

ARMSTRONG VISITS WITH GOVERNOR HASLAM



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Candidate for Law Director Bud Armstrong shares a moment with Governor Bill Haslam following a Romney rally at the Turkey Creek Public Market last Friday.

Game On Against Cancer to raise funds for Thompson Cancer Survival Center

By Tasha Mahurin
Mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville's "go-to" store for home entertainment, Games and Things, has teamed up with a number of local sponsors to host a dynamic fundraiser for Thompson Cancer Survival Center.

Scott and Lisa Mellon, who have owned Games and Things for 32 years, were inspired to host the event after Lisa's own health journey led to treatment at the Thompson Cancer Survival Institute.

"After spending some time at the center for treatment, I knew I wanted to do something. I called Covenant to see what we could do to help," Lisa told the Focus.

The couple was able to channel their expertise in home entertainment and gaming to create a unique event for a wonderful cause.

The event, appropriately entitled "Game On Against Cancer", will feature an evening of celebrity gaming. Participants will be able to challenge a local celebrity to a game of table tennis, billiards, poker, darts or black jack. Mayor Madeline Roger, Mayor Tim Burchett, Bruce Pearl, Abby Ham, Hallerin Hill, Con Hunley, Bill Landry and a host of other Knox-famous celebrities are among those who have stepped up to the card table to show their support for this compelling cause.

"We're grateful that we had such a great response from our local celebrities and want to thank them for coming out to be part of this fun-filled night," Lisa added.

Proceeds from the event will go to help fund two important programs at Thomspson Cancer Survival Center-the Thompson Cares Fund and the Fellowship Center. The Thompson Cares Fund provides financial assistance for patients who are in crisis and need help to meet the expenses of basic necessities like housing, transportation, medical supplies and medication. In 2010, over \$55,000 in aid was provided through the fund.

The Fellowship Center provides a free "home-away-from-home" for patients and families who

McMillan and Underwood Meet At Gibbs

The Forum That Wasn't

By Focus Staff

The long awaited forum between the two candidates in the Eighth District for the Knox County Board of Education whimpered more than sizzled. It was a curious affair, which allowed incumbent Mike McMillan and challenger Conley Underwood the opportunity to answer questions from students and the audience.

The forum was organized by Ahnna Estes of the Knoxville Chamber and Jimmy Hipshire of the Gibbs High Family and Community Engagement Committee.

Evidently advertising for the event was nonexistent as the moderator lamented the fact there wasn't solitary parent from the Gibbs community in attendance. The fact the organizers selected a night for the debate at Gibbs the same night there was a choral concert causes one to wonder about their collective planning skills. Rather than an audience filled to



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

8th District School Board member and candidate Mike McMillan gives his opening statement at the forum at Gibbs High School on Thursday evening.

capacity of parents and students from Gibbs, the crowd looked like a nursing home for retired school administrators and officials. The King of the Pensioners, sometime Superintendent Roy Mullins, was in attendance as was Conley Underwood's Aunt Shirley, another

retired central office administrator. The old school system trifecta was represented by Mullins, as neither Jim Williams nor Tommy Everett was present. The three have recently been featured in an ad for Conley Underwood, which was strikingly similar to an

advertisement from four years ago when the same crew (save for Williams) endorsed Bill Phillips.

Underwood won the coin toss, but chose to allow McMillan to open the forum. McMillan immediately said if reelected his top priority will be to build a new Gibbs Middle School so that local children aren't bussed long distances out of their community. After McMillan's opening remarks, Underwood gave his own opening statement and said children need to be taught personal responsibility and that it wrong to bully. McMillan made the observation he believes bullying in our schools is a bigger problem than the administration believes it to be.

When asked if the school budget, which is almost two-thirds of Knox County's entire annual budget, was increased and the two candidates could direct the spending, McMillan said he would put it in classrooms; adding teachers where necessary, improving reading skills for

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The winter that never came



By Richie Beeler

If you are a snowboarder, skier, or just a lover of all things winter, the 2011-2012 season has been a downright bummer. For the past three months, most of the eastern United States, including us folks here in East Tennessee, has languished in one of the mildest, wettest, most uneventful winters in recent memory.

The warm winter weather has also been a real downer for weather geeks (like yours truly) and professional forecasters. It just kind of goes with the territory that if you're a meteorologist you look forward to winter when many of the more exciting and unpredictable weather events occur. But not so in 2012. One well known Internet forecaster even referred to this winter's lack of spunk as "devastating."

While I'm not sure I would go that far, it has been a tough pill to swallow for those of us who anticipate those cold, snowy days by the fire. And the question that inevitably comes up when weather doesn't behave like we think it should is 'why.' What exactly is the root cause that has led to such a mild

winter for the mid-South? Well, that is an answer that might actually require several questions. So let's take them one at a time.

Is it global warming? Well I wouldn't ask that question too loudly on the other side of the Atlantic. That region of the world has endured one of its harshest winters in decades. Below zero temperatures have killed hundreds in eastern Europe. Snow has fallen in London, Spain, Portugal, Italy and even northern Africa. Power outages have crippled millions in Russia and Ukraine.

That is not to say that the global climate as a whole has not experienced a warm period over the past decade. Certainly it has. But one definitely cannot conclude that this year's mild winter in North America was the result of global warming.

Can we blame it on El Nino? This became almost a cultural catch phrase during the 1990s when Americans became familiar with the popular term used to describe an important weather phenomenon known as the Southern Oscillation. This refers to the water temperatures in a large area of the southern Pacific Ocean, which can greatly affect the winter climate of the continental US.

When the water is unusually warm, it is called 'El Nino.' A cooler than normal Pacific is referred

to as 'La Nina.' 2012 has been a La Nina winter. Historically, that usually means mild weather for at least the southern half of the United States. But the exact effect that La Nina has on weather in the East is difficult to prove. A mild winter such as this one depends on other factors that may or may not even be related to the Southern Oscillation.

Has this been our mildest winter ever? Believe it or not, no. As recently as 2005 and 2006, the continental US experienced two of the warmest January's ever recorded, with hardly a single instance of cold weather. While the winter of 2012 has been above normal, there have been occasional invasions of cold air that have helped balance the climatological averages.

So what's the culprit? Well, again there may not be a simple answer. But here's the simplest one I can give, in layman's terms of course. It's the North Atlantic Oscillation. Probably no single factor more profoundly affects winter weather in the eastern US than this phenomenon.

The NAO is an index that refers to the weather pattern in the northern Atlantic Ocean. When a large dome of high pressure settles over Greenland, the NAO is said to be 'negative.' A negative NAO has an effect on the eastern US

known as 'blocking.' In other words, when cold air spills into the East out of Canada - which it often does in the winter months - this high pressure ridge in the North Atlantic effectively blocks the cold air's exit out to sea, sometimes locking it in place over the eastern US for days or even weeks. It is this long term presence of cold air that provides the setup for frequent snowstorms.

In the winter of 2011, the NAO remained mostly negative. That is why we had numerous chances of snow here in East Tennessee. Now it is true that we haven't really had 'the big one' in a number of years. But again, that can involve numerous factors coming together in just the right way and at just the right time. But in 2012 the NAO has been relentlessly positive, offering no extended periods of cold and allowing little opportunity for a major eastern snowstorm.

And spring is in the air in the great Tennessee Valley. Flowers are blooming, trees are budding, baseball season is just around the corner. And even winter enthusiasts like me may as well take off our glum faces. Because there is one thing we definitely have in common with baseball fans.

We know there's always next year.

An unfamiliar path



By Ralphine Major
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My cell phone rang as we were leaving the doctor's office. The message was brief and totally unexpected. "Mike Hearn has a brain tumor," the voice said. We were stunned and knew that the Hearn's must be devastated. The news put a damper on an otherwise beautiful spring day. Thus, began a precious family's journey of "an unfamiliar path." This former church administrator's battle with brain cancer is chronicled in a book that his wife, Lori, wrote. (*Focus* readers may recall reading about Mike in the "Silent Witness" column on 2-27-12.) This working mother's book certainly has a family feel with forewords written by their son, Davis; daughter, Mallory (two youngsters who seem to have grown up when I was not looking); and even Mike, himself.

Mother could hardly put the book down, perhaps, because it parallels our own family in many ways. Though it was in a different decade, the scenario was similar: a close-knit family, young children, a father stricken with a life-threatening disease in the prime of life, and a mother who becomes the sole breadwinner. Our lives were forever changed. Theirs would be, too. Our hearts ached for them. I watched our father go from working an 18-hour day on the dairy farm to doing a few limited tasks. His enlarged, irregular-beating heart caused me to grow accustomed to watching his erratic breathing. I was ten years old and my brother seven when our mother taught us, in case of an emergency, how to stop the straight-shift car we rode in with him. Surgery was recommended; but, in 1965, it seemed too risky. Unlike the Hearn family, we had a set of grandparents who lived just across the road from us. This young family that we have come to know and love are "transplanted" Tennesseans: Lori's family is in Texas; Mike's family is in Indiana.

Those of us who have read Lori's writing in the past have long known of her unique ability to communicate. I learned something interesting from a well-known and highly respected voice teacher I had many years ago. He always stressed the importance of not just singing the right words on key, but singing with feeling and emotion.

I liken singers to writers. What separates great

ones from good ones is the feeling they impart to those who read or hear their words. In "An Unfamiliar Path," this teacher draws the reader into

her family's daily details in dealing with cancer.

Lori introduces readers to Mike and Micki Duncan and Kent and Amy Williams, the first two couples the Hearn's contacted with their dreadful news--two great choices! Mike is an engineer who enjoys flying, and Micki works with the school system and is also a wedding planner. Kent is the Pastor of Pastoral Care at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, and Amy is a teaching assistant. (Readers may remember my column on 2-21-11, "A Tennessee Treasure," about Kent Williams.) It is easy to see why these two couples would top anyone's list. They are anchored in faith, and they are filled with compassion.

On this unplanned journey with the Hearn's, readers may feel Mike and Lori's pain in trying to teach their children to still trust God even though their father has cancer; travel with them on their numerous trips to Duke for treatment and along the Blue Ridge Parkway to Biltmore for their 20th wedding anniversary; enjoy the moment with Mike and Davis when they go to a University of Tennessee football game and when Mallory and her mother head to Atlanta for some girl fun; share in the fun when Mike goes kayaking with his mother and when he celebrates Father's Day with his own father; and feel their sadness when they must find a new home for their dog.

It is so like Lori to bring some laughter to the family even in these times with their Top 10 list which signals that it is chemo week: "#9 - We know it's chemo week when all our meals include potato soup or pasta." There are many touching moments, also, throughout the book; some of my favorites include pieces of their everyday life, such as: when Mallory was to give a devotion about her father at school, and a knock at her mother's classroom door found the 12-year-old standing there crying; when they include on their Christmas wish list a clean MRI for Mike; when Lori watches a 14-year-old Davis on the first day of school laughing and talking with a group

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Game On Against Cancer to raise funds for Thompson Cancer Survival Center

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must travel more than 30 miles to receive treatment at Thompson. The center offers fully-furnished apartments, meals and supportive services at no cost to patients. Since 1993, more than 17,000 guests have been served, saving them nearly \$7

million in hotel costs.

The home theatre room will be open for guests to enjoy the big game, and the evening will also offer a silent auction and plenty of food and drink. Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased by calling (865)541-1227 or e-mailing mbrown@covhlth.com.

McMillan and Underwood Meet At Gibbs

Cont. from page 1

students, as well as enlarging those programs that are successful while eliminating those that haven't been as productive.

Underwood reiterated McMillan's point about the necessity for students to improve their reading skills.

The candidates were then asked how they would deal with bullying? Underwood said children need to realize there are consequences to actions and should be taught to respect others. McMillan said the administration needs to acknowledge bullying is a serious problem in schools and both teachers and students need additional training to help eliminate bullying in schools.

McMillan and Underwood were then asked about the new Carter Elementary School, with the question being which of them was responsible for the community's success in having the project approved. Even The Focus is tired of that one.

Underwood stressed his leadership qualities, his having been active in

the PTO, while McMillan preferred to highlight his demonstrated ability to work within the system for results, as well as his established relationships with much of Knox County's officials.

Underwood said he feels a calling to be a community leader and promised to join all the PTO and PTA organizations in the Eighth District if elected. McMillan thanked folks for allowing him to serve, pointed to his accomplishments in the short time he has been on the Board of Education and said he wished to improve technology inside the schools by placing a device in the hands of every child so that each child might reach his/her full potential.

The forum went well, although there was ill concealed hostility between the supporters of each candidate. McMillan appeared to be relaxed and jovial and offered to shake hands with Underwood as the two departed the podium. As an event for the Gibbs community, it was a striking failure, but as a political event it fell short of high drama.

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What Next?

The Monkees' Davy Jones has just died, and Sharon Stone is on the cover of the current issue of AARP. Day to day feels like it is, as Shakespeare put it, "creeping in this petty pace." Yet, now two Beatles are gone (George was my favorite), and the two remaining are both hovering around 70. There is no denying that time is actually marching at a swift and steady pace. We

passed George Orwell's 1984 almost thirty years ago and Prince's 1999 came and left without a global technological breakdown. But, what next? I didn't cry over Davy or Whitney or even my favorite Beatle. For each, I have paused and thought about his or her place in our culture and what else has passed behind me when I wasn't looking. Sometime while I was working and raising my daughter, rock music started sounding like alternative music, and country started sounding like rock. I guess I was a mom watching Nickelodeon when MTV stopped playing music. Now, my daughter is a teenager and we argue over the inferiority of MTV. Not only did video kill the radio star, I tell her, it had the audacity to create the reality star. Yuck! MTV isn't the only thing that's gotten weird. There is nothing stranger than realizing that men's furtive

glances are no longer directed at you but at your daughter. I suppose I was so busy admiring the beauty of my baby's eyes that I didn't notice the lines forming around my own. I had Emma when I was on Spring Break in college. It feels like yesterday I was dropping her off at the day-care on Lincoln Memorial University's campus and now she herself is getting mail from colleges all over the country. She is going to have the opportunity to attend colleges that wouldn't have given me the time of day. We recently received her scores on a Pre-ACT test, and I was able to exhale a little. She did exceptionally well. We *did it*, I thought. Of course, I realize that she is the one who is doing it. She has been doing it for sixteen years. Sixteen years ago, I sat in the floor of the bathroom of my one bedroom apartment bawling my eyes out over a little red plus sign on a stick. I called the 1-800 number on the box, and they assured me it was accurate. So did the OB/GYN at St. Mary's Medical Center. Several weeks later, I felt a flutter in my belly, and it has been true love ever since. Since then, every move I have made has been about our survival and her development. We've been thick as thieves, but she has always been her own person. She prefers science to English. Her favorite Beatle is Paul. Her autonomy has developed as quickly and discreetly as the lines around my eyes. She is exactly the kind of young woman I wanted her to be. Exactly. But, what next?

An unfamiliar path

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of boys at the lunch table; and when they retreat to Indiana to enjoy a summer of solitude and serenity at the lake while visiting Mike's parents. I highly recommend "An Unfamiliar Path" to everyone to read in case you or someone you know may face a similar challenge in the future. Perhaps, you may know someone who is currently facing such a challenge. A few months ago, Mike stood before his church family and said, "I never wanted to go through something like this, but I would not take anything for the journey." Focus readers will surely find, as I did, that this family's courage in sharing such heartfelt and intimate details of their ordeal is awe-inspiring. The book is a testimony that God truly is a "mountain mover," and it is a witness how one family depended on God for the smallest to their largest need. Through their book, Mike and Lori hope others "catch a glimpse of God's amazing



PICTURE PROVIDED BY THE HEARN FAMILY

Front row: Davis and Mallory; Back row: Lori and Mike

grace and indescribable love in action." They have established the Isaiah 42:16 Ministry in an effort to help other families facing similar situations; 100% of the proceeds from the sale of "An Unfamiliar Path" (\$15) will be used to help others. To learn more about the ministry, visit isaiah4216ministry.org. If you would like to purchase the book or make

a monetary donation to Isaiah 42:16 Ministry, you may e-mail Mike and Lori at isaiah4216ministry@gmail.com. "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them." Isaiah 42:16.

Feeling Overwhelmed with Decisions?

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South Knoxville Spotlight: Vestal Community Organization

The present day Vestal Community Organization was organized in February of 1991 as a follow up to several other Vestal Neighborhood Groups. The VCO was chartered (Nonprofit) by the Tennessee Secretary of State on December 18, 1998 and has maintained that status since then. The group's primary goal is to improve the reputation, appearance, safety, economic, social health, and quality of life of the primarily low to moderate income residents living in the Vestal Community.

In 1993 the Vestal Community Organization was chosen to participate in the Center for Neighborhood Development's Transforming Neighborhoods Together Program, a grassroots neighborhood planning program for low to moderate income neighborhoods. The Vestal Community Organization was awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the Neighborhood Small Grants Program funded by the East Tennessee Foundation, with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Center for Neighborhood Development in partnership with the City of Knoxville's Community Development Department. The Vestal Community Organization contracted two neighborhood planners, who spent several months gathering data on the community and began writing a plan in March of



1994. This plan reflects the priorities of participating Vestal Community residents as well as recommendations from the planners. Information from residents was gathered from monthly Vestal Community Organization meetings, a neighborhood survey, and from a community-wide meeting held in October of 1993 in which residents were asked for specific ideas of both short-term and long-term goals for improving the neighborhood.

The Vestal Community was selected as one of the Tennessee's Bicentennial Neighborhoods celebrating 200 years of statehood. The neighborhood was probably selected because of its unique character among all of Knoxville's neighborhoods. The community incorporates both rural and urban characteristics. Vestal residents offer a variety of descriptions of the neighborhood character, most of which incorporate the notion of "urban Appalachia." Other people describe the areas as "rural

inner-city neighborhood." As a Bicentennial Neighborhood, Vestal was awarded up to six(6) million dollars in HUD grant monies for new home construction and major renovations to existing houses. This grant money was awarded through the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) and administered through the City of Knoxville Community Development Corporation. The Vestal Community (VCO) played a major role in this project and had four of its members on the board of directors.

The names of the original incorporators were Jack Householder(deceased), Emily Dills, Newman Seay, Doris Sams, Owen Seay, and Evelyn Jones(deceased). Currently, the VCO is meeting the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm at the South Knoxville Community Center. For information contact Newman Seay (865)577-2806 or Seay426@aol.com

Contributed by Newman Seay

Elect

MIKE McMILLAN

SCHOOL BOARD · 8TH DISTRICT

Dear Friend,

During the last eighteen months that I have served as your Knox County School Board representative, we have made significant progress. Now, it is critical that we follow through to ensure that we can finish the projects we have started and that we keep our momentum going. We have accomplished a great deal in a short period of time, but there is still much to do.

We have a new elementary school under way at Carter as well as a new Carter Middle School gymnasium. A project to eliminate the severe traffic problems on Washington Pike at Ritta Elementary is finally moving forward. I voted to keep our custodians as school system employees instead of outsourcing their jobs. I led the effort to defeat the closing of Corryton Elementary. Also, I have initiated a policy to redefine "zero tolerance" so that our children will be safer at school.

With your vote, the next item on my agenda is a long-awaited Gibbs Middle School so that our children can stay in their community instead of being bussed over long distances. I pledge to you that a new Gibbs Middle School will be my top priority when elected to a full term.

We cannot continue to accomplish this kind of progress without your support. Please take the time to go vote on Election Day, Tuesday, March 6th.

Every vote is important in the coming election and I humbly ask for your vote so we can continue to move our schools in the 8th District forward.

Many thanks and let me know whenever I can be of help to you.

Kindest personal regards,

Mike McMillan

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

FOCUS MORE ON Seymour

Seymour Eagletrons gear up for competition

By Diane Humphrey,
Team Faculty Advisor

Seymour School Board representative, Charles Temple and wife, Donna, accompanied the Seymour High School Eagletrons robotics team to ORNL's Manufacturing Design Facility (MDF) (pictured inset) to see the final build phase of the robot that competed in the Smoky Mountain Regional FIRST robotics competition last weekend at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Eight regional teams, including Seymour High School, are being generously supported by ORNL in a commitment to strengthen the math and science education of the students in this region. The brand new, state-of-the-art, Manufacturing Design Facility's purpose and mission is to advance technology – develop new materials, new processes – with a focus on US manufacturing. It is “exposing the next generation of engineers to the next generation of manufacturing,” said Dr. Lonnie Love, senior scientist in robotics.

The students work seven days a week (week-nights and all day Saturday and Sunday) with scientists and engineer mentors from the MDF, as well as the team's



own full-time mentors. The students have full access to anything in the facility and have been using some cutting-edge technology to build their robot. One of these is a type of additive process, where lasers, electron beams and fused deposition modeling are integrated to “build up” a part, rather than the traditional means of subtracting from a piece of material in order to make parts.

Every Saturday all teams, some 250 people, gather in a large conference room for a brown-bag lunch. Afterwards the students take

turns presenting their teams' updates, issues and lessons learned. All teams participate in assisting with trouble-shooting. In the name of “gracious professionalism,” students assist other teams with specific problems they may be facing. SHS programmer, Eric Auel, was able to assist rookie team, Gibbs H.S, in debugging some computer code on this particular Saturday (pictured above).

The SHS Eagletrons robotics team #3675 is so thankful for all the support received from our school, our school board and all of our sponsors and contributors.

Downtown Autobody continues to serve Seymour

By Tasha Mahurin
Mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Downtown Autobody, located at 11706 Chapman Highway in Seymour, continues to offer friendly service and top-notch repair. Although other shops have since opened. Downtown Autobody was the first of its kind in the Seymour area when it opened in October of 2009.

Owner Dave Clark saw a need for the shop in the area when his Blount locations began to draw customers from South Knoxville and Seymour. The shop is the third of its kind for Clark who also owns shops in Maryville and Alcoa, and is currently combining those two shops into one super service center.

“It's been a great couple of years,” stated manager and long-time Seymour resident, Monte Jones. “We surpassed the Maryville store's figures our first year and continue to grow.”

The shop is equipped with excellent equipment, including the Chief Genesis. The Chief Genesis combines laser and computer technology to detect and record all damage done to the vehicle, even if its not visibly apparent. A print-out then documents this damage to expedite insurance approval. The Chief Genesis then acts as a guide and monitor, enabling Downtown Autobody to restore your vehicle to its previous condition. Customers will be able to clearly see the extent of the vehicle's structural damage and what was done to correct it.

Access to technology is not the only thing that distinguishes Downtown Autobody. The shop offers complete insurance handling and is willing to work with all insurance companies. Their state-of-the-art and ASE and I-Car Gold Certified mechanics give them an edge over competitors.

When an accident occurs two things are affected- the vehicle's safety and the vehicle's value. Vehicles that have been involved in a collision should be repaired accurately to maintain the vehicle's structural integrity. Repairs done incorrectly may not only effect the vehicles drivability, but also its value. Downtown Autobody guarantees to give the extra mile for each and every client. Their paint matching is guaranteed, and every job comes complete with a lifetime warranty.

“We would like to thank the community for their support,” Jones told *The Focus*. “We're caught up on hail damage and have immediate service openings.”

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City, Legacy Parks announce outdoor recreation initiative

Knoxville took the first step toward putting itself on the map as a premier outdoor recreation community with the launch of Outdoor Knoxville, a three-pronged initiative to capitalize on the exceptional outdoor recreational assets found in and around Knoxville. It includes a new Adventure Center, a website and a three-day festival this summer.

The most visible presence for Outdoor Knoxville will be the Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center to be created in the City-owned Gateway Pavilion Building at Volunteer Landing. Legacy Parks Foundation, a Knoxville-based non-profit focused on expanding parks, open space and recreational opportunities, will operate the center in partnership with River Sports Outfitters.

"Outdoor Knoxville will showcase our trails, parks, waterways and greenways for both visitors and Knoxville residents," said Mayor Madeline Rogero. "We have great opportunities here for recreation in beautiful natural settings just minutes from downtown, and this effort will help promote those and encourage everyone to get out and enjoy them."

The Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center will serve as the recreational hub for not only Knoxville but also the entire region. It is centrally located with easy connections to downtown Knoxville, the University of Tennessee, I-40, and all the trails and greenways on both sides of the river.

Outdoor Knoxville will be a destination through a unique mix of boutique retail, outdoor equipment rentals and sales, and local events and excursions.

Legacy Parks Foundation will locate its office on the second level and manage the space for public events and activities. The theater and large room will be made available for public use.

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Laura Jones and Ed McAllister unfurl the Outdoor Knoxville banner while rappelling down the side of the Gateway Pavilion Building during the initiative's announcement on Tuesday, February 28.

In Perspective

I bought a new car this week... the "mom-mobile"



By Tasha Mahurin
Mahurin@knoxfocus.com

was on its last legs. Actually it was on its last leg 30k miles and one toddler before I traded it

in, but I digress.

This may sound a bit odd coming from a sales person, but I actually detest dealing with other sales people. I despise "doing the deal", and I loathe those twisted mind-games sales people are notorious for playing. I cringe when the calculator comes out. In general I find the entire process comparable to a root-canal. However, this was not the case this week when I, in a moment of desperation with the threat of a check-engine light looming, pulled into Rusty Wallace Kia on Alcoa Highway.

Now before you roll your eyes, let me state that this particular dealership is not one of my clients, and no, I did not get a discount for including them in this column. But as our publisher Steve

Cont. on page 2

Another week has come and gone. It is hard to believe that it is already March. Last week I brought a bill to the House floor to provide small business entrepreneurs with webpage information to help encourage small business activity throughout Tennessee. Small businesses are the backbone of



From State Representative Harry Brooks

our economy, and anything that we can do to provide them with resources to help them grow is a win for them and the entire state. This webpage would aid small businesses in obtaining information concerning state laws, regulations,

and requirements that apply to the specific type of small business the user desires to start. The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Another bill that made it through the House this week targets individuals who promote sex as a profession, also known as "pimps." This bill adds to the sex offender

registry the names of individuals convicted of promoting prostitution. First time offenders will be listed for ten years. Individuals with second offenses would be there for life. This is one step in hoping to eliminate these illegal

activities.

The House also passed legislation to provide transparency and accountability in tax increment financing (TIF) law. TIF is an economic development tool that local governments use to redevelop areas. Without TIF, some redevelopment projects may never occur which could cost areas potential economic growth and jobs.

Legislation to protect First Amendment rights of school personnel, including teachers and administrators, made it through the House. This bill ensures that educators can participate in programs that take place on school property both before and after school hours as long as it does not interfere with their school duties. This companion bill is

currently in the Senate Education Committee.

I want to remind you again that I will be holding Town Hall meetings on March 10th and 17th. This is an opportunity to meet one on one with me to discuss any state concern you might have. The meetings are as follows:

Saturday, March 10th – 10:00 a.m. – Tennessee School for the Deaf

Saturday, March 10th – 2:00 p.m. – Carter Community Library

Saturday, March 17th – 10:00 a.m. – Corryton Senior Community Center

Saturday, March 17th – 2:00 p.m. – Powell Community Library

I hope to see you at one or more of these meetings.

A moment of silent prayer was

observed on the House floor to remember those who lost their lives and property in the spring storms that hit Tennessee. I would ask you to do what you can to comfort and aid these families. This is the time of year for these storms, so be vigilant and aware to reports of bad weather. If you know of someone who might not have a weather radio or safe place to ride out a storm, please share your information and/or space with them. Be a good neighbor. It is an honor to be your Representative.

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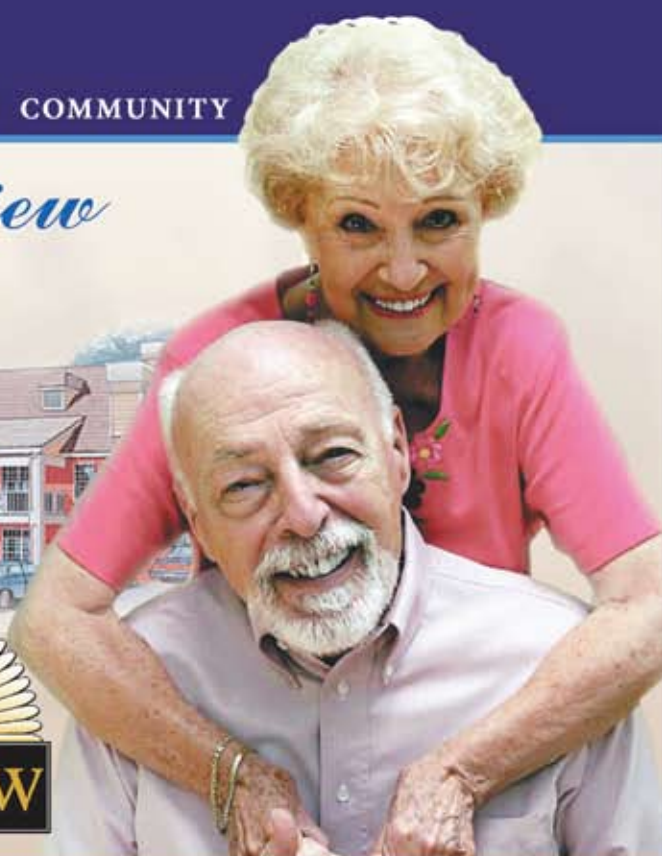
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In Perspective

Cont. from page 1

Hunley says often: “I like to give credit where credit is due.” So here’s what they did “right”...

1.) Upon pulling into the dealership I was not mauled by sales reps. While several of them were standing nearby, ever ready to assist, I actually asked for assistance rather than being pounced upon. (I realize I’m being direct, but I also know that you know exactly what I’m talking about.)

2.) They treated me like a person not a woman. 2012 or not, I know a good many women who won’t step foot onto a car lot without a man by their side. However, I was totally at ease throughout the entire process. Never at any point did my sales rep try to manipulate my maternal instincts for safety or appeal to my vanity- we simply discussed the features and benefits of each vehicle.

3.) The sales manager and finance department were very negotiable, and there wasn’t an excessive amount of back and forth, number crunching...you know, the calculator deal. In the end, I walked out with a great vehicle at a great price.

4.) The staff was friendly, accommodating, and patient. When my husband and I returned to pick-up the vehicle, we had aforementioned toddlers in tow. The waiting room was fully stocked with coloring books, crayons, and snacks. The process went very quickly, and both girls left with balloons and a smile- despite the fact that at one point they tried to disassemble a piece of office furniture. (Don’t judge me- they’re two and four.)

So if you are in the market to purchase a new vehicle, I highly recommend Rusty Wallace Kia on Alcoa Highway. If you’re in the car business, I would recommend taking these observations into consideration, because thanks to their great service, we’ll definitely buy again. P.S. Ask for Eddie.

Remember not to text while driving and bona fortuna sit semper.



Crown College hosted a Rally for Rick on Wednesday, February 29.

City, Legacy Parks announce outdoor recreation initiative

Cont. from page 1
Recreational, civic and community groups will be encouraged to hold meetings in the space for a nominal charge. These rentals for business and private functions would generate revenue to support Legacy Parks Foundation’s operations and mission.

River Sports Outfitters, a 29-year-old recreational retailer and outdoor excursion provider in Knoxville, will manage the first level. They will feature boat, stand-up paddleboard and bike rentals as well as retail space offering outdoor gear and equipment. Premium outdoor brands Patagonia, The North Face, Smart Wool and Mountain Hardware will create boutique concept shops within the River Sports Outfitters retail space.

In addition to the rental and retail components, Legacy Parks Foundation and River Sports Outfitters will offer public programs and group outings from the facility. Maps, directions and general information about recreational opportunities throughout the region will be provided at an information center in the building. Outdoor-related events held at the facility will bring people down

to the waterfront and get them out to play.

The Gateway Pavilion Building is owned by the city, and originally housed the Gateway Regional Visitors Center. In recent years, the building has been vacant, and the city has paid to maintain it. City Council will be asked to approve a lease with Legacy Parks Foundation at its March 6 meeting. If approved, the Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center will open in mid-April.

The second element of the Outdoor Knoxville initiative is a new website, OutdoorKnoxville.com. It is a robust, comprehensive portal to all outdoor recreational activities, venues, and events in our region. This highly interactive website has gathered information, videos, photos, and other related content from a broad and inclusive variety of sources, creating an easy-to-use resource for all levels of outdoor adventurers. The site officially launched today.

OutdoorKnoxville.com will position Knoxville, and the region, as a recreational destination by showcasing the abundance of parks, trails, greenways, activities, and amenities that we enjoy in Knoxville.

Legacy Parks Foundation has developed the site with a skilled advisory team. Elle Colquitt, author of the popular “Mini Adventure Series” of guidebooks for on- and off-road adventures around Tennessee, has developed all the content. She will keep the content current and exciting, review and manage all postings, maintain the Facebook page, and produce a weekly e-newsletter showcasing events and local activities. In addition, she will aggressively market the site locally, regionally, and nationally to users, content providers, sponsors and advertisers.

OutdoorKnoxville.com offers a year-round activity calendar that can be added to by anyone. Additionally, users are able to submit videos and photos as well as offer their experiences, advice, and review on events, trails and venues. Information will always be current, descriptive, and easy to use.

Outdoor KnoxFest is the third key element in the initiative. Outdoor KnoxFest will be a three-day event, Aug. 24 -26, that promotes a variety


of outdoor recreational venues and opportunities throughout East Tennessee and encourages people of all levels of experience to participate. The Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center will be the hub of these activities. The events will include:

- An all-day adventure race
 - A metric century bike ride organized by the Smoky Mountain Wheelmen
 - A cross-country mountain bike trial designed by the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club
 - A trail run organized by the Knoxville Track Club
 - A variety of guided hikes
 - A community bike ride
 - Family activities
 - Boat and bike demos and rentals
 - A climbing wall
 - Films and speakers
- This event will attract

participants from throughout the region, including Asheville, Atlanta and Nashville.

Legacy Parks Foundation has been actively working to make East Tennessee a recreational destination of the Southeast. The initial work has been focused on creating a 1,000-acre urban wilderness and recreational corridor stretching along the Tennessee River’s south shore, from the Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area to Alcoa Highway. This corridor will parallel and connect to the greenways along the north side of the river.

During the past five years Legacy Parks Foundation has raised more than \$3 million for parks, greenways and recreational venues, added more than 200 acres of parkland to Knox County and helped protect nearly 1,000 acres of farm and forest land in East Tennessee.



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Tom Stewart

Part 4

Pages from
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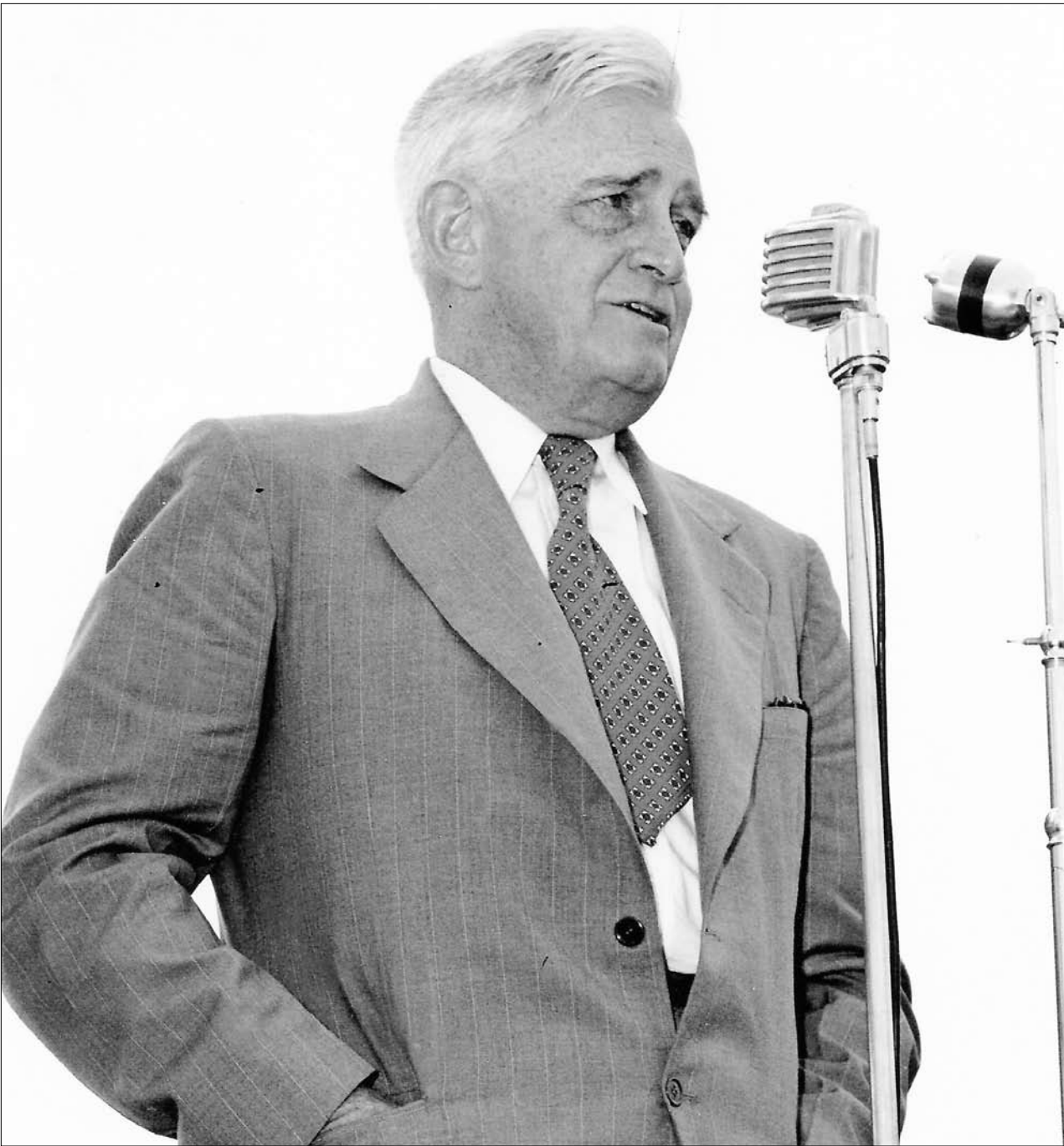


By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Arthur Thomas “Tom” Stewart assumed his place in Washington, D. C. on January 16, 1939 after having won one of the most hotly contested Senate races in Tennessee history. Senator Stewart retained at least one staff member from his predecessor George L. Berry, Ms. Virginia Cox, who was quite experienced and knew both the Senate and Tennessee well. Stewart, a very friendly and kindly man, did not have the same kind of forceful personality as his senior colleague, Kenneth D. McKellar, which frequently caused him to be overshadowed. Upon entering the Senate, Stewart had waited until his term as District Attorney had expired before assuming his seat in the Senate, although he had been eligible to take office in November of 1938. Stewart had delayed his resignation as District Attorney to prevent outgoing Governor Gordon Browning from appointing his successor.

Stewart was the least senior member of the United States Senate when he was sworn into office while McKellar was one of the most senior members. It had been McKellar who had urged Stewart to run for the Senate and brought along his political partner, E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political machine. McKellar presided over a vast network of Federal officials and appointees in Tennessee, as well as literally thousands of other Tennesseans for whom he had done favors. McKellar relished having a colleague he liked personally and could work closely with; his relationship with Stewart’s predecessor George L. Berry had been, at best, frosty, if not downright hostile.

Senator Stewart’s son and namesake, Thomas M. Stewart, lived to be well into his nineties and prior to his passing away, related witnessing a meeting between Tennessee’s two senators, which occurred in 1939, the first year Tom Stewart served as a senator from Tennessee. Young Stewart was waiting in the reception room of his father’s Senate office and heard his father calling for him. Most of the Senate offices had closed and the halls were largely deserted and the younger Stewart had been waiting to go home with his father. Supposing that Senator Stewart had been detained briefly, Thomas Stewart went into his father’s office to see Senator McKellar sitting inside and McKellar wanted a drink of water. The younger Stewart was dispatched to fetch a glass and poured water for McKellar and used the opportunity to plant himself in his father’s



FROM THE NASHVILLE BANNER COLLECTION, NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Senator Tom Stewart campaigning, circa 1948.

office as the two senators discussed appointments. Remembering the old adage about being seen but not heard, the young man, then in his very early twenties, listened quietly as Senators McKellar and Stewart discussed various candidates for Federal judgeships in Tennessee. One of the applicants was a personal friend of Senator Stewart and the younger Stewart recalled that particular gentleman was not only a friend of his father’s, but also a frequent hunting companion. Thomas Stewart watched while the two senators decided upon two candidates to fill Federal judgeships in Tennessee.

Tom Stewart had run for the Senate as a supporter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. By and large, Stewart was faithful to his pledge. Senator McKellar, who did not personally like the frequently devious Roosevelt, issued a statement supporting a third term for FDR, as did Senator Stewart. The world was changing with the aggression of the Japanese Empire in much of Asia and German dictator Adolf Hitler’s territorial ambitions in Europe. Still, isolationist sentiment in America was very strong and Roosevelt had difficulties with a foreign policy that was internationalist in its point of view and practice. A majority of Americans loathed the idea of being involved in another European war and it took all of Franklin Roosevelt’s considerable political skills to navigate the powerful isolationist bloc in Congress. Many of the most powerful members of Congress were strongly isolationist; Senator David I. Walsh, the first Irish Catholic Democrat ever elected governor and United States Senator

from Massachusetts was Chairman of the Senate’s Naval Affairs Committee and Walsh hated the British, as many Irishmen did. William Borah, “the Lion of Idaho”, an orator so compelling it was said his speeches on the floor of the Senate could actually move colleagues to change their votes, was the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee and absolutely opposed to any involvement in Europe. Gerald Nye of North Dakota, Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri, Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, Henrik Shipstead of Minnesota, Robert Taft of Ohio, Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina, and the aging Hiram Johnson of California, once Teddy Roosevelt’s running mate on the Progressive “Bull Moose” ticket, were all profoundly isolationist and insisted upon a foreign policy of strict neutrality as another world war erupted in Europe when Hitler invaded Poland. Britain and France immediately declared war on Germany as Hitler’s blitzkrieg quickly subjugated Poland. The German armies swiftly turned on France and although France was considered a world power at the time, the Germans rapidly defeated the French and drove the British from the European continent in an embarrassing route at Dunkirk. The world was once again mired in the flames of war and most Americans wanted no part of it.

Tennessee’s senators, Tom Stewart and Kenneth McKellar, loyally supported Franklin Roosevelt’s internationalist foreign policy. In fact, the majority of Southern members of the Senate were the most reliably internationalist in that body and Stewart and McKellar were no exception. With the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor

by the Japanese Empire, isolationism collapsed as a political factor in the United States. Americans were stunned and outraged and FDR’s speech to the Congress discussing December 7, 1941 was to become one of the most famous in a presidency filled with memorable moments. Congress promptly declared war on the Japanese Empire, as well as the other members of the “Axis” powers, Germany and Italy.

1942 brought new elections as well as consistently depressing news for Americans. The war was not going well for the Allied powers and Americans were being called on to make more and more in the way of sacrifices to aid the war effort. Tom Stewart was up for reelection for a six-year term and the discontent amongst voters ensured he would have an opponent in the Democratic primary. Governor Prentice Cooper had been casting a longing eye on Stewart’s Senate seat and likely would have run had not Senator McKellar been so profoundly opposed to the idea. Cooper was eligible to seek a third consecutive two-year term as governor and was still only forty-six years old in 1942. Boss Crump had

never been close to either Governor Cooper or Senator Stewart and simply followed McKellar’s lead. Cooper finally decided to seek reelection as governor while Stewart sought a second term in the Senate. Both encountered unexpectedly strong opposition in the primaries.

Stewart’s opponent was untested politically, but possessed a name familiar to Tennesseans. Edward Ward “Ned” Carmack, Jr. was the son of the late U. S. Senator E. W. Carmack who had been assassinated in the streets of Nashville after a bruising primary contest for the governorship between Carmack and incumbent Malcolm Rice Patterson. E. W. Carmack became something of a martyr to the cause of prohibition and an imposing statue of Carmack still stands in front of Tennessee’s Capitol to this day. The younger Carmack had not known the same kind of success as his father. Ned Carmack had dabbled in real estate speculation without much success and had finally become the editor of the Murfreesboro Daily News Journal, following in his father’s footsteps. The elder Carmack had been the editor of The Tennessean newspaper in

Nashville and his florid and vitriolic editorials attacking his opponents had led to his having been shot. Ned Carmack managed to buy the Murfreesboro Daily News Journal in an arrangement where the former owner agreed to finance the paper and its assets and Carmack became both the editor and publisher in 1933.

The newspaper under Carmack’s management soon failed and was the subject of litigation, causing Carmack to lose control of the Murfreesboro Daily News Journal. As his father had been elected to Congress and the United States Senate, the younger Carmack was soon expressing interest in seeking elective office. Carmack announced himself as a candidate for the United States Senate in 1938, but a strange incident led to his withdrawing his candidacy. Evidently, Carmack had offered a ride to two hitchhikers who promptly attacked him, beating him so badly that his legs were permanently disabled. Carmack’s delayed political ambitions came into full bloom in 1942 and he proved to be an effective speaker, just as his father had been.

Senator Stewart returned to Tennessee to campaign rather quietly. Stewart again had the full support of Senator McKellar and Mr. Crump of Memphis lent his support as well, although he was somewhat less than enthused. The latent discontent of the voters showed itself in the election returns. Senator Stewart had actually lost the election until the returns from Shelby County came rolling in, giving Stewart 42,875 votes to a total of 6,959 votes for Carmack. Stewart won renomination by less than twenty thousand votes out of more than two hundred and sixty two thousand ballots cast by Tennessee Democrats.

E. H. Crump was mortified by the results of the election. A highly sensitive and supremely egotistical man, Crump was appalled that Stewart had actually needed the votes from Shelby County to win. It left a bitter taste in the Memphis Boss’ mouth and one he never forgot.





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An unexpected run... Tennessee basketball not done yet

By Alex Norman

When Bruce Pearl took over the Tennessee basketball program in 2005, things were looking pretty bleak on Rocky Top.

The Vols had just finished a below mediocre 14-17 campaign, the fourth straight season that head coach Buzz Peterson failed to get his team into the NCAA tournament. In those four years, the Vols went a combined 61-59, with a 29-35 mark in the Southeastern Conference.

Still, the UT fan base was divided. Some wanted a change in direction. Others wanted Peterson to get one more season, based more on his "nice guy" persona than anything he showed as a coach.

Tennessee Athletic Director Mike Hamilton made the decision to fire Peterson, and hired University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin head coach Bruce Pearl.

Expectations were low for Pearl, who would be rebuilding a program, and a team that lost two of its best players, Scooter McFadgon and Brandon Crump.

But Pearl did something few could be foreseen. The Vols finished the 2005-2006 campaign with a 22-8 record, and an SEC Eastern Division championship. They beat eventual national champion Florida twice, including a memorable 80-76 victory at Thompson-Boling Arena.

In his six seasons in Knoxville, the Vols finished with a 145-61 record, with a 65-31 mark in the SEC. They made it to the NCAA tournament each year, including three trips to the Sweet 16, and Tennessee's first ever stop in the Elite Eight. They earned the first number 1 ranking in program history, and won the SEC regular season championship in 2008.

Even with those impressive accomplishments, perhaps the most important thing Pearl did was get Tennessee fans to believe in that program.

Continue on page 2

Maryville downs Farragut in regional battle

By Ken Lay

The fourth time was the charm for the Maryville High School girls basketball team.

The Lady Rebels notched a 39-35 comeback victory over Farragut Wednesday night in the Region 2-AAA Championship Game at Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

"This is absolutely unbelievable," Maryville

coach Scott West said after watching his team win its first regional title on the road. "Farragut is a great team and it looked like they were going to run us right out of here."

The Lady Admirals, who had won three close games against Maryville earlier in the season, clung to a 31-24 lead heading to the fourth quarter and looked poised to claim its

second region title in six years.

But Lady Rebels sophomore guard Dee Clark had other ideas. Clark, who missed her freshman season with a knee injury, buried her first three shots in the final period to give Maryville (20-11) a 34-31 lead with 5:21 remaining in the contest. Clark hit a pair of 3-pointers to open the frame. She added

a short jumper to put Maryville up for good.

"She had struggled early in the tournament but she hit those big shots for us," West said. "She's a sophomore but she didn't get to play last year, so she's really only a freshman," West said of Clark. "We're lucky to have her for two more years."

Maryville extended its advantage to 36-31 on a

3-point play by Miranda Maples with 3:56 to go.

Rebecca Jameson then answered with a bucket to pull Farragut to within 35-33 a short time later. She, however, wasn't around much longer as she fouled out after hitting her last basket.

"They outthusted us and we just couldn't get anything going against their

Continue on page 2

'Attagirl'

Donna Fielden to be recognized for service to students and community

Donna Fielden will never forget the phone call she made to her daddy during the wee hours of a March morning during a basketball season nearly 20 years ago.

By Steve Williams

Refereeing in the 1993 women's junior college nationals at Tyler, Texas, Donna had just gotten word she had been selected to work the tournament's championship game. She was eager to share the news with her father, who himself had been a NCAA Division 1 basketball official. The two had always called the national tournament finals the Big Dance.

Being so happy and excited, Donna had lost track of time as she put in the phone call to her father, sound asleep back home in Halls Cross Roads.

"I felt it was really the first big move I had made in college ball," said Donna. "I woke him up. I just said, I'm going to the Big Dance. He said, 'Attagirl' and hung up."

One word, but it meant so much.

If Elbert Fielden were still living, perhaps that would be what he would tell his daughter when she is recognized Tuesday (March 6) at a celebration of her 32-year career as an educator in Knox County schools.

Donna Fielden is certainly deserving of another "Attagirl."

In addition to her outstanding officiating career, she was a middle school science teacher at Karns (1980-1992) and Powell (1992-1999) before being sent to West High School as an assistant principal in January of 1999.

The common denominator all

along the way: kids.

Fielden will retire at the end of this school year, but even in retirement she says she plans to continue to be involved in some capacity with youngsters.

They're calling Tuesday's event the "Donna Fielden Retirement Extravaganza!" It will be held in the West High main auditorium starting at 3 p.m., with a reception immediately following.

The official West High invitation states: "Join us as we boast, roast and toast Donna's decades of service to students and her community."

In lieu of gifts, contributions to the Elbert Fielden Memorial Scholarship and the Lisa Fielden Buntin Memorial Fund are encouraged. Donna established these funds to honor her late father and sister. Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent along with cards or letters of appreciation to: West High School, attn: Cora Ridge/DFRE.

Fielden graduated from Halls High in 1974 and received her Master's degree in education and administration from UT in 1980. Not only did she follow in the footsteps of her father in officiating, she also was inducted into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame last July, nine years after her dad was so honored in 2002.

Fielden's accomplishments as an official include being the first female to officiate a TSSAA state boys tournament game in 1994.

Being involved in athletics and academics throughout her career, Fielden was asked what advice she would give to today's high school student-athlete?

"Prioritize and keep in mind what's most important," she said. "Athletics is not the end all, but it



Donna Fielden followed in the footsteps of her father, Elbert Fielden, as a basketball referee. "I had the honor of calling with him twice," says Donna. Both are in the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame for their officiating.

can be a means to the end. I think kids need to prioritize, making academics first. Working at Coach Pat Summitt's basketball camps, I've heard Pat tell kids to be realistic, know what your talent is, know what your ability is and play toward that. If you are a Division III level athlete, then work hard toward Division III. Don't be one of these kids who says, 'I'm going

to UConn or I'm going to the NFL,' being unrealistic. So prioritize and be realistic."

Paul Romero, a relatively young teacher on the West High faculty and also a TSSAA football and basketball referee, has benefited two ways from Fielden expertise.

"In my three years at West, Ms. Fielden has been very supportive,

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Central High School Softball Preview

By Ken Lay

As the 2012 softball season looms Central High School coach Mike Cox has only one prevailing thought.

"It's going to be an interesting year," said Cox, who opens his 13th season as Lady Bobcats head coach. "I know that my girls are going to play hard every time they step on the field.

"We're going to win our share of games. We won't win them all but I know that we'll play hard. I have 12 girls and I call them The Dirty Dozen because they work so hard."

In past years, District

3-AAA has dominated by stellar pitching. Cox, however, said that may not be the case this season.

"I know that Powell lost their No. 1 pitcher. I know Karns lost their No. 1 pitcher and I lost my No. 1 pitcher," Cox said. "I feel like that with everybody losing their pitching, that games will be 10-8, 11-7 or 13-10.

"Teams will win with offense and defense. It's going to come down to who can swing the bat and who plays solid defense."

Cox had to feel pretty good after seeing the Lady Bobcats perform in some scrimmages on Saturday,

Feb. 25. Central won three games at The Heritage Play Day in dominating fashion. The Lady Bobcats defeated Bearden (5-1), Morristown West (9-0) and Alcoa (7-1) as junior pitchers Kacy Russell and Morgan Dukes were impressive.

"My pitchers did a superb job, they gave up two runs in three games," Cox said. "Going in, I didn't really know what to expect until we played Saturday (Feb. 25). Right now, I feel pretty good about my team."

It will be a tough grind for the Lady Bobcats in 2012 but they have the right mix and experienced youngsters and savvy veterans.

Top returners include: Caroline Testerman (senior, shortstop and four-year starter in the infield); Chloe Cox (senior and four-year starting catcher); Kaitlyn Howell (junior, second baseman); Courtney Styles (sophomore, third baseman). Russell and Dukes both return and will handle pitching duties.

Top newcomers are freshman outfielders Jordan Hansard and Bailey Compton, who are both projected starters. Junior Megan Pinkston, a transfer from West High, will start at first base.

"My middle infield is the best in the county," Cox

said. "Styles is a stud at third and Megan will be solid at first base."

Cox said that the Lady 'Cats, who went 33-8 last season, will look to compete for the District 3-AAA Championship along with the Beavers. Halls and Powell have competed for the title in the past. Hardin Valley Academy will also look to make its mark in the program's fourth year of existence.

"In the past, Halls, Powell, Central and Karns have been the most consistent programs," Cox said. "Halls has been a little down in the last four years. I think it will probably come

down to Karns and us for the district.

"I think Anderson County may make some noise. Oak Ridge, Clinton and Campbell County don't have the coaching."

The Lady Hawks may be a dark horse and Cox said he hopes Hardin Valley, coached by former Central shortstop Whitney Hickam, does well.

"I hope Hardin Valley has a good season," Cox said. "I always want to see my former players do well.

Maryville downs Farragut in regional battle

Cont. from page 1

defense," said Jameson, who scored 10 points to lead Farragut (26-7).

The Lady Admirals were held scoreless until Madison Blevins scored the game's final basket with 2.7 seconds remaining.

"We just went cold and Maryville played a great game," Farragut coach Wes Edmonds said. "This is really tough. People didn't expect us to be here.

"If you'd told the girls that they would be region runner-up at the beginning of the season, they'd have taken it."

Farragut got the better of things throughout the first three quarters and

opened a 28-20 lead on a 3-pointer by Katie Overton midway through the third quarter.

The final eight minutes belonged to the Lady Rebels as Clark, Leila Bangesh. Miranda Maples and Kayla Tillie scored clutch points down the stretch while the Lady Admirals struggled.

Clark scored a game-high 12 points for the Maryville, which was set to host a Section 1-AAA game for the right to go to the state tournament.

Farragut was set to travel to Northeast Tennessee for a Sectional game but results were unavailable at press time.

An unexpected run... Tennessee basketball not done yet

Cont. from page 1

So when Pearl was fired following a 2010-2011 season after an NCAA investigation, there were questions about where the program would go from here.

Hamilton's final major decision as UT AD was to hire Missouri State's Cuonzo Martin to replace Pearl. Martin, a no-nonsense coach with a list of references a mile long, was a move almost universally applauded in the basketball world.

But he wasn't Pearl... Going into this season there was a great deal of concern in Big Orange Country. How would he replace his top two scorers, Tobias Harris and Scotty Hopson, who left

school early to play professional basketball? If that wasn't enough, six seniors would also leave the program, including point guard Melvin Goins and center Brian Williams.

Just like Pearl, Martin had to rebuild the program, only with much less on the current roster to work with. And while Pearl emphasized offense, Martin stressed defense, which is a more difficult way to get players to buy in to a new coaching staff.

November and December didn't do very much to get Tennessee fans excited about the program. The Vols lost six out of seven games (their lone win over Division II Chaminade), including an embarrassing home defeat at the hands

of Austin Peay, the kind of loss that hadn't been seen since the Buzz Peterson era.

But as time went on, Tennessee basketball showed improvement, and when Jarnell Stokes, one of the nation's top 20 recruits, enrolled at Tennessee mid-season, the Vols had some momentum.

Stokes graduated high school early, and picked the Vols over Kentucky, Arkansas, and his hometown Memphis Tigers. His arrival was a shot in the arm for the team, and Tennessee basketball fans, which had been through so much negativity over the past year and a half.

At press time (before the regular season finale against Vanderbilt), the

Vols had a 17-13 record, with a 9-6 mark in the SEC. Tennessee won only 8 conference games in Pearl's final season. Tennessee had likely done enough to earn an NIT berth, and still had an outside shot at the NCAA tournament.

No one will confuse Cuonzo Martin with Bruce Pearl. They are different coaches, different motivators, and different "salesmen" when it comes to UT basketball.

But if this late season run is any indication, the Vols are in good hands, especially when Cam Tatum and Renaldo Woolridge are the only seniors on the roster.

The rumors of this program's demise... appear to be just that... rumors.

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	485 JANET HUFFAKER	279 J.C.PILANT
WEEKLY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR TUESDAY, CLUB 55, FEBRUARY 20, 2012	WEDNESDAY CLUB 55:	278 CURTIS TINDELL
	HIGH GAME SCRATCH--MALE	278 JOHN FISHER
	2326 BARRY MCGILL	HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE
	229 GENE ALLMON	785 CURTIS TINDELL
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	650 BILL BYRGE	278 BETTY PHILLIPS
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‘Attagirl’

Cont. from page 1

very helpful,” said Romero, who teaches personal finance and business principles. “As a new teacher, you have a lot of behavioral issues at times. She’s really helped me get through that and develop my skills as a teacher. She’s critiqued my lesson planning and performing in front of students.

“As an official, it’s been very nice to have someone to talk to about certain situations that have happened to me in games, just to get her perspective of it. Sometimes I get to hear stories of things that she’s dealt with, so it’s nice to get her point of view. She gives me different things to consider when I’m blowing the whistle. That helps my officiating.”

West coaches sometimes direct officiating questions from a recent game Fielden’s way, Romero said. Her connection to the school combined with her past ties to officiating allows Fielden to see both sides, a rare perspective. As a result, “she’s fair” in her answers, said Romero.

As Fielden prepares to close this chapter of her life, she hopes she has lived up to “No. 167” in a book her daddy, who died in 2005, once gave her.

“It was one of those life lessons-type books,” said Donna. “He said, if I can do No. 167, I’d know my journey had been worth it. I looked up No. 167 and it said: Left things better than I found them. That’s what I will hope to have done when I walk out the door. Is it a better place because I was there? I hope so.”

FIRST TASTE OF SPORTS

Fielden played competitive junior golf growing up and was city champion a couple of years. As a sophomore at Halls High in 1971, she played on the school team that won the Y-Teen city-wide Senior basketball tournament at the YWCA. The TSSAA added girls basketball the year after she graduated in 1974. Fielden threw the shot put and discus in track and field, the only girls sport offered by the TSSAA when she was in high school.

DONNA AND PAT

“I walked into Alumni Gym at UT the same time Pat Summitt did, the fall of 1974,” said Fielden. “She was Pat Head then, a graduate teacher and who had just come to coach basketball. Matter of fact, her office was down in Alumni Gym. You talk about a cracker box.

“She wanted to have a JV and a varsity team, so I tried out for JV since I didn’t have much experience, not having high school ball, and made the team. A lady named Sylvia Ryan coached us. Now she’s Sylvia Hatchell at UNC, North Carolina’s coach. After my freshman year, Pat asked me if I wanted to be the manager of the varsity team. I thought, well shoot, I’m not that good of a player, that sounds like an ideal thing to do, so I was her manager for the next three years, a phenomenal experience.”

Fielden was asked if there was anything in particular she remembered about Pat from that time?

“Hard work,” said Fielden. “She was just all about workin’ hard. She expected it from the players and she worked hard, too, because she was starting to train at that time for the ‘76 Olympics. After that first season, some of us gym rats would get together and play a pickup game with her because she wanted the workout. Let me tell you: she played HARD. She played so hard it was scary. Integrity. Hard work. That’s what I remember about her. And just a good person. That’s all you can say, just a good person.”

ALMOST A COACH

“After I finished graduate school, I thought I might want to coach,” said Fielden. “I went over and applied for a job at Chowan Community College, just north of Raleigh. They offered me the job. In addition to coaching, I would have been a freshman counselor or something like that. I drove back to Knoxville, fully thinking that’s the career route I wanted to go. But Knox County Schools had called while I was gone and offered me a job at Karns Middle School. It paid the same amount of money and I got to stay home.

“When I decided I wasn’t going to coach, I thought I’d just referee. Pat used to let me referee a lot of her scrimmages as manager. I really enjoyed that. Of course, my father was an official. I used to go watch him. That was the path I was destined to take. Daddy was still officiating in college only and he was supervisor of the Knox Ridge Association for high school officials when I joined the TSSAA in 1982.”

WHAT SHE HAS LEARNED

Over the years, Fielden had learned some things from and about high school students.

“One, they’re all the same,” she said. “It doesn’t matter if you’re at a county school or here at West, which would be considered urban to some degree. Kids are all the same.

“Pick your battles. Don’t lose your temper. Be patient. And just be fair. Always be fair and care. Kids are a lot like animals. They know who likes them and who doesn’t. And they respond to that.”

WHAT SHE’LL MISS THE MOST

“The fellowship,” says Fielden, is what she’s going to miss the most. “It’s just like refereeing. When you leave refereeing, you miss the game,

but you really miss the fellowship of the officials. I’ll miss the day-to-day fellowship with the students, and I’ll miss the day-to-day fellowship with our staff here at West High School. Educators are a unique group of people. They do a lot with very little. And they love children.”

ONE-SPORT ATHLETES

Fielden understands why many of today’s high school athletes specialize in one sport, but she likes the way it used to be.

“I understand why they do that, because it’s so competitive now,” she said. “But I hate to see it. When I grew up, you usually had the opportunity to play three sports and you had fun. Playing different sports also broke up the year. We’d do something in the fall, then you’d have basketball, and

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'Attagirl'

Cont. from page 3

then you'd come out and do softball or something in the spring. Sometimes, I'm afraid, specializing in one sport puts too much stress on the kids, and we've taken the fun out of it. That's my biggest concern."

"THE LAST WHISTLE"

Elbert Fielden had planned to referee his final game with Doc Simpson (former West High principal and outstanding official). "I believe it was 1985," said Donna. "They both wanted to referee their last game at Johnson Bible College, because they believed that's where people played for the right reasons. They loved it there. But Doc came down with Lou Gehrig's disease and passed away."

"Daddy then said he wanted to referee his last game with me. We called a men's collegiate game, which was pretty unusual to have a female referee."

"I'll never forget coming off the floor. Daddy had an old pea whistle. He handed it to me and said, 'Doc blew his last game with this, and I blew my last game with it. You keep its integrity.'"

"We called it 'The Last Whistle.' That was his retiring game. He could have retired at LSU, Kentucky, Western Kentucky, anywhere like that could have been his last game, but he chose Johnson Bible College."

"Several years later, when I became the first woman to officiate the TSSAA boys' state, we were suppose to use the Fox 40 (whistle). But the first call I made in that state tournament was with the old pea whistle. Then I took it out and put it up."

ADVICE FOR OFFICIALS

The best advice Fielden, who officiated more than 2,000 games in over 22 years, says she would give to a rookie referee just starting out is "hustle - you can't live without it. Know the rules - inside and out. And stay calm. Daddy once game me a picture of this duck sitting serenely on the water, and you could see its feet just churning underneath, and he said, 'The secret to success is to stay calm on top and paddle like hell underneath.' If you're in the right place to make the call and coaches see you hustle, they don't say much. Know the rules and how to apply them, and they can never question you on rules."

"I always said, not one person in the gym ever paid to see me referee. They paid to see the kids play. I should have very little to do with the game. And be patient. You have to pay your dues. I've never seen an official, who moved up too quick and then came back down, go back up."

As for veteran officials, Fielden said, "Don't get complacent. The game will go on with us or without us. We are not bigger than the game. Every time I was assigned a game, I considered it a gift. It was an honor to go out there and referee. I don't care if it was at Sharp's Chapel or if I was in a NCAA tournament game. It's an honor to be there."

FORE!

Playing golf appears to be at the top of Fielden's retirement plans. "I'm gonna do some volunteer work. In one way or another, I've got a couple of considerations to make. I'm still gonna be involved with the kids somehow."



After 32 years in the Knox County schools system, Donna Fielden will be retiring at the end of the school year. She says she has had "just about as much fun as you can have."

Golf has a special place on her bucket list.

"My daddy and I always wanted to go to Scotland and play golf on the old courses. He never made it. I'm going to," she said, wiping away some tears.

By Steve Williams

Webb School has won another girls state basketball championship and this one was extra special.

The Lady Spartans, who lost star play and team leader Marjorie Butler to a season-ending knee injury in November, capped their remarkable and inspirational campaign with a 41-34 victory over Franklin Road Academy in the Division II-A finals Saturday afternoon at Lipscomb University in Nashville.

Coach Shelley Collier's team was determined to roll on after facing adversity.

Freshman point guard Molly Melton was named the most valuable player of the tourney and senior teammates Kelly Vittetoe and Jane Romano earned all-tournament honors.

Webb lost to FRA 55-52 in last year's title game.

Webb's boys, after qualifying for the state with its win in the

sectionals, lost 39-37 to Donelson Christian in the semifinals Thursday.

Knoxville West's boys team is one win away from going back to the state tournament. The Rebels host Cherokee tonight (March 5) in a state sectional game. Coach Chris Kesler's squad earned the home court advantage by posting an impressive 57-35 win at Maryville Thursday night in the Region 2-AAA championship game.

Seniors Carson Brooks, Calvin Walker and Antoine Williams scored 15 points apiece to lead West (28-4) in the region finals.

West lost in the state quarterfinals to Memphis Craigmont, the eventual state champion, last year.

This year's Division I boys' state tourney gets underway March 14 at MTSU in Murfreesboro.

In the Region 2-AAA semifinals, West ended Karns' banner season 76-71 and Powell was eliminated by Maryville 57-52.

Austin-East and Christian Academy could advance no farther than the semifinal round of Region 2-AA. The Roadrunners bowed to Stone Memorial 65-60, while CAK was ousted by host Alcoa 70-59.

In girls action, Farragut couldn't hold on to its lead in the final period as Maryville rallied to beat the Lady Admirals 39-35 to claim the Region 2-AAA title. That lost put Farragut on the road for its state sectional game Saturday night against undefeated Johnson City Science Hill.

Farragut sailed past William Blount 52-36 and Bearden bowed to Maryville 49-47 in region semis.

Fulton's outstanding season was halted in the Region 2-AA semifinals as the Lady Falcons were upset by Stone Memorial 51-50. Fulton, which had won 23 straight games, finished 26-3.

The girls' state for Division I teams begins Wednesday (March 7) in Murfreesboro.

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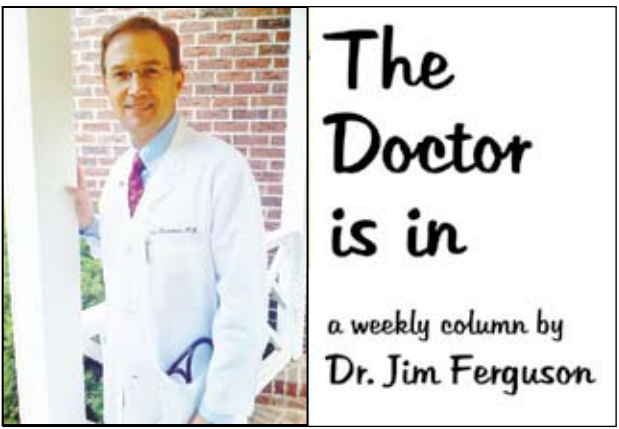
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AI

“It’s spring son, and it’s coming in like a lamb.” I remember that line from one of Laura Ingall’s Little House books that I read in grammar school. I think about it each spring when March comes quietly like a lamb or with lion-like blustery wind, as it did today. Our balmy weather also tells me that spring is near, as do the birds whom I heard singing for the first time last week. Spring is upon us despite what that Yankee groundhog, who obviously knows little about southern birds, says.

I’ve been thinking about why people get sick. I’m not talking about a strep throat

that you get from a kid at school. For more than a hundred years we’ve known that a strep throat is caused by a bacterial (germ) infection and can now be cured with an antibiotic. These curing chemicals have made a huge difference in all our lives. As an example, before Alexander Fleming’s discovery of penicillin, Woodrow Wilson’s son died as a result of a boil that arose from a blister on his foot. And twenty years later, FDR’s son was cured of an abscessed tonsil with a sulfa antibiotic.

In ancient times people were thought to be righteous if they were

successful and healthy. When Job lost everything including his health, his friends gathered around him and theorized that his misfortunes must be the result of sin and rebellion against God. These “wise guys” expressed the common wisdom that innocents don’t suffer, so Job must be guilty and needed to confess and repent.

Things are much more complicated than the simplistic explanations of Job’s erstwhile friends. I don’t know anyone who believes people get cancer because of their sins. Nor do we believe we are held accountable for our parents transgressions, though the modern scourge of drugs destroys families and the soul of anyone it touches.

We moderns believe that an illness like cancer occurs because of exposure to toxic substances like tobacco, or certain industrial carcinogens like benzene and of course radiation. Obviously, personal choices impact our health, but sometimes we inherit a genetic predilection to diseases like coronary artery disease, lupus

and even certain cancers. There are well known genes for hereditary breast and colon cancers, but the ultimate cause of these and most malignancies remain a mystery.

Medical care is somewhat like playing gin rummy or poker. In these card games the players try to maximize the odds to improve their hands. In other words, you don’t try and draw to an inside straight. As an internist, I try to maximize a patient’s chance of good health. I use counseling and hope-fully persuasive arguments based on science to maximize my patient’s chances of good health.

In medical school we were taught that if you didn’t have a pretty good understanding of your patient’s diagnosis by the end of your examination you and the patient were in trouble. Yes, I use technology, but I still rely on my clinical skills including a careful review of a patient’s family history to maximize my diagnostic and prognostic skills. In fact, your family history may be as important as your own smoking

history, and is a lot less expensive than a high tech genetic analysis.

I only need my clinical skills to tell you that our country is sick and the prognosis is grim though not hopeless. At one time our government was “by the people” and “for the people.” I don’t believe this any longer. Our government has become a self-sustaining entity with a cadre of workers and acolytes who service the beast.

I’m a reader of science fiction, but even if you’re not, most of you will be familiar with the frequently used concept of artificial intelligence (AI) as depicted in the Terminator movies with Arnold Schwarzenegger. In these dystopian movies the infamous AI known as Skynet works to destroy humanity. I see analogies in our government whose desire for self preservation and power expansion is usurping the freedom of its creators. You say this is apocalyptic and pessimistic; I say it’s realistic and happening before our very eyes.

But thinking free men still have a chance to

turn off our equivalent of Skynet before it’s too late. Heck, I help patients quit smoking every day before cancer or a heart attack strikes them down. And giving up nicotine is really tough. All we citizens have to do is pull the plug on this monster called Big Government. We’ll get one last chance at the voting machine in November, before our liberties are replaced by the nanny state and the American Dream is added to the ash heap of history.

Doctor Ferguson is accepting new patients. His office is next to Fort Sanders Hospital.

For appointments call Keesha at 865-522-0326.

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

Medical librarians to travel to South Africa

UT Graduate School of Medicine Librarians will Train Oversea Counterparts

Medical librarians from the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine travel to South Africa later this month to train public librarians there how to find the best online health information available to share with families in their communities. The trip for the librarians with Preston Medical Library at The University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville is sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in South Africa in partnership with the Library and Information Association of South Africa.

Cynthia Vaughn and Martha Earl will conduct numerous workshops throughout South Africa to help community librarians successfully navigate and access the wealth of quality online health resources. The workshops are patterned after those utilized in a successful study, called A Simple Plan Extended, in which Vaughn and Earl participated and taught librarians throughout the state of Tennessee about health information.

“I’m humbled and honored to have this opportunity,” said Vaughn, a clinical information librarian and assistant professor with UT Graduate School of Medicine. “Finding medical information is my passion and having the chance to share this knowledge with public librarians in South Africa is something I never dreamed possible.”

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) developed the classes Vaughn and Earl will teach during the trip. The schedule includes presentations to librarians in major cities such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban, as well as in the areas of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.

“Wherever we go, whether rural or in urban Tennessee or South Africa, people want to learn about the most reliable sources for health information for themselves, their communities and their families,” said Earl, assistant director of Preston Medical Library and an assistant professor with UT Graduate School of Medicine. “Health information empowers consumers the world over. I feel blessed to

Continued on page 2



Martha Earl

Get the Facts About Surgical Weight Loss

Tuesday, March 20 or 27
5:30 p.m.

Turkey Creek Medical Center
Johnson Conference Center
10820 Parkside Drive

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Space is limited. Call 865-694-9676 to register.

I was just thinking How'd I get to this?

The day started well. With others from the Knoxville Writers' Guild, I visited Pellissippi State's campus on Magnolia and read to a class of students. They were polite and listened as we read. In fact, they endeared themselves to me when a smattering of laughter edged across the room at some of the lines I read. Add to that the fact that Catherine Nance, the minister at Beaver Ridge United Methodist in Karns, made the trip across town to listen, and my day was filled with good cheer.

Then I reached home sometime in the afternoon and things went south, all because of one thing. Davy Jones died. He was sixty-six and succumbed to a massive heart attack. All of a sudden, a dark pall of emotional clouds descended on me, as well of millions of unbelieving fans.

How is it possible that Jones died? Wasn't he just horsing around and singing the latest hits on television with the rest of the Monkees? This "vertically challenged" guy with a British accent entertained fans with a variety of songs. "Daydream Believer," "I'm a Believer," and "Last Train to

Clarksville" were just a few of the tunes that propelled him and the group into stardom.

No, not all are stunned by Davy's passing. People who are old enough to remember the heyday of the Beatles, Rolling Stones, the Kinks, and other bands are sad today. Those who weren't around don't understand what all the fuss is about. They are more or less immune to the heart-breaking news.

Davy Jones' demise rings the reality bell all too loudly. How did he get so old? More to the point, how did I get so old? Only a little while ago I was in high school and college and listened to Monkee music and other songs from the top artists. In the blink of an eye, I've aged more years than I care to think. How did 16 become 60 so quickly? The things that make my age real to me are aches and pains in every joint and a medicine chest filled with prescriptions for everything from high blood pressure to Restless Leg Syndrome.

Another upsetting fact is music by the Monkees and others from my youth are now considered "out of date." I'd argue that

they are still popular with plenty of people across generational lines, but one thing snuffs out that argument. Much of the music that I love so well and that played in the background of my youth is now piped into elevators, doctor office reception rooms, and even some department stores. Those songs are part of Muzak. Ouch!

Even more unsettling, this singer's death brings our own mortality to mind. My generation is looking at the short end of the life stick. Most of our years on this planet are in the rearview mirror. In fact, we've reached the top of life's hill, and now we seem to be gaining speed on the way down the other side. Once we felt invincible. Quickly remembered are those dumb stunts we pulled off and survived. Now we are much more selective about what we do because the last thing needed is a broken hip or slipped disc. Living care-free is replaced with existing carefully. The truth is simple: the children of the 60s are now the senior citizens of today. We are on the list of most likely to die soon. It's shocking, scary, and sobering.

It's a sad day for Monkee fans. We've lost a star who brought joy and optimism to our lives. Davy Jones' passing emphasizes two things. First, none of us knows the time of our end; it can come suddenly or after a protracted illness. Second, because we don't know when the final minute of life will come, we must live each one of them to the fullest.

For me, it's time to stop fretting and worrying about my end and to continue enjoying my being.

Still, I think I'll forego any crazy stunts that could bring about injury or harm. I don't heal as quickly as I used to.



By Joe Rector

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Cynthia Vaughn

Medical librarians to travel to South Africa

Cont. from page 1

have this opportunity to share and learn from our colleagues in South Africa."

Portions of the visit will coincide with

South African Library Week, celebrated March 17 – 24. Earl and Vaughn have been invited to participate in the inaugural ceremonies to mark the opening of the observation.

Faith

Inward Spiritual Discipline #2: MEDITATION

Last week we looked at the spiritual discipline of prayer. In this article, I want us to focus on the discipline of meditation. The main purpose or desire in meditation is to hear more clearly the heart and mind of God.



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

The intent is to connect the head with the heart. Like prayer, this discipline requires us to find a quiet place in order to be silent before God.

Meditation reminds me of an example I read from Richard Foster. He wrote, "Have you ever watched a cow chew its cud? This unassuming animal will fill its stomach with grass and other food. Then it settles down quietly and, through a process of regurgitation, reworks what it has received, slowly moving its mouth in the process. In this way it is able to fully assimilate what it has previously consumed, which is then transformed into rich, creamy milk" (Prayer, 143).

This is a perfect description of meditative prayer. You allow the truth you are meditating on to flow from your mouth to the

mind and then into the heart. You contemplate (regurgitate if you will) over and over and you find yourself being changed from the inside out as you grow in love and faith.

A way to practice the discipline is to take some time (begin with 15 minutes) to dig into a text. Your goal is not information or just understanding the meaning of a text. You want to engage the text and find out what God's Word is saying to you. An important question to ask after reading a text is, "Did I experience God in my reading?" If not, you need to spend more time in the text. Let the text sink into your life. May we be able to say like

the Psalm writer that our "delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law they meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:2).

There is a difference between Bible study and meditation on Scripture. In Bible study you exegete the text (technical study and analysis), while in meditation you internalize the text and make it personal. The Bible becomes a living Word addressed to you. I remember taking a Bible once and writing on the front cover, "To Mark Brackney." On the back page of the Bible I wrote, "From God."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of my favorite theologians, founded a seminary at Finkenwalkde,

Germany. Each student practiced thirty minutes of silent meditation on Scripture a day. What a wonderful practice this would be for each of us. The goal is not to rush through Scripture, but to slow down. You may take an entire week on one passage of Scripture before you internalize it.

While it is important to understand Scripture intellectually, if you do not connect with it at the emotional level, you have not fully understood it. As you read, do your best to put yourself there. Experience God in Scripture as you reflect and meditate upon His wonderful words.

Church Happenings

Grace Baptist Church Seymour

Grace Baptist Church is starting an exciting week of events with a Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 10 at 8:00 a.m. All men, young to old and

guests are invited to hear a special guest speaker and enjoy a great breakfast prepared by our Chef, Pastor Cotton Kelly.

Carson-Newman Coach Ken Sparks will be our speaker for the morning service of March 11. Coach Sparks has a long career with Carson Newman winning his 299th game this year. More importantly, he is a strong Christian and has led many of his athletes to God. Sparks was elected Christian Athletes

National Coach of the Year just a few year back.

Coach Sparks is an East Tennessean born in Knoxville. He has coached high school football and has been at Carson-Newman since 1980 and is the winningest football coach in NCAA Division II history. His Carson Newman Eagles have won five NAIA Championships and runners-up in the NCAA Division II playoffs three times.

REVIVAL TIME with Evangelist Dwight Singleton

starts Sunday evening, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. The revival will continue through Wednesday evening starting at 7:00 p.m. "and longer as God directs," says Pastor Kelly. The community is invited.

KFL Outreach Ministry Presents

The Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon (KFL) will meet March 6, 2012 at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway, at noon. John Griggs will be the guest

speaker. You may view John's complete Bio at <http://kfl-luncheon.com>.

Faith United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Men of Faith UMC will host a tamale dinner on Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 5-7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner starring the best tamales in town. Don't forget to wear your favorite green outfit. The mission of the United Methodist Men is to help me grow in Christ so others may know Christ. Tamales are also available for purchase at \$12 per dozen.

The Young at Heart at Faith UMC meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. We have an exciting meeting coming up on March 6. Susan Long of East Tennessee Personal Care Attendants will

be talking about Saving Seniors Money. A potluck luncheon will follow the speaker. Everyone is welcome. Faith UMC is located at 1120 Dry Gap Pike. For more information you can visit our website at www.faithseekers.org, e-mail at info@faithseekers.org and also call us at 865-688-1000.

Seymour First Baptist Church

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

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Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
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Play Ball!

You've just received an offer on your home. You are excited and relieved until you realize the purchase offer is much lower than your asking price. How do you respond? Before you ignore or outright refuse the offer, a counteroffer and negotiation could turn that low purchase offer into a sale.



By Jan Cole
It is always a good idea to get your emotions in check before you respond. After all, a purchase offer, even a low one, means someone wants to buy your home. Unless the offer is laughably low, it deserves a cordial response, whether that's a counteroffer or an outright rejection. Set aside your emotions, focus on the facts, and prepare a counteroffer that keeps the buyers involved in the deal.

The best response to a "low ball" offer is to counter with a price you are willing to accept. Some buyers make a low offer because they think that's customary, they're afraid they'll overpay, or they want to test your limits. A counter offer shows the buyers you are ready to negotiate.

Most importantly, rely on the expertise of your realtor to help handle this situation. Take a look at comps of homes similar to yours. Is your asking price realistic? If the answer is "yes", you might want to include those comps with any counteroffer you make. And, if the answer is "no", you just might realize the low offer wasn't that far off the mark.

Whatever you do, remember, a SALE must always begin with an OFFER.

Only then will you be in the game!

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House to Home

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Talking silver, dollars

This week's column is for you folks with coins that need advice on selling and the values in this frenzied precious metals market. You can go anywhere in town and see someone in a costume outside a business waving a sign to come in and sell your gold or coins or even ads saying buying gold. There's even a billboard in South Knoxville that advertises to buy gold and silver! How can these businesses afford to pay their rent each month?



By Carl Sloan
The answer is simple and can keep you out of potential trouble. Ignorance of values and the struggling economy has put a lot of bullion on the markets but the problem, when selling, is key dates on coins and the fast moving values and carat of gold. As of my deadline, gold is \$1708 per oz, down \$78 and silver is \$34.67, down \$2.26 at Monex.com. What does this mean? That old Morgan Silver Dollar or Peace Dollar in your bureau is worth \$35-\$40 as it weighs 1 ounce of pure silver .999

The first factors to look at to help determine a coin's value are the coin's date and the mint mark. Mint marks can usually be found on the back right at the bottom center of the coin, if it has one. These are called "key dates" and with a certain mint mark can make a tremendous difference in value. The mint marks on silver dollars will be Morgan & Peace

or S, O, and CC. That stands for San Francisco, New Orleans & Carson City. Many times there is no mint mark yet the date may command a high price due to the volume minted in that particular year.

The second factor that decides a coin's value is its condition. This can be very tricky as there are sixteen grades of a coin. Condition is determined by viewing wear and scratch marks with strong magnification. I sold a key date CC once that was worn slick but you could make out the CC and date and it sold for \$225. Had the coin been in top condition, it would have gone for \$15,000 - \$20,000 easy.

The internet and the book store can help you determine how much your coins, domestic or foreign, are worth. The annual U.S. Coins "Red Book" is about \$18 and is worthwhile to at least give you a heads up on dates and mint marks for what you have. The internet can assist your research as well; just type in date and mint on google.com for example.

Silver flatware sets have a bit of a different story. Sterling is .925 pure silver and the key here is two things: pattern and amount. In other words,

a 12 place setting brings more over bullion than a six place though you can certainly build upon a set. Key companies here are International, Kirk and Tole, Danish companies such as Georg Jensen and others can command very high prices above bullion so do look into these as well. A common service for eight with no major pattern or company can bring \$900 to \$1200. Keep in mind that all silver says .925, or sterling, or both, so if not it's silver plate. Antique flatware made from coins will usually say coin silver.



If you have a coin and it's showing big value, get advice before selling or consigning. I hope to schedule a discovery day on a Saturday at Fountain City Auction in the near future where you may bring in all and any of your items for appraisal for a very low price so do watch for the announcement soon. If you have any questions on estates or need help in your selling needs, you may contact the owner of Fountain City Auction, Gregory Lawson, at 865-603-6468.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boxes of Blessings

Dante Church of God will be distributing BOXES OF BLESSINGS (food) on Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or until boxes are gone.

Anyone who would like to come and receive a box of blessings is invited.

For more information call 865-689-4829.

Captain W. Y. C. Hannum

Chapter #1881 Meeting

The Captain W. Y. C. Hannum Chapter #1881, United Daughters of the

Confederacy will meet at the Green Meadow County Club in Alcoa on Saturday, March 24th at 10:00 A.M. Brunch will be served at 10:00 followed by the program and business session. The program will be presented by the General James Longstreet #984 Children of the Confederacy. Visitors are welcome to attend. Cost of Brunch is \$15.00. For reservations or more information, please contact Elaine Clonts Russell, 865-980-6346 or Debra Wilson, 865-856-9300.

Coffee and Conversation

School Board member Kim Sepesi, Commissioner R. Larry Smith and State Representative Harry Brooks will be having Coffee and Conversation with the community Thursday, March 15, 5-7 p.m. at the Powell Library. Everyone is welcome for a cup of coffee and to have a conversation with your area elected officials.

East Knoxville Business & Professional Association

Come mingle with the members of the East Knoxville Business and Professional Association. The March 15, 2012 meeting will be held at the John T. O'Conner Center, 611 Winona Street. The guest speaker, Leon Spencer, will present "How to use Internet Marketing to Increase Sales, Promote Your Business, and Cut Marketing

Cost by 50%."

Fontinalis Club

Fontinalis Club will meet on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, 5364 N. Broadway with the Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m., Coffee Hour at 10:00 a.m., and Club Meeting at 10:30 a.m. Officers will be elected for the next club year. The program, featuring The Honor Awards Committee, will present the names of candidates with members voting. Lunch will follow at a local restaurant.

Fountain City Republican Club Meeting

The Fountain City Republican Club will meet on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 6:15 for dinner at Shoney's on Broadway and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. We will be electing our new officers and

taking a vote on changing our meeting day. All members past and present are encouraged to attend for your input on this matter. We would love to have new members to come and join us and find out how to get involved with the Fountain City Club and the Knox County Republican Party. For more information you may contact Michele Carringer at 865-247-5756 or at mwcarringer@yahoo.com.

Job Searching Workshop

The Knoxville Area Urban League is holding a workshop on Effective Online Job Searching and Making Online Applications, Thursday, March 8, 9-11 a.m., 1514 East Fifth Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917. There is no cost to attend but space is limited. To register or for more information, call 865-524-5511.

LeConte Photographic Society Meeting

LeConte Photographic Society will meet March 6, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sevierville Civic Center.

Meeting is free to the public. Please view our website at: <http://LeContePhotographic.Com> or contact DeeMur@Charter.Net for information.

Memoir Writing Group

Memoir Writing Group will meet at Panera Bread located at 733 Louisville Road, Alcoa (across from Office Depot) Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7pm (2nd Thursday of each month)

Town Hall East Meeting

JOIN Town Hall East (THE) at the Eastminster Fellowship Hall, 4904 Asheville Hwy, at 7 p.m. on Monday night, March 12, with guests Bob Booker and Renee Hoyos.

Robert J. Booker, a freelance writer, is a graduate of Knoxville College and is a former executive director of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center. He was a columnist for four years with the Knoxville Journal and is currently an Opinion Columnist for the Knoxville News Sentinel. Mr. Booker will discuss the history of East Knoxville.

Renee Victoria Hoyos is the Executive Director of the Tennessee Clean Water Network and Board President of the National Clean Water Network in Washington D.C. Ms. Hoyos will be speaking about projects in or near the Town Hall East neighborhood.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization - Technical Committee Meeting, March 13, 2012.

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 13, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Topics to be considered: Update on PlanET Process, Review of Socioeconomic Projections for Mobility Plan, Review of Draft Public Outreach Plan; 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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Aloha Quick Bread

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 cup mashed ripe bananas (about 2
medium)
1/4 cup milk
1 tablespoon grated orange peel
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup flaked coconut
1/2 cup chopped nuts
1/2 cup crushed pineapple

In a bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add the
eggs, one at a time, beating well after each
addition. Beat in banana, milk, orange peel
and extracts.

Combine flour, baking soda and salt; add
to the creamed mixture just until moistened.
Fold in the coconut, nuts and pineapple.
Transfer to a greased 9-in. x 5-in. loaf pan.

Bake at 350° for 1 hour and 20 minutes
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