administration, and frequent willingness to ignore orders.

Following a visit to his son in the nation's Capitol, a beaming Cooke Kefauver told eager newsmen that "it looks like his friends are running him."

It wasn't long before a Kefauver for President Club was opened in Tennessee. A national headquarters was open before the close of 1951 in Washington's Willard Hotel. Still, President Truman had not stated his own intentions and he was eligible to run again in 1952. Truman, like Senator McKellar, had been heard referring to Kefauver as "Senator Cowfever".

Finally Kefauver paid a call on President Truman at the White House and stated the obvious; he was considering running for the Democratic nomination, but pledged he would not run if Truman wished to run again. The President was noncommittal, but Senator Kefauver may have heard what he wished to hear; he thought Truman had given him to go-ahead to run.

Estes Kefauver announced he would be a candidate on January 23, 1952. Almost at once, the national media speculated President Truman's reaction to Kefauver's announcement would be anything but warm. The campaign, despite reports to the contrary, was usually strapped for cash. The Kefauver national headquarters quickly departed from the expensive Willard Hotel to the older, run-down, but far less costly

Raleigh Hotel.

The Kefauver campaign selected Gael Sullivan as the nominal chairman of the presidential effort. Charles Neese, formerly Kefauver's Administrative Assistant, was quoted by Kefauver's biographer Charles Fontenay as describing the selection of Sullivan as "the biggest mistake since the South lost the Civil War." Sullivan apparently paid little attention to helping Kefauver win delegates to the Democratic convention, despite having extensive contacts throughout the party. Neese said Sullivan was "an egotist who never did get to the hard realities."

Evidently Charlie Neese counseled Kefauver against running in the New Hampshire primary, but the senator disregarded his advice and campaigned hard in the Granite State. Virtually every respectable Democrat in New Hampshire had already been corralled to run as a delegation supporting President Truman. The president scoffed about presidential primaries and indicated he could easily have the Democratic nomination in the event he wanted it. Truman considered having his name removed from the ballot, but New Hampshire Democrats squalled they might lose the state organization were he to do so. Senator Kefauver was apparently feeling his oats and made a comment that he believed he could defeat the president for the Democratic nomination. Finally, President Truman said he would let his name stay on the ballot.

Kefauver became a familiar sight to New Hampshire residents as he trudged through the snow, offering his hand to one and all. Some reporters clearly thought the tall Tennessean was slightly mad to think he could win in New Hampshire merely from moving from one spot to another and shaking hands with folks. Kefauver would stick out his hand to a startled prospective voter, introduce himself and ask for his or her help. Mrs. Kefauver or a staff member would be nearby, busy writing down the voter's name so that a letter could be sent out the next day.

The state organization and most of organized labor worked hard for Harry Truman, who was away at his retreat in Key West, Florida, completely unconcerned. Former senator Scott Lucas of Illinois did travel to New Hampshire to make a couple of speeches on behalf of Truman.

The conventional wisdom was that President



Senator Estes Kefauver greets a friend

Truman would easily prevail, perhaps by as much as a 3-1 margin. Senator Kefauver, as is usually the case with candidates, forecast victory. Kefauver was right and he won fifty-five percent of the vote, stunning the nation and most professional political prognosticators.

Harry Truman soon made official his intention to retire at the end of his term.

Estes Kefauver went onto Wisconsin and Nebraska, repeating his personal campaign style in both states. He crushed his opposition in Wisconsin and faced Oklahoma U. S. senator Robert Kerr in Nebraska. Kerr charged Kefauver was the beneficiary of ample campaign funds spent on his behalf in the Cornhusker State and Kefauver retorted the millionaire Kerr was the pawn of "vested interests", namely oil and gas. Tennessee's governor, Gordon Browning, left Nashville to campaign for his friend Estes Kefauver in Nebraska. Browning was facing a serious challenge to his own reelection from young Frank Clement and his support for Kefauver would cause him serious political problems at home before the contest was over.

Kefauver won in Nebraska, as well as Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania, but often-times the primaries did not bind the delegates to support the winner of the primary. While Estes Kefauver was winning primaries, state nominating conventions were being held in other states and the Kefauver campaign had done little or nothing to win delegates in those contests. After winning nine primary contests, Kefauver had tallied 1,253,578 votes while all of his opponents combined

totaled only about 327,000 votes. Yet despite the flood of votes he had won, Kefauver only had 54 delegates pledged to vote for him at the convention.

Senator Kefauver entered yet another primary against the advice of his staff and friends, running in Florida where he faced the formidable Richard Russell. Russell represented Georgia in the United States Senate and was well known in Florida and one of the most highly respected figures in Congress.

Like Scott Lucas, Governor Fuller Warren was still smoldering over the Kefauver hearings and would throw the full weight of his administration against the Tennessee senator.

The strategies of the Russell and Kefauver campaigns for the Florida campaign were a bit odd; Kefauver hoped to demonstrate his popularity in the South, while Russell, the acknowledged leader of the Southern bloc in Congress, hoped to demonstrate that his appeal as a presidential candidate was not limited to the South, as Florida was somehow a more metropolitan state.

Every member of Florida's Congressional delegation hit the campaign trail for Russell and as Senator Kefauver's advisors had predicted, Governor Warren was strongly for Russell. Governor Herman Talmadge of Georgia visited Florida to stump for Senator Russell where he was popular, especially in the northern part of the state.

Kefauver was endorsed by a single statewide official and had to rely on Illinois Senator Paul Douglas to campaign for him. Former U. S. senator Claude Pepper, defeated in 1950 in a vitriolic campaign and denounced as

the "Red Pepper", campaigned for Kefauver during the last days of the hard fought Florida primary.

The two candidates met in debate on the eve of the election and exchanged verbal blows. Richard Russell won a decisive victory, winning 367,980 votes to Kefauver's 285,358 votes. Once again, the primary results were non-binding and Estes Kefauver won five out of twenty-four delegates in Florida.

Kefauver went to Ohio where he faced opposition from the Democratic machine in the state. A slate of delegates pledged to favorite son candidate Robert J. Bulkley opposed those pledged to Kefauver. Bulkley was a former member of the United States Senate, having been defeated in 1938 by Robert A. Taft. Senator Kefauver won a smashing victory in Ohio, stunning in its magnitude. Winning 2,209,212 votes against the Bulkley slate's 1,285,863 votes, quite nearly every well known establishment Democrat in the state went down to defeat at the hands of the Kefauver delegates. Still, the Kefauver campaign had only managed to field 34 delegates, 31 of whom were elected, out of 54 delegate slots.

Kefauver won the California primary by again defeating a favorite son candidate, this time state Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, later the

governor of California and the father of California's current governor.

Estes Kefauver had demonstrated considerable vote-getting ability; certainly more so than any other potential candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. According to his biographer, Charles Fontenay, Kefauver later mused he should have made a clean break with the Truman administration, as it would have cost him nothing politically.

While the Kefauver campaign operation was quite effective at winning votes, it was down right inept at gathering delegates and only delegates can vote in nominating conventions.

As Estes Kefauver headed for the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, several other candidates loomed in the wings, most notably Vice President Alben W. Barkley and Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson. Neither had subjected himself to the fire of the primary contests, but both could present a real obstacle to Estes Kefauver actually winning the nomination.

A weary Senator Kefauver had lost weight during his presidential campaign, but told reporters he looked forward to going home to Tennessee and assured them, "after a few meals of black-eyed peas and Tennessee country ham, I expect to pick up all the weight I've lost."

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From State Representative Harry Brooks

This week I want to talk about a few issues going through various stages of the House of Representatives.

Landmark legislation designed to reform Tennessee's outdated annexation laws passed the Tennessee House of Representatives on Monday with an overwhelming 78-8 vote.

As passed, the bill gives a voice to citizens across the state, allowing communities to cast a decisive yes or no vote when a city attempts to annex their property. House lawmakers fully believe the legislation will lead to

more fair and efficient annexation proceedings.

For years, legislators have been trying to change Tennessee's abusive and antiquated annexation laws. With the passage of House Bill 590, this year's group of lawmakers becomes the first in decades to achieve substantial annexation reform for the state.

Now that the House has passed the legislation, the bill awaits action in the State Senate. If passed there, the bill is anticipated to be signed by Governor Bill Haslam into law.

Prevention of in-home sexual abuse to be heard in House

Legislation focused on preventing in-home sexual abuse passed out of the House Education Subcommittee this week with unanimous support from state lawmakers.

The purpose of the bill, known as Erin's Law, is to encourage schools across the state to provide age-appropriate instruction to kids on personal body safety and how to report sexual abuse, with a specific focus on occurrences that could potentially happen in the home. The

bill is named after Erin Merryn, an Illinois native who was sexually abused as a child. Merryn now fully dedicates her time to getting the law passed in all fifty states.

The legislation is scheduled to next be heard in the full House Education Committee on Tuesday, March 4th at 12:00 p.m. with Erin Merryn scheduled to testify before the committee about her own experiences and reasons why this law is necessary.

"Growing up in Illinois, I was always taught in school about tornado drills, bus drills, fire drills, and stranger danger," Merryn said. "But the one message I wasn't being taught was how to speak up and tell if I was being sexually abused."

In 2012, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation reported there were 3,508 child sexual abuse cases reported across the state. However, the United States Department of Justice indicates that child sexual abuse is under-reported in about 60% of cases, meaning the actual number of abuse cases in Tennessee is most likely much higher.

Because of these statistics, proponents argue sexual abuse prevention programs need to

be implemented to raise awareness and help prevent child sexual abuse within Tennessee communities.

Proposed bill would return bridge construction money to counties

House lawmakers this week announced support for legislation that will aid in returning millions of dollars to taxpayers in the form of bridge infrastructure improvements to counties across the state.

The bill, which changes the way the state currently manages its State Aid Bridge Grant Program, will allow bridge funding set aside by the state to now be used by communities in the form of direct expenditures to upgrade, repair, and rehabilitate bridges that have fallen in disrepair over the years.

Currently, in order to receive funding through the Bridge Grant Program, a 20% local match must be made. However, because many local governments cannot afford the match, a large percentage of the bridge funding set aside by the state has gone unused.

The legislation pushed by House lawmakers reduces this local match percentage to only 2%, ensuring local governments can now afford the grant funding and are not burdened by excessive infrastructure expenses.

Lawmakers argue the legislation simply unlocks local money that has been sitting unused for a number of years to help aid communities with important bridge infrastructure projects and upgrades. In addition, while the 2% match can be paid using direct funding, the bill also allows municipalities to match the rate using in-kind services, allowing local road departments to invest sweat equity to satisfy the program's requirements instead of our tax dollars.

The bill will be heard by the full House next week.

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.

Disability Review

As most of my friends and family already know, I'm a "Judge Judy" fan. Yes, she sometimes makes arbitrary decisions that go against ones she's made in the past, but

that's okay. Anyone who is also lacking in intelligence that he or she airs disputes on national television in front of millions of viewers deserves whatever comes.

What I've noticed of late is that lots of folks are drawing disability checks from the federal government. The ones I'm talking about are young people who look much healthier than many people in this country. One female on the show just the other night stated that she received a disability check because her ability to work was limited because of asthma. Now, this same woman had a seven year old and a two week old child. Evidently, her asthma didn't restrict all activities.

Please don't get me wrong. I believe that some folks are entitled to disability compensation. One of my uncles had a bad heart and had suffered



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

heart attacks and congestive heart failure. He applied for disability benefits but was denied several times before finally proving his need. Somehow that doesn't

seem right. One man who can't work because he has a life-threatening condition fails to convince the federal government of his need; another young person who is 23 years old and has two children draws benefits as the result of a serious, but manageable condition.

According to the Social Security website, a whopping 8.9 million people receive disability payouts. Another report puts the number at 14 million. The average check is \$1129.00 a month. Overall, \$10 BILLION goes to those who are disabled. The number one disability is back pain and other musculoskeletal problems. They account for 33.8% of the claims. As a side note, I've had one surgery for a herniated disc in my neck and another surgery for a spinal fusion. I live from day to day and wonder when the next disc will herniate enough to require

another incision. The fact is that I never received a dime of disability compensation, just like lots of others who would never think for a minute to hit up the government for money. After we heal, we return to work, even though sometimes the pain is almost unbearable.

If every one of these millions is truly disabled, I will be the first to demand that they be paid. It is our country's obligation as a compassionate people to make sure the weakest of all receive the care that is due. However, if individuals have scammed the system and pick up monthly checks, the government must cut off benefits and demand repayment of them.

What probably needs to happen is the review of all 8.9 million cases. Most of them can be taken care of in a matter of minutes. The others might require longer investigations, but reviewing cases and ferreting out cheaters can save millions, if not billions, of dollars that can then be directed to helping folks truly in need.

I'm not talking about SNAP benefits, WIC assistance, or anything else that provides food and

other basic necessities for people. No one will ever hear me say, "If they don't work, they don't eat." Such bull goes against the very Christian values by which we profess to live. No, I'm talking about ending the free rides for those individuals who scam the system and claim so-called disabilities keep them from working. Surely to goodness,

most of these back pain sufferers could find some kind of job where they can sit and work.

No one needs to call me callous because I question disability payments. I want those in need to receive what is needed. The others who cheat the system are the folks I want to have to work for their keep. Until that happens, all I can

say is "Go get 'em, Judge Judy."

Editor's Note: In Joe Rector's February 17 column, the headline was erroneously typed. The correct title should have been "Dal Gene." My sincerest apologies to Mr. Rector.

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Will Vols' struggles mean end for Cuonzo Martin?

By Alex Norman

The Southeastern Conference might be the gold standard in football, but in men's basketball it is lower than bronze.

With the exception of Florida, do you feel confident in any of these teams come NCAA tournament time?

The Gators will be a number one seed, and Kentucky, with their roster of 5-star recruits and over-rated coach (yes, I said it... come at me Wildcats fan-bro) will likely be seeded in the 4-5 range... but should any other SEC team get in?

The SEC is praying that a team not named Florida or Kentucky wins their upcoming tournament, securing that third spot in the field of 68.

Because I don't think any other team is deserving of the call otherwise... and that includes Tennessee.

And that is absolutely unacceptable.

Yes, 5-star freshman guard Robert Hubbs was lost for the season with a shoulder injury in December, and yes, senior forward Jeronne Maymon has apparently not fully recovered from a year off due to knee surgeries. He's put up good, but not great numbers.

But there is no reason why Tennessee should once again be fighting for a place at the table.

Vols head coach Cuonzo Martin is entering the Buzz Peterson zone. This is the zone where people don't want to fire him simply because he is a nice guy. That's the only reason. That isn't fair because Martin is a much better coach than Peterson ever was at Tennessee. But the results have not been there.

Time and time again the Vols have struggled in close games. Their 3-10 record in contests decided by 9 points or less is really hard to wrap your mind around.

Continue on page 3

Farragut girls capture elusive Region 2-AAA Title

By Ken Lay

An elusive Region 2-AAA girls basketball championship finally came for Farragut High School Wednesday night.

The Lady Admirals finally captured that coveted crown after four consecutive years of trying when they downed district rival Maryville 36-25 at FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

"It does feel good. For three years we lost in the region championship game and ending that with a win as a senior is great," Farragut senior forward Rebecca Jameson said. "We're really excited to get a home game [in the sectional round]. It's going to be a lot of fun."

The Lady Admirals (28-2) hosted Region



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Farragut senior center Mady Newby prepares to make a pass while Maryville's Preston Robinette defends in the Lady Admirals' win in the Region 2-AAA Championship Wednesday. Newby scored eight points in the 36-25 victory.

1-AAA runner-up Jefferson County Saturday night but results were unavailable at press time. Meanwhile, the Lady Rebels (25-7) played at Morristown West Saturday.

It seemed only fitting that Maryville and Farragut would play for a region title. The Lady Rebels and Lady Admirals split a pair of regular-season tilts with both teams winning on the road. The teams also shared the District 4-AAA regular-season title with 13-1 league records. The two teams, however, did not play in the district tournament as Bearden upset Maryville.

The Lady Rebels then dispatched the Lady Bulldogs in the regional semifinals on

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY TRACI GREENE

Carter High players hoist a region championship plaque for the first time in school history as head coach Joby Boydstone (left, foreground) shakes hands and receives congratulations. The Hornets defeated CAK 77-73 in the Region 2-AA finals.

REGION CROWN A BIRTHDAY 'PRESENT' FOR CARTER COACH

By Steve Williams

The singing of "Happy Birthday" broke out behind the Carter bench not long after the Hornets had captured their first-ever region basketball championship last Thursday night and it could be heard throughout the gym at Alcoa High School.

Whose birthday was it?

When asked about it in a post-game interview, following a 77-73 win over Christian Academy of Knoxville in the Region 2-AA finals, Carter Coach Joby Boydstone revealed it was actually his birthday.

"I'm 29 for the 29th time. That's my story and I'm stickin' with it," laughed the 58-year-old, who is in his first season at Carter after many successful years in Georgia.

Who was doing the singing?

"Some of those great Carter fans from that great Carter community," replied the coach.

They're hoping to do some more celebrating tonight (March 3) when the Hornets, 25-7 and winners of 13 in a row, host Unicoi County (26-7) in the TSSAA Class AA State Sectionals. CAK (21-12) travels to Greeneville (24-9), a

49-44 winner over Unicoi in the Region 1-AA finals.

Sectional winners advance to the Boys State tournament in Murfreesboro (March 12-15).

A team known for its offense, Carter wrapped up its third sectional win in school history with a last-possession defensive stand.

Charles Mitchell carried the Hornets, scoring 27 points, while some teammates had below-par outings. Although the star of the game, the senior lefty surprisingly didn't make the all-tournament team.

Continue on page 2

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Farragut girls capture elusive Region 2-AAA Title

Cont. from page 1

Monday, Feb. 24.

They wouldn't do the same to the Lady Admirals, who used a stifling defense. Farragut's defense played as it has all season. The stingy Lady Admirals held Maryville to just 10 first-half points.

Maryville's defense was nearly as stout as Farragut managed to score just 12 points (on three field goals) over the first 16 minutes. Maryville, which made just four shots from the floor during that stint, managed to keep things close by dominating the offensive glass. The Lady Rebels, however, didn't score many second half points. Leila Bangash was the only player to score a field goal after nabbing an offensive rebound.

"We couldn't rebound worth anything but we were fighting hard and Maryville was too," Farragut coach Jason Mayfield said. "This is great. Every win is special with these girls."

"Every game is special."

The Lady Admirals scored the first five points of the third quarter and opened a 17-10 lead when senior Mady Newby hit a lay-up with 6 minutes, 22 seconds remaining. Lady Rebels' coach Scott West then called time-out.

Bangash responded with a basket before Farragut went on another 6-0 run and blew things open when Jameson's bucket made it 23-12 midway through the frame.

Newby and Jameson, Farragut's two top post players took control of the game during the third quarter. Newby scored six of her eight points in the stanza while Jameson had four points in the

quarter.

Junior forward Kristen Freeman had a basket and Madison Maples, who led the Lady Admirals with 10 points, hit a free throw while Farragut was building its lead.

"This just felt so good," Newby said. "For three years, we've lost this game."

"This year, we knew this one was ours."

The Lady Admirals, however, had their share of anxious moments as the Lady Rebels closed the third with a modest 6-4 run.

Maryville was also hot to open the fourth stanza. The Lady Rebels scored the first five points of the final frame and pulled to within 27-23 on a 3-pointer from Kayla Tillie, who finished the game with 10 points and another deuce from Bangash with 5:39 remaining.

Maples, however, quickly restored order when she buried an open 3-point shot to make the score 30-23 with 4:57 left.

Anna Woodford then made it 32-23 with a basket midway through the frame before another hoop from Maples all but put things out of reach.

Olivia Pepperman scored Maryville's last points on a layup before Maples scored the final four points to add the finishing touches.

Maples said that the victory was some sweet revenge.

"They came in here two years ago and beat us and that was definitely part of our motivation," she said. "We play well as a team and we help each other."

"We play for each other and it really doesn't matter who scores."

Halls eager to return to baseball's elite

By Ken Lay

Halls High School's baseball team suffered through its first losing season in nearly three decades in 2013 and coach Doug Polston is eager to see his squad turn things around and recapture the team's past glory.

Polston, who opens his 26th season as the Red Devils' head coach, said his team made some progress when it played over the summer.

"We played together this summer and we had a good summer," Polston said. "Some kids showed some improvement and we'll have to get better from this point."

"Last year, we had our first losing season in 25 years at this school."

The Red Devils went 12-18 in 2013 and they'll look to erase the bitter memories from last season.

Returning starters

include: Jared Corvette (senior, center fielder); Jacob Watson (senior, right fielder); Logan McMahon (junior, left fielder); Clay Walker (senior, shortstop) and Andrew Sylvester (senior, pitcher/first baseman).

Other top returners according to Polston include: Sam Killion (senior, pitcher); Jonathan Wyrick (junior, third baseman); Peyton Corvette (senior, third baseman); Brent Berry (junior, second baseman); Jonathan Cook (junior, first baseman); Bleu Butcher (junior, pitcher/first baseman); Zach Ross (junior, catcher); Macrea Love (junior, catcher); Dylan Gresham (junior, outfielder); and Blake Lawson (junior, outfielder).

Key newcomers according to the veteran coach are: Bryce Hodge (freshman, infielder); Dalton Langston (sophomore, outfielder) and Andrew Phillips

(sophomore, outfielder).

Expectations, as always, are high for the Red Devils and as usual, anything less than an appearance in the Region 2-AAA Tournament will be a disappointment.

"My expectations are not going to change," Polston said. "I've been around long enough and I'm smart enough to know that that's not always going to happen."

"If we take care of business, do the things that we're supposed to do and play the way that we're capable of playing then we'll do OK. But if we don't, then we won't."

During last year's dismal campaign, the Red Devils played as individuals and Polston said that must change if his team is going to return to its winning ways.

"Last year, we had players playing more as individuals and less as a team," Polston said. "Last year, we

had players more worried about individual stats.

"This year, we're going to have to focus more on the team concept."

The Red Devils will look for the outfield defense will be a strength and Polston said that his team will feature a deep infield.

"Defensively, the strength of our team will be in the outfield," Polston said. "Our infield will have depth because this year, I have more players there than I've had in the past."

The pitching staff is unproven and the Red Devils must find some consistency at the plate.

"My pitching is still a question mark and we have to have consistent hitting," Polston said. "We need to be more consistent hitting the baseball."

Halls opens the 2014 season at Oak Ridge on March 10.

Searcy signs to play baseball at Martin Methodist

By Ken Lay

Central High School senior infielder Dalton Searcy will play college baseball.

Searcy, a second baseman and shortstop for the Bobcats recently signed his National Letter of Intent to play at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski.

He becomes the second Bobcat to sign at the NAIA school since November. He joins Central senior pitcher Michael Benuches, who signed prior to the Thanksgiving break.

Martin Methodist is coached by Jonathan Byrd (brother of new Bobcats coach Matt Byrd).

Searcy looks forward to continuing his career with Benuches but said that that wasn't a key factor in his decision to attend and



Central High School infielder Dalton Searcy, joined by his Bobcat teammates, signs his National Letter of Intent to play at Martin Methodist College.

play for Martin Methodist.

"That always helps, to go with someone you know. But ultimately, it had to be right for me," Searcy said. "I felt like it was right for me and the fact that Michael was headed there was a bonus."

"It [Martin Methodist] is a great school academically and it's a great baseball school. It has a great program and it has great facilities."

Searcy also said it was important that he stay relatively close to home.

"It's a good place to go," he said. "It was important for me to stay close to home because my family is important to me."

"But I also wanted to be far enough away so I could get away and grow up."

Continue on page 4

REGION CROWN A BIRTHDAY 'PRESENT' FOR CARTER COACH

Cont. from page 1

In the first half, Mitchell scored four times - twice with a slam - following steals.

Junior standout Jordan Bowden added 11 points and said Mitchell deserved the tournament's MVP award instead of him.

Toy'Shaun Winton also tallied 11. Blake Dutton chipped in nine - seven in the second period - and reserve John Woodruff eight. Tucker Greene, in a shooting slump, netted seven and made the all-tourney team along with Bowden and Winton.

Oteriah Lee, CAK's diminutive but dazzling senior point guard, missed much of the first half due to foul trouble but came back to tally 19 points, including 14 in a final period charge.

The Warriors also got 18 from Lucas Campbell, 14 from freshman Cole Smith and 13 from Dylan Keck. Campbell, Keck and Lee were named all-tourney.

"I think Charles should have gotten the MVP (award)," said Jordan outside the champs' dressing room. "He played a heck of a game, on the boards and defense, because he hustled a lot."

Twice in the contest, Mitchell followed to the rim and put in missed shots by teammates.

After a cold shooting first half by both teams, Carter, thanks largely to Mitchell, went into the dressing room with a shaky 32-29 lead.

The Hornets changed the tempo to their liking in the third period, built a 15-point lead and were ahead 56-44 going into the final eight minutes.

Both teams' shooting warmed up in the second half, although Carter made only 2 of 19 from 3-point range in the game.

With 3:23 to go, Carter was still in command, 71-57, but the Warriors finished with a flurry, swishing in three 3-pointers, and got the ball back with a chance to tie or take the lead with 20.8 seconds left.

Carter's defense, however, rose to the occasion and prevented CAK, down 75-73, from even getting a shot off as Pierce Merry, trying to make a move, traveled with 2.3 seconds on the clock.

"We turned the ball over,

but that one play didn't cost us the game," said Lee. "We didn't play our best ball game, especially me."

CAK Coach Shane Wells added: "Going into this game, it was which team was going to control tempo... our kids didn't quit. They got back in it but weren't able to finish."

"Carter did a great job of making sure O didn't get that (last) shot. They sent three guys at him and he made the right play, passing it to the open guy. He swung it once more. It wouldn't have been a great look, but we probably should've gotten one up right there."

"We're still alive. That's the thing. You've got to shake this one off and move on."

Lee said Carter ranked right up there with the top teams CAK has faced this season.

"They played Carter basketball. Their style of play kind of hurt us some. I

didn't think it was going to hurt us as much as it did."

On the game's final inbounds play, Dutton threw a long pass to Mitchell in front court and he fittingly put the ball in the basket for the final margin.

In the region semifinals, Bowden led Carter to an 87-81 overtime win over Alcoa. Bowden made back-to-back steals and scored six straight points as the Hornets erased a four-point

deficit in the final minute of regulation. A tip-in just before the horn by the Tornados' Peyton Wall sent the game into OT.

Carter outscored Alcoa 8-2 in the four-minute overtime period.

Bowden totaled 27 points and Winton 24 to lead the Hornets to the title game. Greene chipped in 14.

Carter led 71-65 with 2:52 left in regulation, but a 12-2 run by Alcoa had the

Hornets on the ropes with a minute to go.

Hot-shooting CAK topped Gatlinburg-Pittman 74-48 in the other semifinal game. Lee scored 27 points to lead the Warriors. Campbell chipped in 18 and Smith 12.

In the quarterfinals, Carter used a 70-point second half to outscore Scott 106-79, while CAK rallied to edge Fulton 46-45.

There's still time on the clock for Cuonzo and the Vols

No question about it, it's been an up-and-down basketball season for Tennessee.

What started with high expectations has been surprisingly frustrating.

Instead of looking forward to seeing where the Vols would land in the bracket on Sunday Selection Day, many of us are now wondering if their name will even be called.

And for Cuonzo Martin, who is in his third season as UT's head coach, his job could be in jeopardy.

It's a shame it has come to this.

Martin is a good man, a good person to be in charge of a college



By Steve Williams

program, a good leader for young men, a good role model for boys and girls right here in our area.

But, yes, he gets paid to be a good basketball coach.

And, yes, three seasons will be long enough for us to get a good indication of how good of a coach he can be, and how far he can take this program.

I'm going to give Coach Martin three full seasons. He deserves that. And just as important, if not more so, the players deserve the fans' support until the end of the season, which at least includes one more week of regular season play and the SEC tournament.

The players haven't quit. I'm not going to quit on them. I'm going to remain hopeful and positive.

Besides, Coach Martin's first two teams at Tennessee got it together and had late-season runs. Maybe these Vols still have that in them. They are capable. They could get hot. We've seen glimpses of that.

Based on what else we've seen, the Vols have a better chance at making the NCAA field as an at-large selection as they do getting the automatic bid that goes with winning the SEC tourney. I'm just trying to be realistic, not negative.

Many fans have already given up on Martin and want a coaching change to be made. They

certainly are entitled to their opinion. I prefer to reserve judgment until the end of the season. I can't support the team without supporting both the coach and players.

I've got to admit, there are some things I wish Martin the coach would do differently.

I'd like to see him run more of an entertaining, up-tempo style of offense and press with blue-collar mentality.

I would prefer that he not call a timeout after the Vols swish in a big 3-pointer, which often stifles our momentum and reduces the fans' impact on the game.

I'd like to see him work the officials more and get a technical if a ref blows a call that hurts our

team. Hey, it's part of the game.

Can you imagine Cuonzo ripping his orange blazer off and throwing it on the court? Thompson-Boling would come unglued.

But all coaches are different. Martin is Martin and I respect that.

Winning most likely would overcome all the things we as fans may not prefer in a coach. At this point, however, it appears Martin is not winning enough to keep the majority of the fan base satisfied.

But this season is not over. There is still time on the clock. NCAA tourney brackets have yet to be filled out.

I still hope I can pencil in Tennessee.

Will Vols' struggles mean end for Cuonzo Martin?

Continued from page 1

especially considering how woeful the SEC has been this season.

Tennessee lost by 4 in Nashville to a Vanderbilt team apparently playing with intramural players and fans picked out of the stands.

Tennessee was swept by a mediocre Texas A&M team when Antwan Space hit a three pointer in the final seconds on both occasions. Space has only made 9 three-point baskets all season.

They are losing to teams they shouldn't, and the responsibility starts with the coaching staff.

If Tennessee doesn't make it to the NCAA tournament, will Cuonzo Martin keep his job?

If you listen to local sports talk radio, the answer is no. But as much as callers like to think they have influence, they don't. Tennessee athletic director Dave Hart does what he wants, regardless of the average Tennessee fan. The combining of athletic departments, the lawsuits involving former Tennessee employees, the dismissals of folks like Bud Ford and Debby Jennings... proof that Hart is not concerned with perceptions.

Martin is also hurt by the impending lifting of Bruce Pearl's NCAA show-cause penalty in August. Seemingly, Pearl would be re-hired by any school very soon. A large majority of Tennessee fans would sell their plasma if it meant Pearl would be back on the Tennessee sidelines.

At last look, an on-line petition to "Bring Back Bruce" has over 26,720 signatures, with the number growing every hour.

Pearl still has his share of enemies in high places at the University of Tennessee, but if the powers that be are concerned about the dwindling attendance and fewer bags of popcorn being sold at Thompson-Boling Arena, what will they expect to see next year when seniors Jordan McRae and Maymon are gone, and junior Jarnell Stokes likely leaves as well?

Sometimes when the ball is rolling downhill, it picks up enough speed that there is no way to stop it.

Martin's job has been in jeopardy since the start of the season, and it will stay that way until Tennessee basketball achieves a level of success that its fans have grown accustomed...

Castle's clutch shots give Lady Falcons first region title

By Steve Williams

With a Top 10 state ranking, a District 3-AA title and the first region championship in school history, it's been a royal season for the Fulton High School girls basketball team.

Why they even have a castle.

Make that senior Tyanna Castle, a clutch performer in the Lady Falcons' 81-76 overtime win over Christian Academy of Knoxville in the Region 2-AA finals last Wednesday night at Alcoa.

Tyanna's perfect free throw shooting twice pulled Fulton into a tie - the first time with 10.6 seconds left in regulation - and her rebound basket put the Lady Falcons ahead with 49 seconds to go in OT.

Castle capped her performance and prevented another CAK comeback by knocking down four of four foul shots in the final 27 seconds.

Tyanna admitted she was nervous when she stepped to the free throw line for the first time and the game on the line.

"I had to take a deep breath and just relax, remembering how I shoot free throws in practice," said Castle, who finished with 18 points and was 8 for 8 at the charity stripe.

"At practice, that's all we do - every time we do something hard - we go (shoot) free throws, because that's how a game is. You go hard, you're tired, and that's when you need the free throws the most. So we practice on those a lot."

KeKe McKinney, 5-11 freshman post, led the Fulton attack with 24 points. Another



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Fulton High's girls basketball team made history with a first-ever region title. Left to right, the Lady Falcons are Brittani Whiteside, Moneisha Thomas, KeKe McKinney, Tink White, Jametri Mathis, Tyanna Castle (holding championship plaque), Quay Hines, Dreama Coats and Elicia Faulkner. Their goal, says Castle, is to "be the first in Fulton girls history to make it to state."

freshman, guard Quay Hines, chipped in 14.

"It was a team effort," said McKinney, who was named tourney MVP. "Everyone had a part in this."

Brianna Bryant (28) and Anna Hammaker (25) paced CAK. Taylor Dodson added 10. Inside starters Kaycee Heitzman and Kelsey Naler fouled out with the outcome undecided. In fact, Heitzman departed with 5:13 left in the fourth period.

Fulton (27-5) was to have hosted highly regarded Grainger in the State Sectionals this past Saturday night, while CAK (20-13) was to have traveled to Elizabethton. Winners of sectional games advance to the TSSAA State tournament, which starts Wednesday at MTSU in Murfreesboro.

"It feels like our hard work finally paid off, from everybody working hard in practice and

pushing ourselves even when we are tired," said Castle.

Fulton, with its quick man-to-man defense causing several turnovers, led 19-8 at the end of the first period. Coach John Fisher's Lady Falcons increased the difference to 19 (32-13), but CAK scored the last six points of the first half and trailed 36-24.

The Lady Warriors kept shooting their way back into the game in the first three minutes of the second half, and back-to-back 3s by Hammaker and Heitzman had them within four (43-39).

"(Number) 23 did a great job," said Castle. "They kept shootin', they didn't give up."

CAK finally cooled off and Fulton went on a 9-0 run to make it 54-41. But CAK answered with a 13-0 run to tie the game late in the third period.

A turnaround shot by Bryant gave the Lady Warriors their

first lead (63-61) with 4:45 left in the fourth period.

Hammaker's driving layup against McKinney put CAK ahead 69-67 with 20 seconds to go. Castle drew a foul by Naler and hit her first two clutch foul shots. In the final seconds of regulation, Hammaker drove into the lane against heavy pressure and couldn't score.

Bryant hit both ends of a 1 and 1 to put CAK ahead 76-74 with 1:44 showing in overtime. That would be the Lady Warriors' last lead.

A steal in backcourt by Fulton senior Brittani Whiteside and ensuing free throw cut the gap to 1. A rebound basket by Castle put the Lady Falcons ahead for good.

"We just didn't start the way we need to," said CAK Coach Steve Denny. "Credit the girls for coming back . . . (It) just didn't go our way."

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Powell gets revenge, region title with OT win

By Ken Lay

OAK RIDGE---It took a little overtime but the Powell High School boys basketball team won a Region 2-AAA Championship.

Also, for good measure, the Panthers got a little revenge when the outlasted Oak Ridge 72-70 Thursday night in front of a packed house at Oak Ridge High School.

Thursday's win enabled Powell (23-9) to avenge an overtime home loss to the Wildcats in the District 3-AAA semifinals on Feb. 17.

"That game was on our mind and it was a big source of motivation," said Powell senior guard Dallas Fields,

who scored a game-high 32 points, including six in overtime. "This means the world to us.

"We were up 17 [in the district tournament] and we lost that game. We needed this and we got some revenge. It feels great to come over here and win in this gym. I think this is the first time they've lost in this gym."

The Panthers, who host Jefferson County tonight (March 3) in a Section 1-AAA game, appeared to have the game sewn up in regulation. But they blew a 52-44 lead.

Fields gave the Panthers that lead with a 3-point basket with 3 minutes, 14

seconds remaining in regulation.

The Wildcats (29-7) clawed their way back thanks to the effort of Jaylin Henderson. He scored the game's next five points to trim Powell's advantage to 52-49 with 2:08 left in the fourth quarter.

Powell took a 55-49 lead when Fields buried a 3-pointer a short time later. The Wildcats, however, would make another comeback and send the game to overtime when Kevin Steen hit a layup as time expired.

"We almost let another one slip away," Powell coach Mike Ogan said. "We blew a lead and we almost

let this one get away.

"I thought I was going through déjà vu. This is enough to drive an old man crazy."

The Wildcats, who travel to Kingsport Dobyys-Bennett for another Section 1-AAA game tonight, scored first in the extra frame when on a basket by Henderson, who finished with 22 points.

His basket gave Oak Ridge a 61-59 lead. Powell's Alex Hill answered with a free throw to make the score 61-60 before Powell took the lead for good when Fields grabbed an offensive rebound and scored.

That bucket started a 6-1 run to give the Panthers a

68-62 lead with 40.8 seconds to go.

Oak Ridge pulled to within 68-65 when Isaac Merian made a layup with 28.7 seconds left.

Powell's Bryson Cowden hit a basket to make it 70-65 before Henderson buried a 3-pointer to make it 70-68 with 15.1 seconds left.

The Panthers finally salted things away when Hill converted a pair of foul shots to make the score 72-68 with 6.9 seconds left.

"It felt great to hit those free throws," said Hill, who finished with 17 points. "When we beat Maryville that was the best day of

my life. When we beat Halls the other night that was the best day of my life.

"And now, I have a new best day of my life. This was obviously a big win and we want to get coach Ogan back to the state since this is his last year. This win was big but if we don't win at home Monday, it doesn't mean anything."

Ogan, who announced his retirement on the final day of the regular season, will coach at least one more game tonight against the Patriots. A win will send the Panthers to the Class AAA State Tournament March 12.

Byrd looks to reverse Central's baseball fortunes

By Ken Lay

Central High School's once proud baseball program has hit hard times recently but Matt Byrd aims to change all that --- in a hurry.

"We've hit rock bottom," said Byrd, who was named coach of the Bobcats in August. "We've won 11 games in four years.

Byrd, who was previously an assistant at Farragut in 2013 when the Admirals reached the Class AAA State Championship Game, where they were disappointed when they didn't reach their ultimate goal.

"When you're at Farragut, you're disappointed when you don't win the whole thing," said Byrd, a 2006 West High School

graduate. "[Farragut coach] Matt Buckner taught me a lot about in-game situations. We talked a lot during games and I was always asking questions.

"I study the game. I follow the Braves and the Yankees, mostly, and I love college baseball. I study the game and I see what a guy like [Tennessee coach] Dave Serrano does and how he manages a game."

Byrd, a self-proclaimed student of the game, is instilling a work ethic and a winning culture in Fountain City.

"The biggest thing with our guys is teaching them not to be scared," he said.

"We want to play Halls and Powell and we're not going to

back down from anybody.

"I've worked these guys hard and from Day One until now, they've gotten a lot better."

Byrd's expectations for his first season at Central may, at first glance, seem modest.

"As a coach, I'm realistic but we want to win more than 11 games," he said.

Central would like to be competitive and win perhaps 16 or 17 games in 2014 but Byrd's expectations for 2015 are lofty.

"I have a good sophomore class coming up and there's no recent why we can't compete for championships in the next couple of seasons," Byrd said. "Our future is extremely bright."

Byrd, 26, has been in

baseball for all of his adult life. He was even a head coach at Hiwassee College while he was still a student.

"I was the youngest college coach in the country and I even had classes with my players," said Byrd, who also was an assistant at Campbell County and West.

Byrd is married. He and his wife Amy have a daughter (Haley) and another child on the way.

Away from baseball, Byrd enjoys spending time with his family.

He teaches special education at the school and is one of several young coaches in the Bobcats' athletic program.

Searcy signs to play baseball at Martin Methodist

Cont. from page 1

He also noted that he was glad to have the recruiting process behind him so he Benuches and the rest of their teammates can get on with the season which opens soon.

"I wanted to get this behind me and over with before the season started," Searcy said. "Once the season starts, I want to be 100 percent committed to Central High.

"I didn't want to be worried about anything else."

Arts & Entertainment



After a Spring rain.

Les Miserables



Rosie's World

I wrote a column two weeks ago titled "I Dreamed a Dream" and I almost gave this article the same name, simply because the title came from that famous movie, "Les

Miserables." It was brought to my attention because quite a few of the ice skaters at the Olympics skated to that beautiful tune from that haunting movie, from the book written by Victor Hugo. He was a literary and political celebrity who was both intellectually respectable and immensely popular at the same time.

Victor Hugo was born February 26, 1802 in France. He realized at the early age of thirteen he had a literary calling. He was one of the leading figures of the French Romantic movement. He was a believer in European integration and as an illustration of this, on July 14, 1871 he planted an oak (which still flourishes today) predicting that when the tree was mature, the "United States of Europe," uniting all European nations would become a reality.

One of his most famous works was "Les Misérables". Now the world's longest running musical, seen by sixty-five million people in forty-two countries. The story of a nation in the grip of a revolution, where Jean Valjean is on the run for breaking his parole, hunted down by a policeman named Javert. He spent nineteen years in jail for stealing a loaf of bread for his starving sister's child. He must leave his past behind and keep his vow to raise the young orphan, Cosette.

Victor married in 1821 and published his first book of poetry. In 1831 he published another famous work, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame". This novel presents a harsh criticism of the society that degrades and shuns the hunchback, Quasimodo. Much of his work that was published conveys biting sarcasm and fierce social criticism. His later life was sad. His daughter and her husband drowned and he lost two sons between 1871 and 1873. Buried June 1, 1885, he was a national hero. It is estimated that two million people followed his funeral procession.

Thus, whenever I hear the haunting melancholy songs that are presented in the musicals that are performed and made from his novels, I have to think, do trials and tribulations bring out the best in an artist's makeup? It would seem so, according to Mr. Hugo.

Thought for the day: Every problem has in it the seeds of its own solutions. Norman Vincent Peale

Send comments to rosemerrie@att.net or call (865)748-4717. Thank you.

The List

It all started with the heart. Many *Focus* readers may remember my first column, "The Real McCoy," which ran on February 7, 2011. Dr. Kyle McCoy is the cardiologist who treated our



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

mother after her heart attack. "Life is a Gift," my tribute to the late Criminal Defense Attorney Zane Daniel, was published a few years earlier. I worked for Zane and Jimmy Duncan when I was in college. I had worked on

the McCoy piece off and on for a couple of years and had no idea what to write for the next week. My brother came to the rescue and suggested I write a review of "Heaven is for Real," the book about a

three-year-old child who had been to heaven. That resulted in my second column, "Glimpses of Glory." Now, three years later, the list of stories to write number into the hundreds. I call on my committee of two---my

mother and brother---to help me decide which one to run next.

While the two stories I have written this week are being finalized, I take a moment to reflect on stories that came my way---country music stars and cowboy legends from Hollywood, doctors and dentists, military and missionaries---and stories I have yet to write that include names like Zachary, Colby, Jeanette, Godwin, TOTS, Henry, Wright, and a 96-year old from Nashville named Luttrell.

It is a joy to bring you an occasional timely or

seasonal topic and share with you simple scenes of our rural way of life. I have been blessed to learn of true, human-interest stories about our neighbors, churches, charities, and a sports series that started with a comment from a coach named Ken.

With Easter upcoming, I share with you a favorite scripture: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" John 10:10 (KJV). *Focus* readers may enjoy this picture taken after a springtime rain.



The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Metaphysics

Eleanor Roosevelt once observed that intellectuals function in the realm of ideas, whereas average folks concentrate on events of the day and the rest focus on people. Life magazine once challenged our minds, but was replaced by Newsweek. Popular demand soon led to People Magazine and then to one called Self. I don't believe Mrs. Roosevelt's comments were elitist as much as observations on cultural focus. Some might argue that Americans have become more self-absorbed, and I've written about the similarities of post-modern America to Roman culture in the first century AD. Mrs. Roosevelt was a unique person, a devoted mother, and a champion for civil rights before even her husband thought it prudent.

There is a danger of seeing people too narrowly. Though I disagree with virtually all of Obama's policies, I perceive him as a good father to his daughters, just as I try to be for mine. We have, at least, this most important aspect of life in common. I heard once that raising a child is the most important job you'll ever have - perhaps it's true of grandchildren as well.

As an internist I look for the basic mechanisms or fundamental principle of disease. At one point my science led me to focus not on a person with a problem, but on the disease in a patient. There is a subtle yet critical difference. I once organized my work around my office practice and hospital visits. I used to think in terms of the "pneumonia case in

room 538" rather than Mr. Jones' struggle. We were scientists in those halcyon days of my training where science was preeminent. Just like Mrs. Roosevelt, the concepts were greater than the events and certainly trumped the individual. I now recognize the hubris and the error of those early days.

Scientific reductionism is a process where a complicated issue is broken down in an attempt to understand the integral parts. The presumption being that understanding the parts will lead to an understanding of the whole. The ancient Greeks first considered the scientific method to explore the world around them. Hippocrates was the first to posit that disease was caused, not by the displeasure of the gods, but from causal agents in nature. Democritus in a thought experiment imagined a fundamental building block of all matter which he posited could not be cut. The Greek word for cut is tom. Place an "a" in front of tom and you get "atom," a fundamental particle that can't be split.

We now know that atoms can be split into more fundamental parts we call protons, neutrons and electrons. And these are made of even smaller units called quarks which come in six

types or "flavors". Perhaps the parts continue to get ever smaller. We don't know because humans are now at the limits of our vision even augmented by science. And so everything comes full circle, and I now understand that people are more fundamental than their disease. Tipp O'Neal may have been right when he said, "All politics is local."

For the first thirty years of my life my emphasis was on the science of medicine. I haven't abandoned this useful tool of observation, but I've augmented my visual horizon with thirty years of study of the humanities and religion. Physics is the scientific study of matter and the forces of nature. During The Enlightenment science again became the preeminent method of human inquiry. Physics tells us that photons of energy produced in the sun stream across space to interact with dust particles in earth's atmosphere to produce an orange-red sunset. Romantic period thought rebelled against this cold and austere scientific description and asked: where is the notion of beauty in the sunset? Does a photon strike the retina or the soul?

Metaphysics comes

from Greek "meta physika" (after the things of nature). In other words, it asks if there is more to a sunset than photons and more to a man than his brain. We are past Valentine's Day, but I've been thinking about love that, like beauty, is a metaphysical concept. The Greek language has four different words for love: philia is brotherly love or friendship; eros is erotic love or pleasure; agape is sacrificial or spiritual love; and storge is the natural love of a mother for her child or tolerance of your brother-in-law.

English defines love with descriptive modifiers. We differentiate the love of chocolate from that of newlyweds on a honeymoon. In Psalm 18 David says, "I love you, Lord, my strength." In thinking about this verse I find it difficult to feel about God as I do my grandson. The concept of love may be even larger than we imagine. Merriam Webster lists synonyms for love and includes devotion, appreciation, desire, cherish and even reverence.

I believe that stories in the Bible are there as teaching tools. Recall the story of Moses encountering the burning bush in Exodus. Moses asks God for His name because names in antiquity defined

the character of a person. God mysteriously replies, "I am that I am." In other words, He is beyond our words, our imagination and our physics.

I believe man is incapable of full knowledge of a universe that stretches from quasars to quarks and perhaps beyond. The philosopher and theologian Paul once said "we see dimly as in a mirror," and they had pretty crummy mirrors 2000 years ago. Does it disturb me that I don't know everything? No. History and wisdom writings demonstrate that hubris (arrogant pride) "goes before the fall" (Proverbs 16:18). In fact, I embrace my limitations even though I now see further because my vision is augmented by the humanities and the Spirit.

So who is or what is God? Wisdom holds that the metaphysical, ineffable God is spirit and is best recognizable to us as love. This creative and sustaining force resides in each of us, is available to those who seek Him, and guides those who are wise.

Food for thought...

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

Physicians Regional Medical Center now offers advanced diagnostic capabilities to detect lung cancer

New Technology Allows Physicians To Biopsy Hard-To-Reach Lesions

A minimally-invasive diagnostic procedure called Electromagnetic Navigation Bronchoscopy (ENB) is now available at Physicians Regional Medical Center for patients who have hard-to-reach lesions on their lungs. It is used in combination with the latest technology for diagnosing and staging lung cancer, the endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) transbronchial needle aspiration (TBNA) or EBUS-TBNA System.

To reach the lungs, a doctor typically inserts a thin, flexible tube called

a bronchoscope into the patient's nose or mouth. The tube is passed down the throat into airways. However, two-thirds of all lung lesions are outside the reach of a typical bronchoscope.

ENB starts where the bronchoscope ends. It combines GPS-like technology with a catheter-based system to extend the reach of the bronchoscope to regions deep in the lung. ENB's unique approach lets physicians navigate to the boundaries of the lungs using the patient's natural airway

for access. As a minimally-invasive procedure, it increases the chances that patients can safely get a diagnosis, so that treatment -- if needed -- can begin.

Other methods to reach lesions deep in the lungs - outside the range of a bronchoscope - are more invasive and therefore have more risks for patients. These options include major surgery and Transthoracic Needle Aspiration (with the help of a CT scan), where a needle is inserted between the ribs and into the lung tissue. Another option is "watchful waiting" for patients with small lesions, in order to avoid a surgical procedure

on a lesion that may be benign.

Doctors at Physicians Regional use ENB with the endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) transbronchial needle aspiration system. The EBUS-TBNA System's innovative design features ultrasound imaging capability and a dedicated aspiration needle that is specifically designed for diagnostic biopsies and staging in the lung. The EBUS scope offers real-time imaging and allows the physician to confirm the exact position of the needle. The needle itself has a specially designed "dimpled" tip, which enhances the view of the needle on the ultrasound image, making

it easier to position it for biopsy.

Unfortunately, only 16% of lung cancer is diagnosed at its earliest and most curable stage, and more than 51% of cases are diagnosed after the cancer has metastasized. With EBUS, it is now possible to diagnose lung cancer more accurately for all lung cancer patients, not just those with hard-to-reach lesions. Using EBUS as a diagnostic tool provides several benefits over conventional, more invasive surgical biopsy procedures, including ease of scheduling as an outpatient procedure.

With these technical

advancements, many lymph nodes and lesions have become easier to sample, offering patients at Physicians Regional increased accuracy and reliability of bronchoscopy procedures.

"At Physicians Regional we are pleased to offer minimally-invasive alternatives to other detection methods for our patients who have a lesion on their lung that is hard to reach or who cannot tolerate a more invasive procedure," said John Morrison, D.O., pulmonary disease specialist. "This is an option that will help many patients."

"We are pleased to provide this technology

Continued on page 2

This is how your new joint can feel.

If you are experiencing hip pain that prevents you from being active and doing things you love to do, you may be a candidate for hip replacement surgery. Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Michael Howard will discuss the different options patients have available to them for total hip replacement surgery.

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John Morrison, D.O., and Endoscopy Lab team at Physicians Regional Medical Center are utilizing new technology that benefits patients who may have lung cancer. (l-r) Nancy Tatum, RN, staff nurse; Dr. Morrison; Jannelle Justice, RN, charge nurse.

Physicians Regional Medical Center Now Offers Advanced Diagnostic Capabilities to Detect Lung Cancer

Continued from page 1

to our patients who choose Physicians Regional for their care. It represents our continual commitment to make investments in technology that improve patient safety, quality and outcomes," said Karen Metz, CEO, Physicians Regional Medical Center.

Facts about Lung Cancer

- As many as 226,000 men and women in the U.S. will be diagnosed and 160,000 will die of lung cancer in 2012. (Source: American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures 2012)

- The present five-year survival rate in the United States for lung cancer is only 15 percent. (Source: SEER Cancer Statistics Review;

1975-2008; National Cancer Institute, Accessed November 2011)

- At least thirty percent of all cancer deaths, including 80 percent of lung cancer deaths, can be attributed to tobacco. (Source: American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures 2012)

- Six percent or 1 in 14 men and 1 in 16 women will be diagnosed with lung cancer during their lifetime. (Source: SEER Cancer Statistics Review; 1975-2008; National Cancer Institute, Accessed November 2011)

- Secondhand smoke is the third-leading cause of lung cancer deaths, claiming over 3,000 lives each year. (Source: American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures 2012)

- More than 75 percent of new lung cancer cases present with late-stage cancer (Stage III or IV). (Source: SEER Cancer Statistics Review; 1975-2008; National Cancer Institute, Accessed November 2011)

- In a recent study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, lung cancer diagnosed at Stage I resulted in a survival rate of 88 percent at 10 years. (Source: N Engl J Med 355:17. October 2006)

To learn more about lung disease, detection, and options for diagnosing a lesion in the lung visit www.lungusa.org, www.lungcancer.org, www.lungcanceralliance.org, www.cancer.gov, www.spotonyourlung.com and www.superdimension.com.

Faith

Make a choice

Joshua has led the children of Israel into the Promised Land of Canaan. After taking over from Moses, Joshua fought many battles with God leading the way and giving the victory for

Israel. After 110 years of life, Joshua is about to die and the nation has assembled for a farewell speech. Though he is old, his voice no doubt is still strong. He tells the gathered nation:

"Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates,

or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:14-15).

Joshua gets right to the point in his address. The people have one of four choices to make. They can follow the gods from beyond the Euphrates River (where Abraham came from in the Mesopotamian region that worshipped a myriad of gods). They can also choose to worship the gods of the place where they started (in Egypt who had gods for

nearly everything). They can follow the gods of the local people whom they have defeated as they took possession of Canaan (in particular the gods of Baal and Ashtoreth were a constant thorn in the side of Israel). Or they can choose to follow the one true God. The choice they make will have eternal consequences. The same is true for us.

Today we don't worship Egyptian or "local" gods from "beyond the river", or the gods of Canaan. We have our own modern gods of America that compete for our attention. The point that Joshua makes is clear. We will choose something. Why? Because we were hard wired from creation to worship something beyond ourselves. You can go to primitive cultures or the largest cities of the

world with all the high-tech gadgets and find people sacrificing to the gods. Some might have ancient idols while others sacrifice to the gods of power, pleasure, and wealth. Everyone is going to worship something. The question becomes: "Who or what will we choose to worship?"

Worship is what you put your hope in. Whomever or whatever that might be, you begin to chase passionately after it. Your life begins to align or take shape around what you care about the most. So Joshua speaks to all of us when he says, "Choose you this day whom you will serve."

Sometimes it is difficult to see the idols we are serving because they are so common and ingrained in our culture. Ask God to help you identify any false gods in your life so you can serve Him completely.

Foster parents needed in Knoxville-area

For those looking to make a difference in the lives of children, becoming a foster parent provides a rewarding opportunity to help a child in need. Youth Villages is currently in need of caring adults in the Knoxville-area to open their hearts and homes to children who have suffered abuse, neglect or abandonment. These children need families who will care for them until they can return to their birth families or an adoptive family is found for them.

Foster parents provide children with a safe, comfortable environment and monitor their emotional growth, school progress and physical health. They also serve as positive role models to children who may lack caring adults in their lives.

"Children who have experienced trauma benefit greatly from the love and support of a family," Mariah Parton, Youth Villages foster parent recruiter, said. "Fostering can also be a rewarding experience for adults as they watch a child grow and succeed."

Youth Villages provides foster parents with 24-hour access

to counselors, support groups and a monthly stipend to offset the cost of adding a child to the home. Foster parents also often have the first right to adopt if the child becomes available for adoption.

Foster parents should be over the age of 25 and living in the Knox County-area. Foster parents should have viable income, reliable transportation and be able to pass a background check and home study.

Youth Villages offers free training classes for new foster parents to teach them how to address a child's emotional and behavioral problems, as well as parenting and discipline techniques. A series of free training classes will begin Saturday, March 8 at 9 a.m. at the Youth Villages office, located at 9111 Cross Park Drive, Suite 3475, Knoxville, TN 37923.

For more information about the upcoming training classes or how you can change the life of a child, contact Mariah Parton, foster parent recruiter at 865-560-2558 or alyson.parton@youthvillages.org.

Two Fun Races, One Great Cause

The Volunteer Ministry Center is sponsoring two 5K races beginning at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 9, 2014, at the World's Fair Park to raise funds for VMC's mission to end and prevent homelessness.

Honorary chair for the annual VMC 5k Race and the Dunkin' Donuts Eat & Run Race is Roberta Martin, wife of UT Head Basketball Coach Cuonzo Martin.

"I'm humbled and thrilled to be a part of these events," Roberta Martin says. "The Volunteer Ministry Center does outstanding work for the homeless in our community. I'm especially impressed by their efforts to end homelessness and their special programs aimed at helping the mentally distressed."

The first race of the day is the annual VMC 5K Race + Fun Walk held at 2 PM on a course starting near the Festival Lawn at WFP and then winding through the Old City and downtown before ending back at the WFP.

The second race of the day is the always popular Dunkin' Donuts Eat & Run beginning at 2:30 p.m., also at the WFP Festival Lawn. Participants in the Dunkin' Donuts race run the 5K route and eat 24 Dunkin' Donuts Munchkins at a designated stop during the race.

"This is the second time that VMC has sponsored the Dunkin's Donuts race," says Ginny Weatherstone, CEO of VMC. "It is a fun spin on the traditional 5K and is popular with folks of all ages."

"Both these races are very family friendly events, and we welcome all area runners as well as walkers, families with strollers

and even dog walkers to participate in this important fundraiser for VMC's programs," Weatherstone added.

Early registration fee for each race is \$25. Day of registration fee for the races is \$30. If you are interested in doing both races, you will have to pay the entrance fee for each race.

To register online, go to www.firstgiving.com/vmc or visit VMC's website, www.vmcinc.org. For more information, call VMC's Lisa Hutton at 865-524-3926, ext. 230.

Race sponsors include: Pilot Claris Networks Concord Medical Center All Occasions Party Rentals Crowne Plaza Rogers Group Tennova Healthcare Owens & Minor First Tennessee Foundation WBIR-TV Lakeside Tavern Lisa Buckingham, M.D. Pepsi Beverages Company Interstate Mechanical Contactors, Inc. Retirement Planning Services Q100.3 Radio Wings Express Earth Fare

The VMC is a non-profit organization with the mission of facilitating permanent supportive housing for who are homeless and to provide services to prevent homelessness. The center uses compassion and accountability in its programs to help achieve the best possible results for our neighbors. For more information on VMC programs and projects, visit the center's website at www.vmcinc.org.

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Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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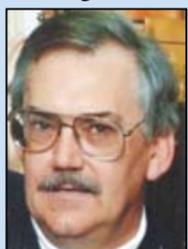
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Knoxville, TN 37918
Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor
www.newbeverly.org
856-546-0001

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
Bus Ministry -
For transportation call 546-0001.

House to Home

Soldier names at Cumberland Gap

A Day Away



By Mike Steely



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Private J.M. Taylor was among dozens of Civil War soldiers who left their mark on the bluff overlooking Tennessee atop Cumberland Gap. Taylor started the war as a Confederate and walked away to join the Union Army. His carving is on the right side of this picture.

If Knoxville was the goal to capturing East Tennessee during the Civil War, then the Cumberland Gap was the doorway. The historic pass was occupied four times, twice by each side. While no major battle took place, there were many skirmishes around the area with the aim to take or protect the fortifications there.

When the soldiers were not fighting, drilling or preparing to fight, they were isolated there often with the enemy nearby. The soldiers killed time by roaming the mountain, playing cards, talking with each other, and being bored. Some of them took the time to put their initials and names on the rocks there, both above and below the mountain.

Even today you can still find some of the deeply carved on the boulders on the top of the mountain or inside "Soldier's Cave" at the bottom, left there in candle or ash markings. While few men on either side were killed in action while stationed there, many died of disease or infections. After the war, the Union graves were unearthed and moved to the new National Cemetery in Knoxville, next to the Old Gray Cemetery.

Up on the Pinnacle in Cumberland Gap National Park, you can view several Civil War signatures cut deeply into the rocks overlooking the valley below. One of them was by a Confederate soldier, W. R. McEntire, which was cut there on September 9, 1863, just before his outpost surrendered to Union forces.

McEntire spent 18 months as a prisoner and returned to Texas where he told his grandson, years later while on his deathbed, about the carving. He asked him to return to the gap someday and curse the Yankees for five minutes. On September 9th, 1963, George H. McEntire, Jr., did just that, 100 years to the day of the carving.

Another carving on the rocks atop the mountain is that by a Union soldier, J.M. Taylor. This North Carolinian started the war as a conscripted (drafted) Confederate but walked away from the Southern army and joined the Union forces. He was enrolled in the 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry only six days after McEntire cut his name at Cumberland Gap.

Taylor, born in 1830, was mustered in Knoxville and his unit patrolled East Tennessee until January 22, 1864, when he was posted at Cumberland Gap. He was there, off and on, for a year and became a scout. Although absent without leave for a while, he was restored to duty that year in August and was again mustered out in Knoxville and paid a \$30 clothing allowance and a \$75 bounty. He returned to Madison County, N. C. and got married.

He and his family moved around a bit, finally landing in Unicoi County, where he died in 1925.

Years later the family bible he bought for less than \$2 following the war was found by a family member and much of the information he recorded has been printed and kept by the Taylor descendants.

If you haven't been to Cumberland Gap it's about an hour away and there's lots to do there, including the National Park with a museum, gift shop, hiking and picnicking areas, camping, and the overlook that you can drive up to easily. The town of Cumberland Gap is worth a visit, especially the old mill and iron furnace.

The Cumberland Gap highway tunnel is a wonder and the building of it allowed the restoration of the old Warrior's Trace or Wilderness Road across the historic gap. There's Cudjo's Cave you can tour by torch light, Sand Cave you can hike to, and you can walk to earthen forts atop the mountain. You can Google

Cumberland Gap or call the national park visitor center at (606)248-2817. A day-away drive can highlight a morning or afternoon, especially for a family with children.



Sterchi Girl Scout Troops Donate 73 Vases to Random Acts of Flowers. The Sterchi Girl Scout troops 20457 and 20719 recently held a vase drive for Random Acts of Flowers at Sterchi Elementary. The troops collected 73 vases, which were dropped off to the RAF Director of Mission Fulfillment, Lorraine Burns, by Girl Scout Hannah Blake.

TBA releases resource to explain Programs, Benefits for Seniors

The Tennessee Bar Association has released "The Legal Handbook for Tennessee Seniors," a new resource designed to help Tennesseans better understand federal and state benefits, new health care laws and a wide range of other issues of importance to older citizens.

"As difficult as it is to fathom, an average of 7,000 Americans are becoming senior citizens each day," TBA President Cindy Wyrick said in announcing release of the book. "This trend is expected to continue for years, so it is important that we do something meaningful to assist this rapidly growing, but typically underserved, segment of the population."

The Legal Handbook for Tennessee Seniors is available as a free download on the TBA.org website and will be the subject of presentations across the state starting this week. Printed and electronic copies on flash drives also will be available from the TBA while supplies last.

Some of the specific issues addressed by the handbook include:

- Having wills, powers of attorney, living wills and advance directives prepared
- Selecting an assisted living center, nursing home or home care provider
- Evaluating consumer products such as reverse mortgages, long-term care insurance and funeral services
- Dealing with credit cards, credit rating bureaus, collection agencies and telemarketers
- Avoiding fraud and scams targeted at seniors
- Avoiding identity theft when using the web and social media sites
- Protecting one's personal security
- Understanding the new health care law
- Working with a legal professional
- Recognizing and reporting elder abuse and age discrimination

"The Legal Handbook for Tennessee Seniors" was developed by the TBA Public Education Committee under the leadership of Knoxville lawyer and Co-Chair Angelia Nystrom. A full list of volunteers who assisted with the project is also available on the website. Staff support was provided by Liz Todaro.



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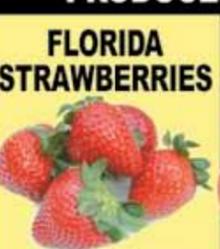
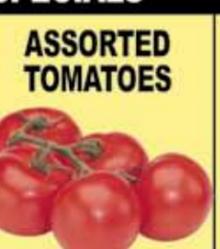


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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central City Democrat Meeting

The Central City Democratic District 1 Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3 at 6:30 pm at 4614 Ashville Hwy at 6:30 p.m. Tony Brown District Representative will be the host.

Central High School Pancake Breakfast

Central High School is having a pancake

fundraiser March 8, 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at Sam n Andy's Fountain City (located in the Food City/Big Lot shopping center).

Cost-\$5.00 at the door per person. Children under 6 eat for free. Proceeds will benefit Central High School and Schumpert Park.

DAR event

The Samuel Frazier Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will meet for

the Historical Preservation "Witness to History" meeting at the East Tennessee History Center at 601 South Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902. This will be "The East TN Story through Important Artifacts" with Speaker Chere Henderson. The date is Saturday, March 15, 2014 starting at 11:00 a.m. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Martha Kroll at (865) 603-4655.

Fountain City BPA's March Meeting

Join us for the monthly Fountain City BPA Lunch Meeting on Wednesday, March 12 at 11:45 a.m., at Central Baptist Church. Home Assistance

This month's speaker is G. Larry Hartsook, President of Global Integrated Security Solutions (GISS), with 30+ years combined experience in the Active Army, Army Reserve, National Guard, Special Forces, Special Operations, and International Corporate Security Challenges. Mr. Hartsook will present a School Safety and Security Program "Being Proactive not Reactive!"

Halls BPA Breakfast Club

On Tuesday, March 4, the Halls Business and Professional Association's Breakfast Club will gather at Commercial Bank, located in Halls at 7400 Maynardville Highway, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.



Herb-Crusted Roast Beef

- 1 beef rump roast or bottom round roast (4-1/2 to 5 pounds)
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons beef bouillon granules
- 2-1/3 cups water, divided

Preheat oven to 325°. Place roast with fat side up in ungreased roasting pan. Combine the next five ingredients; pour over roast. Combine parsley, basil, salt, pepper, tarragon and thyme; rub over roast. Bake, uncovered, 1-3/4 to 2-1/4 hours or until meat reaches desired doneness (for medium-rare, a meat thermometer should read 145°; medium, 160°; well-done, 170°). Remove to a warm serving platter. Let stand 10-15 minutes.

Pour drippings and loosened brown bits into a measuring cup. Skim fat, reserving 2 tablespoons. In a large saucepan, combine flour, bouillon and 1 cup water until smooth. Gradually stir in the drippings, reserved fat and remaining water. Bring to a boil; cook and stir 2 minutes or until thickened. Slice roast; serve with gravy. Yield: 10-12 servings.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

PUBLIC NOTICE: Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization - Technical Committee Meeting, March 11, 2014.

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 11, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Topics to be considered: Review of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program Applications, Discussion on Regional Transportation Authority White Paper, Update on Transit Service Operations; and other business.

If you would like a complete agenda, please contact MPC at 215-2500 or see the TPO web site at www.knoxtrans.org. If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability, please contact MPC at 215-2500 and we will be glad to work with you in obliging any reasonable request.

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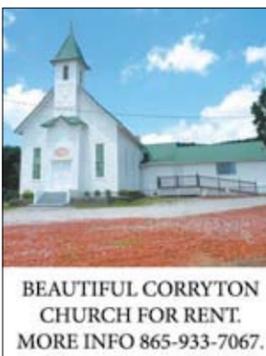
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