



Knox County Charter Review discusses Uniformed Officers Pension Plan

By Tasha Mahurin
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The Uniformed Officers Pension Plan (UOPP) dominated the discussion at last week's meeting of the 27 member Knox County Charter Review Committee.

The committee did not put any one matter to vote on Wednesday, due to the fact that a 27th member from the 3rd District has not yet been officially appointed. However, they did discuss at great length whether or not the committee should even make decisions regarding the plan.

In 2006 voters passed the UOPP, however, current economic conditions have rendered the plan unsustainable in its current form. Discussions have primarily centered around whether or not to alter the plan or to put closure of the plan to vote in November.

The Knox County Pension Board is currently reviewing the plan, however, Charter Review Committee members must first decide whether to debate the issue at all or to send it before County Commission.

County Commissioner Dr. Richard Briggs, who also serves on the



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

The Charter Review Committee is made of 27 members: 9 mayoral appointments / approved by Commission, one citizen appointed by Commission for each district, and one Commissioner per district.

pension board, advocated strongly to allow County Commission to deal with the issue. He argued that the issue was extremely complex in nature, and that the pension board would be better suited to make recommendations to County Commission regarding the matter.

"We've spent hours on the

pension board looking at this problem, and its very complicated," stated Briggs.

Knox County Sheriff J.J. Jones echoed Briggs sentiment: "It would certainly be my recommendation that it go before the Knox County Commission because of the complexities of the issues involved. They

know the integral parts of it in and out."

However, other members of the committee maintained that the Charter Review Committee was tasked with looking at the County Charter and this is a part of it.

"Personally, I would like to see a

Continue on page 2

Partner for Children's Liaison Receives Award



Lorraine and Paul Abbott.

By Kareta Johnson

Every now and again, someone comes along and not only makes a difference in people's lives, but makes an unforgettable imprint in their hearts.

Lorraine Abbott, 85, was honored Monday, March 12 for her hard work and selfless efforts toward her community. Abbott was surrounded by her husband Paul, family, and friends at the Bel Air Grill in Halls as she received the "Hometown Hero" award from the Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial. The award was for her outstanding service as the liaison for Partners for Children, Inc. (PFC), a "nonprofit child development center for preschoolers" established in 1989.

Among those that spoke of Abbott and her contributions was Cindy Dalton, Executive Director PFC, Bobbie Redcorn, PFC Board Member, and Reverend Robert Bean, retired pastor of Emerald Avenue United Methodist Church and PFC Board Member since 1989.

Abbott was born in Oklahoma, attended Maryville College, and retired from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She has dedicated her life to church and organizing Christmas programs and other holiday events, birthday parties, graduation, among many other things for PFC. "I only hope I have as much energy

Continue on page 2

Echota District holds Annual Scout Dinner

The Echota District of the Great Smoky Mountain Council held their annual dinner on Thursday, March 1, at the Presbyterian Church Fellowship Room in Fountain City. This district covers Fountain City, Halls, Powell, Corryton, Strawberry Plains, and all of Union County. The following major awards were presented: District Award of Merit: Jeannie Boomershine, Pack 500, Clapps Chapel, Gibbs; Terry Lee, Troop 506 Christ United Methodist Church, Halls; Gail Davenport, Pack 451/ Troop 448, Trinity Methodist Church, Knoxville. The special awards of the George

Johnstone Honor went to Hank Swindle, Troop 506, Halls; and the Coppock Award to R. L. Smith, Council Executive Committee and a leading volunteer for the Annual Friends of Scouting Dinner.

Key awards were presented as follows: Tiger Cub- Johnny Collins, Pack 401, Greg Barnette, Pack 213, Daniel Weatherstore, Pack 213; Cb Scout Den Leader- Kerry Smith, Pack 500, Mike Miller, Pack 451, Chrissy Ahnert, Pack 213, Barry Barnett, Pack 213, Kiper Stitt, Pack 213; Cub Scouter - James Captain, Pack 238, Diane Byrd, Pack Pack 238; Webelos

- Roger Hyman, Pack 238; Cub Master - Joe Jones, Pack 451, Jeannie Boomershine, Pack 238; Unit Leader Award of Merit - Don Dare, Troop 55; Bot Scout Trainers - Bill Collins, Troop 401, Frank Rose, Troop 154, Mark Perrigues, Troop 154, Brian Latham, Troop 154; Chester Carpenter, Troop 154, Anthony Collier, Troop 154, Remi Joyeuse, Troop 154; Scoutmaster's Key - Frank Rose, Troop 154.

The guest speaker for the evening was Don Dare, Scoutmaster, and WATE-TV reporter. The District executive is Doug Buchanan and the district commissioner is Al Collver.



Pictured (left to right) Don Dare, Scoutmaster Troop 155 Fountain City, Hank Swindle, Scoutmaster Troop 506 Halls, Jeannie Boomshine, Pack 500 Gibbs, Terry Lee, Troop 506, Halls, Gail Davenport, Pack 451, Knoxville, and R. Larry Smith, Council Executive Committee and Pack 243 Powell.

Great Smoky Mountain Scout Executive Larry Brown and field director

Bruce Van Cleve greeted over 100 volunteers in attendance.

McIntyre asks for \$35M

By Focus Staff

Knox County School Superintendent Dr. James McIntyre's 2013 budget proposal to increase the Knox County School System budget may be "bold", however, the proposal does not come without a price- \$35 million dollars to be exact.

The proposal will take the current budget of \$384.67 million to \$457.55 million in 2017. Many school board members, parent-teacher organizations, and local media outlets have rallied behind the proposal. However, with the threat of a tax increase looming, many are taking a hard look at the numbers and asking even harder questions.

Dr. McIntyre presented some staggering statistics

Continue on page 3

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Neti Pot 2012

Spring is on her way back to Knoxville, Tennessee. Farmers will soon be going to market, families will soon be planning vacations, and pharmacies will be making a kill-



By Sarah Baker
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pot a couple of springs ago when I was trying not to blast my mucus off in her direction. I had never heard of it before and I was very skeptical. It sounded like something for

people who collect crystals, eat a lot of tofu, and think of yoga as a spiritual experience. You know "alternative medicine" types. Gurus. Hippies. After all, it has the word "pot" in it. It wasn't for a straight girl like me.

I have no idea why I thought this way. Sandy is quite sensible. I have had many wonderful meals at her house and not once has she served me tofu. As far as I know she doesn't own a crystal or even take yoga. The neti pot has actually become quite popular. You may have seen it on "Oprah" or "The Doctors." Sandy is way ahead of her time. Out of sheer desperation last year, I finally let her talk me into giving the neti pot a chance.

The neti pot looks more domestic than medicinal, like a cross between a genie lamp and a gravy boat. Sandy showed me how to mix the solution of distilled water and sea salt. Then she took me in

Continue on page 4

What in the daylights?



By Richie Beeler

What in the daylights? It's called Daylight Saving Time. Each year on the second Sunday in March, most of America moves its clocks one hour ahead, ensuring that everyone will get to enjoy an extra hour of daylight in the evening during the long days of summer, until the clocks are turned back again on the first Sunday in November. Many people love DST. Others loathe it. For now, you can put me in with the loathers.

Oh I realize I'm probably in the minority on this one. Most of my friends get positively giddy this time of year at the thought of the darkness being banished. They're blissfully ignorant. What I keep telling them is that all that darkness didn't just disappear. It had to go somewhere. It just moved to the morning.

Nothing like waking up for work to the sound of roosters crowing and songbirds chirping - in the pitch black. I'll admit it - I'm a weirdo when it comes to these kinds of things. For one, I love mornings. In fact Saturday mornings are my absolute

favorite time of the week. There is something truly liberating about getting up early to watch the sunrise just because you want to and not because you have a schedule to keep. When Daylight Saving Time comes in March, you might as well be getting up in the middle of the night.

DST was instituted first during World War I, and then again during World War II, in order to save energy for war production. In 1966, Congress standardized the dates which would begin and end Daylight Saving Time, and states were given the option of whether or not to observe it. Incidentally, DST's energy saving merit has never been proven.

Now before you get mad and label me a crackpot, please understand that this is actually not a simple issue. There are many facets to DST that few people consider - namely the numbskulls who pass these laws to begin with. Like many other things that seem harmless and obviously beneficial, Daylight Saving Time has unintended consequences.

First of all there's the issue of confusion. Not all places observe it. In the US, the states of Arizona and Hawaii do not implement Daylight Saving Time. That effectively puts them in two

different time zones depending on the time of year (try figuring that one out if you're taking a trip). While most states now observe DST, up until recently Indiana also refused to participate, citing the potential harm the loss of morning daylight might cause farmers.

Certain areas of the country also have tourism industries that do not care for the time change. In Colorado for example, where ski season can last well into spring, resort owners have bemoaned the fact that because of DST, their guests often have to rise for breakfast in the dark. And morning darkness can have even more serious ramifications.

Perhaps the most dangerous is the potential risk to school children. In the early weeks of Daylight Saving Time, kids in many areas of the country have to wait for school buses in the dark. In some cases, they are even required to walk dark rural roadways to get to their bus stop. This is a very real hazard.

The root of the problem is that DST affects different parts of the country in different ways. Take Knoxville for instance. Its location in the central Tennessee Valley puts it on the far western edge of the Eastern Time Zone. The net effect of this is that the daylight lasts

much later into the evening but the mornings are darker. Add an early start to DST to that equation and you have some really dark mornings. And if you go to a city even farther north in the western end of ET, such as Louisville or Detroit, the morning darkness is compounded even more.

But the real issue is not so much with Daylight Saving Time itself, but with some lawmakers' incessant desire to keep tweaking its schedule. The bottom line is, it starts too dang early. By mid-spring the darkness is not really a big issue. The heightened sun angle means the days are becoming long enough to supply plenty of light to both the mornings and the evenings. And that is precisely why Daylight Saving Time was originally created to run from April through October.

But seven years ago, some genius thought it needed to last a month longer. So now we get to have Halloween in the daylight and wake up to smell the flowers in the dark. But take heart - we've got that extra hour to enjoy the evening. Meanwhile, kids can carry their flashlights to the bus stop. And we can all experience our DST jet lag a few weeks early.

Partners for Children's Liaison Receives Award

Cont. from page 1

as she has one day," stated her fellow Bobbie Redcorn, PFC Board Member.

In 1999, PFC wanted to open a second center in Knoxville, and that is when Abbott stepped in. "If it wasn't for Abbott, there wouldn't be a Partners for Children," expressed Reverend Bean. Partners for Children believe that all aspects of a child's development are important and encourage Judeo-Christian values to help children function in an ever-changing world. PFC is in a space provided by the Inskip United Methodist Church. Abbott and her co-workers at PFC are eternally grateful to the church for opening their space for the organization

and children. "We have enjoyed her leadership, she is chairperson of our council, without her help and service we could not achieve," said Reverend David W. Lewis, Inskip United Methodist Church.

The organization is able to provide affordable childcare for kids ages 12 months to 5 years old through the Roxie Davis Price Scholarship. The scholarship was started by Abbott in 2003 and has a special personal connection to Abbott. Roxie Davis Price was Paul's aunt whom was childless. She also chose to lend money to the Abbotts, and because of this blessing they were able to invest into the organization and since then it has tripled!

Since the RDP Scholarship provides low income families the funding they need for child care, it has helped about 50 families and is supported by other foundations, families, and friends in the community. "When Abbott was told that she would be receiving this award, she couldn't believe she was being recognized," stated Robert Elmore of Woodmen Fraternal Financial, who presented Abbott the award. "She stated that she knows so many other people that have done so much, and deserve this award." However, her family and friends feel differently and do not know what they would do without her services. "This is a well deserved honor," explained

Reverend Bean.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Lorraine stood up to say a few words. She retold the story of when she first heard the words "that's cool." She explained that now, being a recipient of such an honorable award and hearing friends sharing their thoughts, she understands the phrase completely. Lorraine lastly stated that she is so thankful for everything and expressed that she couldn't have done much of anything without her partner for life, her husband of 64 years.

For more information about Partners for Children, please visit the website <http://www.partnersforchildren.com>.

Knox County Charter

Cont. from page 1

what makes this charter committee such a good concept." "I see no reason why the expertise is not here to get in there and get a hold of it (the UOPP)," Shouse said. "I think it needs to be on the ballot," he added.

Lisa Starbuck also advocated for the committee to address the issue. The Charter Review process occurs every eight years. The committee is currently scheduled to meet twice per month on Wednesday, however, more meetings are likely to be added.

The next Charter Committee Review Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28.

Having citizens involved is

committee of 27. I think the only thing we have to agree on is whether we want to put this back on the ballot to be voted on. I think that's the main thing, for tax payers to vote on, and I'd rather see a board of 27 make that assumption rather than just a member of 11," said Charter Review Committee Member Ann Acuff.

Commissioner Ed Shouse, who also sits on the Pension Board, wants the Charter Review Committee to hear the matter. "The 27 of us sitting here would not be subject to the same political pressures that someone sitting in an elected office would be.

Having citizens involved is

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Publisher's Position Calling The Hogs



By Steve Hunley,
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The budget process for Knox County government is underway and every entity from the school system to those seeking grants will come knocking on Mayor Tim Burchett's door with their hands out. For those who cannot get what they want from Mayor Burchett, they can resort to asking the County Commission to increase their respective allotment.

First of all, consider Knox

County's present financial condition. The county is more than a billion dollars in debt. Mayor Burchett has previously announced the county has a \$14 million shortfall; the school system has confirmed at least a \$7 million shortfall. The pension for the Sheriff's deputies has cost taxpayers more than was anticipated. Yet Superintendent James McIntyre has chosen this year to present what he refers to as a "bold" budget proposal seeking \$35 million new dollars in funding. When The Knoxville News-Sentinel first reported the story, McIntyre's proposal seemed to be a request for \$35 million in new tax dollars every year for the next five years. Dr. McIntyre has protested The Sentinel was inaccurate in its reporting and the Superintendent says if one presumes "normal" increases, the extra money

will only be a 19% increase in school funding over the next five years.

Knox County has not had any kind of tax increase since former Mayor Mike Ragsdale gave us the wheel tax. What most folks fail to realize is the wheel tax has become a dedicated tax, meaning it is divided between the school system and the Sheriff's Department. The school system is the single largest expenditure in all of county government, amounting to approximately \$400 million and the Sheriff's Department is the next largest item in the county budget. Together, the school system and the Sheriff's Department account for roughly three-quarters of Knox County's entire budget. Health, courts, libraries, roads and everything else in county government is funded out of the remaining twenty-five percent of the budget. One

million dollars equates to one penny on the current property tax rate.

Doubtless there will be those who will lift high the banner to raise taxes. The Sentinel has become completely predictable about such things and any day now one can expect to see an editorial telling folks we can afford it and we should all dig a little bit deeper into our pockets. The Sentinel has already come out opposing giving the members of the County Commission discretionary funds and *The Focus* agrees with that position; however, there is little difference between allowing the Commissioners to dispense taxpayer dollars inside their respective districts and the county's grants. If the discretionary fund is a slush fund for Commissioners, the grants are a slush fund for the entire county government.

The economy still hasn't

recovered and many folks are still struggling to put food on the table and gas in their vehicles. Perhaps Dr. McIntyre --- who earns more than Vice President Joe Biden, Speaker of the House John Boehner, and Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court John Roberts --- may not have any difficulty in purchasing the every day staples of life, but many Knox Countians do. Still, one would think Dr. McIntyre would have enough sense to understand the political realities. Mayor Tim Burchett didn't beat around the bush, issuing a statement just as soon as McIntyre made his announcement. **Burchett flatly said he was not recommending a tax increase to the County Commission.**

The County Commission will likely already have its hands full as a host of little pigs make a mad dash for the trough. The number

organizations wanting grants will likely not have diminished and with the tough economy, many will almost surely want increased support from the taxpayers to keep their groups viable.

The fall of Gloria Ray was about money; not only her own salary and bonuses, but about the source of revenue for her organization. Many hogs are looking longingly at the hotel-motel tax which is a constant stream of funding and those same hogs will try and root a percentage for themselves in the budget process. Whether the Commission has the will to resist the hogs remains to be seen.

What would be in the best interests of the taxpayers is for the Commissioners to call the hogs and host a big barbecue.

Questions or Comments?
E-mail Steve at publisher@knoxfocus.com.

McIntyre asks for \$35M

Cont. from page 1

regarding the status of education in Knox County:

- Only 38% of our incoming freshmen graduate four years later with both a high school diploma and a score of 21 or better on the ACT,
- As we have moved to higher academic standards, achievement gaps defined by income, race, disability and language are beginning to emerge,
- Only 47% of our third grade students scored proficient or advanced in reading
- English language arts on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) last year, and
- Merely 19% of the class of 2011 met all four of the ACT's college readiness benchmarks.

In his initial budget presentation at last week's Knox County School Board meeting, Dr. McIntyre supposed that students from other school systems in the area are out-performing Knox County due, in part, to increased funding. He reiterated that Knox County Schools have been able to make strides towards higher achievement due to additional federal funding in recent

years. (Some of that funding is no longer available which if the current budget is approved, would leave the deficit to Knox County taxpayers).

"This five year budget proposal is critical to accelerate our student academic success, and I believe it is a reasonable and necessary investment of resources," commented McIntyre.

However, statistics suggest there may not necessarily be a direct correlation between per-pupil spending and achievement.

According to the 2009 census Tennessee averages \$7,897 spent per student per year- technically on the low end of the national spectrum. (Utah spends \$6,356, while and New York spends \$18,126.) According to one report, however, in Utah only 21 % of schools failed to meet the goals set under federal education law by No Child Left Behind; while in New York, a staggering 38% of schools fell short.

In recent years the Knox County School Board has, in fact, received funds from The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Race to the Top funding, as well as, funding from the Federal

Education Jobs Bill. Despite a substantial influx of capital, however, Knox County's average composite ACT scores fell from 20.5 in 2010 to 20.4 in 2011. Although not a substantial drop, Knox County remains well below the national average.

"I believe that the future success of our children, and indeed the future vitality of our community demand such an investment." Dr. McIntyre further states.

Statistics suggest, however, that paramount to the amount of money invested in county school systems is the use of the money invested.

Despite an influx of federal funding in recent years Knox County test scores dropped. Knox County Commission would be prudent to consider this trend before allocating additional funds, lest the Knox County School System find themselves even further below state and national averages.

South Doyle Middle School stadium also subject of debate

Doyle and South-Young high schools were once bitter rivals. However, in a dramatic

twist of fate, residents of the area, many of them alumni from the two schools, have banned to gather to fight a greater battle- proving yet again the indomitable spirit of the South Knoxville community.

Knox County School Board Superintendent, Dr. Jim McIntyre has included in the demolition of the Pete Stafford Stadium at South Doyle Middle School, formerly South-Young High School, in the Capital Improvement Plan as a physical plant upgrade for 2013. More specifically, the plan calls for the demolition of the stadium and the installation of aluminum bleachers- eliminating the restrooms, storage, and concession areas.

The announcement of the structure's removal has sparked a wave of community outrage. For many, demolition of the stadium reaches far beyond the loss of a South Knoxville icon, the community at large currently uses the facility on a regular basis.

"The stadium is heavily used by Parks and Rec teams from both the city and the county. Where will the displaced teams play and practice?" asks resident Kristi

Kristy, who has personally devoted time and energy to help maintain the stadium.

"The families traveling back and forth to the fields for practice and games bring much needed traffic through a part of South Knoxville which is already suffering greatly due to the Henley Street bridge project," Kristy added.

Members of the community have also pointed out that the other schools on

the capital priorities list are scheduled to gain new structures or improvements, while the South Knoxville school is the only school on the list to receive a demolition.

"We've been closed down. We've merged, and now we are seeing the structures just fall into disrepair," stated longtime South Knoxville resident and Doyle High School graduate Jeff Berry.

Berry, in fact, addressed

Continue on page 6

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Rev. Mark Kitts, Pastor and Grief Counselor

It does not seem so long ago, but it was. On an early Thanksgiving morning in the seventies, his father and ours sat on a log where the properties met and were enjoying the moment. They have both passed on, as generations do. His father had been a barber before becoming an administrator for the State vocational school, and he was also a minister. Mark followed in the minister footsteps.

Mark Kitts grew up in the Gibbs Community and was next to the youngest in a family of five children. At a young age, Mark felt called to preach. After graduating from Gibbs High School, he prepared for the ministry at the Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, Kentucky, where he received his Bachelor's degree. Mark continued his education at the Southern Baptist Biblical Center in Jacksonville, Florida, where he earned his Master's degree. In addition to his ministerial degrees, Mark studied grief counseling at the Center of Loss of Life in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Many of us who knew the youngster at Fairview Baptist Church witnessed Mark's commitment to his calling. The late Rev. Ralph Berry gave Mark and others the opportunity to fill the pulpit many times. Those were good times growing up in the church with youth leaders Lee and Kathy Wright. Lee also has passed on, but the Wrights had a strong influence on Mark and many of us. Mark's family was dedicated to church service and were faithful church members. Even when Mark's mother had to work on Sundays at the nursing home, she would prepare dishes for her family to bring to church dinners.

Mark started his ministry in the Bluegrass state where he studied. He pastored the First Baptist Church of Wooton in Wooton, Kentucky, and May's Lick Baptist Church in May's Lick, Kentucky. Later, he brought his ministry to Tennessee at the Block Springs Baptist Church in Grainger County. Mark came back to the Corryton Community where it all started when he began a sixteen-year ministry at the Graveston Baptist Church in Knox County. Under his watch was the ground breaking and construction of a new church building. The Focus covered the historical day in its 9-24-03 issue. One of the elected officials on hand for the event was State Representative Harry Brooks. Interestingly enough, Mark's pastorate at Graveston came after the late Rev. Berry's ministry there.

Today, Mark is a hospice chaplain for the Smoky Mountain Home Health and Hospice. He does a lot of

Some verses in the Bible from the fourth chapter of Ephesians come to mind in closing: "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. . . . And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the



By **Ralphine Major**
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Rev. Mark Kitts



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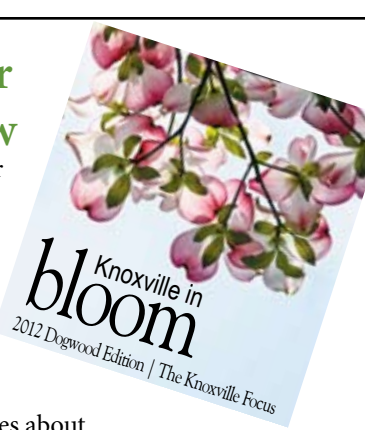
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Neti Pot 2012

Cont. from page 2

the bathroom and showed me how to pour the water through one nostril and let it come out the other nostril. Let me say right here that teaching someone or allowing someone to teach you how to use a neti pot should be a privilege reserved for the closest of friends and family. It is not pretty, but it is very effective. I could breathe and smell and taste things again. I am now a neti pot enthusiast and, truth be told; I have been known to enjoy a little tofu in my coconut soup. Still, I don't expect to start collecting crystals, and I much prefer Zumba to yoga.



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Events on the North side

Fountain City Easter Egg Hunt

This year's event will be Saturday, March 31 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Fountain City Park.

Volunteers and vendors are to arrive at 8:00 a.m.

The Fountain City Business and Professional Association still has a great need for volunteers to help work this event.

Volunteers or vendors interested in participating can e-mail Beth Wade at info@fountaincitybusiness.com.

Halls BPA

Please make plans to attend the upcoming meeting of the Halls Business & Professional Association on Tuesday, March 20, 12 noon, at Beaver Brook Country Club. A buffet luncheon will be available for \$10.

The speaker will be Greg Schmid, teen director at the North Side YMCA, who will speak on the Y's anti-bullying program. This promises to be a great program and we look forward to seeing you.

For program questions, please contact President Shannon Carey, Shopper News, at 922-4136 or visit

www.hallsbusiness.com.

Hollerpalooza

The time has come to begin planning the 7th Annual Happy Hollerpalooza Street Fair.

There will be an event meeting on Monday, March 26, 5:30 p.m. at the Time Warp Tea Room on North Central Street.

Bring a friend, a neighbor, or anyone who may be interested in being a part of this year's community event. Please contact Jessie for questions at friendsantiquemall@gmail.com.



Good choices for dining in North Knoxville

Reprinted from August 2011.

Whenever a new guy comes to town, his popularity knows no bounds. Everyone wants to see him, be with him, and bask in his pleasant demeanor and friendly atmosphere. Who is this new guy? Cheddar's on Clinton Highway. I think it's been in town for about six months. The decor is patron-friendly, restful to the eyes, the food is superb and the prices are fairly reasonable. There was only one small problem as far as I am concerned, I didn't need the sweet croissant with my salad. I couldn't resist it, but I would rather not have it.

Applebee's is one of my favorites. A neighborly restaurant with a "Cheers" atmosphere, it is a friendly, come-back-and-see-us type of eating place that one can take their family to and get great service. When I go there I always get



the same thing (I know, I'm in a rut), a bowl of bisque tomato soup and a shrimp and spinach salad. You can get a half a salad instead of a great big one. It is delish! You can't beat it! Once in a blue moon I will get their baby-back BBQ ribs which are enticing.

Hungry for pizza? Or lasagna? Go to the Gondolier in Halls.

The best pizza around comes in small, medium, or large, along with a refreshing salad bowl. And if it's your birthday, you'll get a humongous slice of birthday cake, over twenty different kinds to choose from. Reasonable prices too. Oh, and they do come around and sing "Happy Birthday" to you.

For Good, old-fashioned cooking, go to Rankin's on Central Avenue. They're

only open for breakfast and lunch but the food will take you back to Grandma's house on Sundays after church. I ate there for the first time recently and don't recall all the different lunch specials they have. I had meat loaf, pickled beets, applesauce, a drink, and a Brownie for dessert, all for \$7.25 (with tax). Can't beat that.

Breakfast time? IHOP is fabulous. Nationally known, of course, for their pancakes, they are now dressed up in a hundred different ways with seasonal fruit toppings. Plus, with their regular servings of eggs, hash browns, sausage, and bacon, you don't come away from there with a hungry stomach!

Shoney's is the place to go after church on Sundays. I'm sure they are filled up other days also but Sunday is "Shoney-day" for me. A tempting hot bar and salad bar, plus their regular

menu is a satisfying time of repast for anyone.

There are many, more savory places to dine in the Fountain City area but these are tops to me. O'Charley's, Puleo's, the Chinese restaurant next to Target, these all serve great food.

Something to think about if you're watching how many calories you eat, Google the name of almost any restaurant and they will tell you how many calories is in each dish. This is really helpful.

There are ways to eat sensibly when you dine out. Some restaurants will also tell you the caloric number in a certain item if you ask. On the other hand, sometimes it's just fun to "dig in!"

Thought for the day: He who plants trees, loves others besides himself. English Proverb

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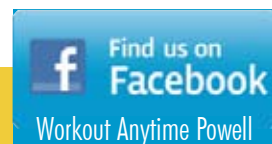
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FOCUS MORE ON Seymour

TKA Announces Annual Science Fair Winners

Over fifty science projects developed by The King's Academy third, fourth and fifth graders poured into the school's Taylor Gymnasium in early February. The academy's Science Fair affords students in grades 3-12 the opportunity to conduct a personal investigation in an area of personal interest. Over 100 projects filled the gym altogether.

The Intermediate Division projects were judged by faculty from the University of Tennessee and the academy's upper level science teachers.

The intermediate grand prize winner for the second consecutive year was Regan Weekly. Regan's project, "Written All Over Your Face," tested whether a person's emotions can be told by just looking at their eyes.

Prizes generously donated by Wonderworks were awarded to the following students:

Grand Prize: Regan Weekly

Third Grade:

First Place: Joseph Eubanks

Second Place: Gavin Hall

Third Place: Lukas Campbell

Honorable Mention: Ashley Everett, Josh Parton

Fourth Grade:

First Place: Bailey Rollins

Second Place: Zac Shaffer

Third Place: Hannah Sayne

Honorable Mention: Carter Burnett, Madeline Reagan,

Wendell Thornton

Fifth Grade:

First Place: Matthew Mikels

Second Place: Caitlin Hale

Third Place: Sidney Mink

Honorable Mention: Adam Banks, Sonja LaFollette,

Brandon Williams,

Andrew Williford

Best Journal: Leonardo Nguyen

Most Artistic: Connor Davis

Principal's Award: Madeline Reagan

President's Award: Matthew Rollar

Students will take their projects to the Tate's

Regional Science Fair to

participate against other

schools April 15-17.

The academy's middle

school and upper school

students also presented

projects in the fair. Award

winners will advance to

regional competition at the

University of Tennessee

March 27.

Middle School Science Fair

Winners

Grand Prize: Virginia Hayes,

"Dog Paws"

McIntyre asks

for \$35M

Cont. from page 3

the Knoxville School

Board regarding the matter

at their regularly scheduled

meeting earlier this month.

"We, as a community, are

dedicated to preserving the

stadium," Berry stated with

resolve.

Yet, many more mem-

bers of the community find

themselves wondering why

the stadium was allowed to

fall into this state of deterio-

ration.

"SDMS used to be a High

School, so we inherited the

facility. Knoxville School's

policy is to not maintain this

facility simply because it is a

middle school?" Kristi Kristy

asks.

However, with the release

of a controversial budget

proposal by Dr. Jim McIntyre,

many also wonder whether

or not investing in the sta-

dium is a prudent use of

funds.

A community meeting has

been scheduled for March

26th at 6:00 p.m. in the

South Doyle Middle School

auditorium.

1st Place: Kyra Knightly, "Jiggly Jello"

2nd Place: Megan Laboy, "C is for

Color"

3rd Place: Trevor Pitney, "Speed is

Money"

Honorable Mention: Niamh Shumacher,

"Vitamin A;" Donny Richmond, "Stop

Rot"

Headmaster's Award: Ben Morin,

"Forget Me Not"

Principal's Award: Nickolas Tilley, "Bigger,

Smaller, Farther, Shorter"

Environmental and Green Awards: Callie

Green, "Waste Not"

Upper School Science Fair Winners

1st Place: Leah Rollins, "Crittter

Campout"

2nd Place: Grace Mikels, "Spoiling

Strawberries"

3rd Place: Josh Keller, "Mind Over

Matter"

Honorable Mention: Bailey Wayland,

"Gluten Mutiny;" Will Moore, "Hovercraft;"

Ridge Palmer, "Arrow Flight"

Most Novel Research: Caleb Littleton,

"Musical Fitness"

Headmaster's Award: Dalton Price,

"Which Form of Memory is More

Effective: Visual or Auditory"

Director's Award: Danielle Everett,

"Strooped"

Environmental Award: Scarlett

Spaulding, "School Makes Me Sick"

Green Award: Heather Sparks, "Too

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Riding for change...

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By Dan Andrews
andrewsd@knoxfocus.com

With gas prices rising and family budgets becoming tighter, my boss offered me a challenge when I requested to go to Nashville for a business meeting. The challenge was to take advantage of every mass transit system possible. My goal was to be able to realistically show our readers how to save gas, save money, and save the environment. To do this I planned my routes in advance with the Knoxville Area Transit and the new bus service “Megabus.” What I discovered was that a little planning can result in huge savings.

My journey started out six days before my actual trip. I visited the KAT main transportation center downtown and spoke with a representative at the customer service desk. I asked her what bus routes I would need to take to get from Farragut to the downtown KAT center and which bus I would need to take to get to the west end of Knox County when I returned home. The service representative was extremely kind and very professional. She showed me that the Farragut Express bus charges a \$2.00 fair and told me that the location of the Farragut Park and Ride is located at 707 North Campbell Station Road, Knoxville, TN 37934. It is located behind Campbell Wine and Spirits. Next, I booked a round trip ticket on “Megabus” for \$9.00 total! The more days in advance that a person books with Megabus, the



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

A KAT bus stops at the transit Center to pick up riders before heading on to Farragut.

cheaper the ticket price is. Finally, I went to the Nashville MTA website and found a bus stop right next to the hotel I had already booked.

My Journey:
I arrived at the Farragut KAT Bus stop on Monday, March 12 at 7:00 a.m. Within about 5 minutes, the 7:15 a.m. express route to downtown Knoxville arrived. About 14 people loaded onto the bus and headed downtown. The driver was very courteous even going as far as

asking the riders if they wanted the internal bus lights on so the passengers could read their newspapers. Towards the end of the half hour trip I chatted briefly with the driver, mentioning to her how I was going to Nashville on a mass transit challenge. She was so delighted to hear my story that when I got off the bus she said “wait I got something for you to hear.” She then pushed a button that prompted a musical jingle then a female computer voice

said “thank you for choosing to ride with the MTA today, have a great day” over the bus’s loud speaker. We chuckled and parted ways. The experience was great. I saved a lot of gas and wear and tear on my car, and the driver was friendly. I arrived downtown in about the same amount of time as if I had driven. At two dollars, it was an incredible bargain! Not to mention, the bus stop in Farragut has plenty

Continue on page 4

In Perspective

You should know by now that I am an ardent supporter of small businesses.



By Tasha Mahurin
Mahurin@knoxfocus.com

I believe in them. I believe in the value they add to society and the enrichment they bring to local communities, and despite what Wall Street or “main stream” media tries to tell the general population, I still believe they are the backbone of American capitalism.

With that being said, and the hint of Spring in the air, I want to address our local farmers this week and the importance of supporting them. According to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture: farming and forestry not only preserve a time-honored way of life, but they also fuel the state’s economy. Agricultural production generates more than \$2.8 billion annually in farm cash receipts and nearly \$300 million generated by timber sales.

I wait with great anticipation all winter long for our local Farmer’s Markets to

Continue on page 2

Knoxville Firm’s Work on City’s Transit Center Wins Top Award



The Grand Iris award was presented to CDM Smith for its project, John J. Duncan, Jr. Knoxville Station Transit Center, completed for the City of Knoxville and managed by the Knoxville/ Knox County Public Building Authority.

Knoxville engineering firm, CDM Smith, won The Grand Iris Award, the highest honor in the statewide Engineering Excellence Awards competition sponsored by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee (ACEC of Tennessee). The award was presented to CDM Smith for its project, John J. Duncan, Jr. Knoxville Station Transit Center, completed for the City of Knoxville and managed by the Knoxville/Knox County Public Building Authority.

The award was announced and presented on the evening of March 6 during the ACEC of Tennessee awards banquet in Franklin, TN. More than 275 Tennessee

engineers, business and civic leaders, and state, city and county officials from across the state attended the awards event.

The firm also won The Grand Iris Award in 2011 for its project, Biologically Enhanced High Rate Clarification, completed for the Knoxville Utilities Board.

In addition, a project in Maryville, the Maryville Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, won the Grand Prize in the competition’s water and storm water category. The project was completed by Nashville engineering firm, J.R. Wauford & Company Consulting Engineers, Inc. for the City of Maryville.

“Engineers are problem-solvers. The projects of CDM Smith and J.R. Wauford are examples of this,” said Greg Brubaker, PE, K.S. Ware and Associates, LLC, Nashville, chair of the awards program. “The ACEC awards program spotlights the many ways in which the work of engineers enhances the quality of life, improves business operations, and promotes the safety of citizens in communities across our state.”

CDM Smith provided a variety of planning and engineering services related to the development of the John J. Duncan, Jr. Knoxville Station Transit Center. Owned by the City of Knoxville and

Cont. on page 2

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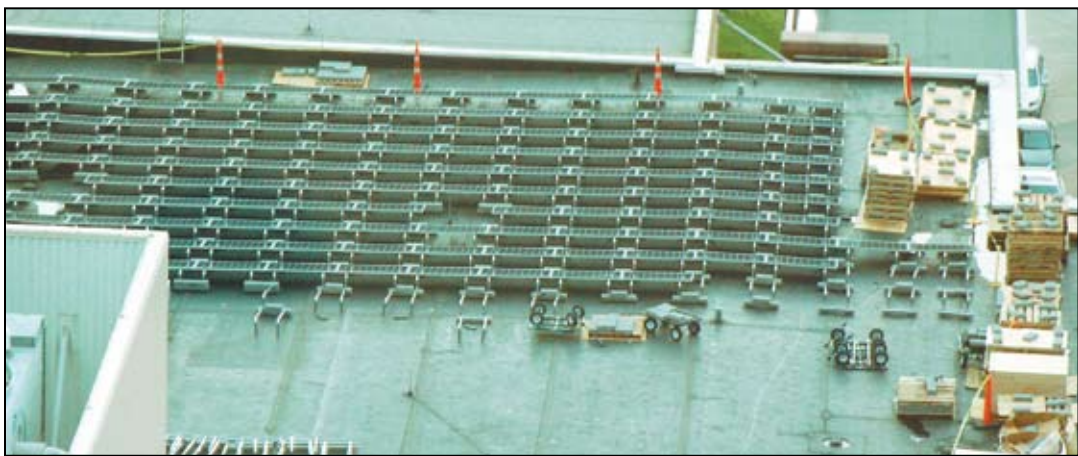
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Dan around town

PHOTOS BY DAN ANDREWS.



Above, Commissioner Amy Broyles and daughter Avery Parkey visited the rescued Horse Haven horses at Chilhowee Park last Friday. 38 abused horses had been seized and are being rehabilitated at the temporary shelter. Right: The largest solar photovoltaic system owned by the City of Knoxville, consisting of 90.75 kilowatts and more than 363 panels, is being constructed at the Convention Center. As photographed from the Sunsphere Friday, the assembly of the pads, racking system and panels can be seen.



Knoxville Firm Wins Top Award

Cont. from page 1

operated by Knoxville Area Transit, the facility, which was constructed primarily on air rights above the James White Parkway, is the first Silver LEED certified public building in Knoxville. Knoxville Station annually provides three million plus public transit passengers with an off-street, comfortable, weather-protected, climate-controlled

building. The pedestrian plaza and bus way also serve to spatially and culturally bridge the gap between downtown and the East Knoxville neighborhoods.

J. R. Wauford & Company, Consulting Engineers, Inc. designed the 17 MGD (million gallons per day) Maryville Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant to incorporate 90 percent of existing treatment infrastructure to

reduce the volume of biosolids produced by half and to convert these remaining biosolids into a reusable soil-like product. The design allows five million additional gallons of wastewater generation per day in the plant's service area without causing any degradation to receiving streams. The use of the at-risk construction management delivery method provided the flexibility during project construction

to allow this complex \$32.5 million project to be completed on-time and under budget.

Several Knoxville engineering firms also received an Honor Award in the competition. They are Gresham Smith & Partners, Jacobs Engineering Group, and Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc.

In Perspective

Cont. from page 1

re-open, and I just can't resist a good "side-of-the-road" fruit stand.

Perhaps, it's the nostalgia (see previous column) that makes them so appealing. But more so, I believe it's the personal interaction that I adore... the middle man is eliminated. There is something very Capraesque about the whole construct, not to mention the health benefits of locally grown produce that hasn't been mass produced.

So this week, I offer a list of local farmers markets definitely worth checking out:

Dixie Lee Farmers Market, Lenior City/ West Knoxville Area, Knoxville, TN,

Knoxville Farmers Market, Kingston Pike, 3457 Kingston Pike at Cherokee Blvd., Knoxville, TN, 37919

New Harvest Park Farmers Market, 4700 New Harvest Park Lane, Knoxville, TN, 37918

The Market Square Farmers Market, Downtown Knoxville-Between Wall Ave. and Union St, Knoxville, TN, 37901

UT Farmers Market of Knoxville, 2506 Jacob Drive, Knoxville, TN, 37996-4561

Hours of operation vary. Check out <http://www.agriculture.state.tn.us> for additional information.

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Tennessee's Forgotten Senator

Tom Stewart

Part 6

Pages from
the Political
Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

In December of 1947, E. H. Crump, the political ruler of the powerful Shelby County machine announced he would not support U. S. Senator Tom Stewart for reelection the following year. Crump had already determined a replacement for Stewart; fifty-two year old John A. Mitchell, a local Circuit Judge from Cookeville and a cousin to former Congressman J. Ridley Mitchell. Outside of his own judicial district, Judge Mitchell was hardly known. Crump had not even met Judge Mitchell personally, blustering to reporters he had been assured Mitchell had a wonderful record. Mitchell was indeed popular in his home community and having served in World War I, Crump thought Mitchell would be popular with veterans from both world wars.

Following Crump's declaration, many observers were certain Senator Stewart would quietly announce his own decision to retire from public life. National publications like TIME magazine, which always employed the most derogatory adjectives to describe both Senators K. D. McKellar and Tom Stewart, chortled over the Memphis Boss's having "booted" Stewart out of the United States Senate.

Crump's ordinarily keen political sense seems to have entirely deserted him in 1948. Crump, like many Memphians, was horrified by President Harry Truman's stance on civil rights. Crump refused to back Truman, preferring instead the States' Rights ticket of South Carolina Governor Strom Thurmond and Mississippi Governor Fielding Wright. Tom Stewart had served in the Senate with Truman and they were personal friends; Stewart remained loyal to the national Democratic Party, as did Senator McKellar. Yet, Crump pressured McKellar to endorse his choice of Judge Mitchell. McKellar himself had selected Tom Stewart to run for the Senate originally in 1938 and had kept then-Governor Prentice Cooper from challenging Stewart in 1942. McKellar had strongly backed Stewart in his 1942 campaign, but the aging senator was increasingly ill and absent from his office. McKellar's best biographer, Robert Dean Pope, cites some evidence that McKellar may have suffered a series of small strokes, but it is certain McKellar's failing health made him less able to resist Crump's demand to support Mitchell. McKellar issued a tepid statement supporting John Mitchell for the Senate, despite the fact Tom Stewart had worked closely with McKellar throughout his decade in the Senate. McKellar's endorsement of Mitchell was lukewarm and McKellar seemed embarrassed, but the legion of McKellar men in Tennessee



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Senator Tom Stewart.

largely ignored the old senator's recommendation and worked hard for Stewart's reelection.

Tom Stewart, defying Crump, declared he would run to succeed himself. Crump's decision not to support Tom Stewart in 1948 was likely the Memphis Boss's greatest single political mistake of his long political career. Chattanooga Congressman Estes Kefauver had seriously considered running for the Senate in 1946 against McKellar, but thought better of it after it became readily apparent he could not win the nomination. Kefauver saw his opening with Crump's decision and announced he was running for the senatorial nomination. Kefauver's campaign manager, Judge Charles Neese, later told me personally that Kefauver would have had no chance to win had Crump chosen to support Senator Stewart instead.

Crump's decision to abandon both the national Democratic Party and Senator Stewart, gave his opponents the opportunity they needed to contest the control over Tennessee politics the Memphis Boss and Senator K. D. McKellar had maintained for over a decade. Gordon Browning, perhaps Crump's most prominent political nemesis in Tennessee, was a candidate to reclaim the governor's mansion from incumbent Jim McCord, who was strongly supported by E. H. Crump. McCord's position had been seriously impaired by his support for a two percent sales tax. McCord managed to convince Crump quite reluctantly to support a sales tax in Tennessee, which greatly benefitted public education in the Volunteer State. Despite the vast improvements made in education in Tennessee and the free textbooks offered to students, many Tennesseans did not appreciate the new tax. Former Governor Browning and Congressman Estes Kefauver formed a political combine as Crump had divided the support of the very organization that had helped

him to dominate Tennessee politics for the past decade in partnership with Senator McKellar. While Crump's control of Shelby County was still absolute, Crump failed to consider that McKellar's army of political appointees and supporters owed their allegiance to McKellar, not Crump. Most of McKellar's own organization, which was not confined to one county, but spread out all across the state, ignored the senator's halfhearted endorsement of Judge John Mitchell and worked for Stewart.

The Nashville Tennessean had long been a vitriolic critic of McKellar and especially Crump. The publisher of the Tennessean, Silliman Evans, pledged his all out support to both Gordon Browning and Estes Kefauver. Kefauver was a poor speaker, but a master of retail politics, meeting and greeting folks in small crowds and one-on-one very effectively. An unhappy McKellar confessed to Crump that he had told Senator Stewart he could not take part in the primary, due to feeling obligated to the Memphis Boss. McKellar wistfully told Crump that Stewart had not taken the news well at all and as a result had had little to do with him since. McKellar informed Crump he did not believe Judge Mitchell could win the primary and reiterated his belief Kefauver's election would be a travesty. Crump soon began to have serious doubts about his support of John Mitchell and sought to have the Judge drop out of the senatorial race, which would allow the Memphis Boss to reverse himself and endorse Senator Stewart. The Kefauver campaign, hearing the rumors emanating from Memphis, cleverly promoted the idea Crump was about to change his mind in the senate race, which caused Crump to stubbornly stick with Mitchell. Had Crump reversed himself, the outcome of the primary election would likely have been very different.

Congressman Kefauver had challenged Senator Stewart to debate the issues, a challenge which some

family members urged him to accept. Stewart was an able attorney and a far better speaker than the frequently tongue-tied Kefauver. A public debate or series of debates would likely have been a serious liability to the Kefauver campaign and would almost surely have affected the momentum of the Chattanooga Congressman. Senator Stewart rejected the advice given him by his family, choosing instead to listen to his campaign managers who thought a debate would merely increase Kefauver's own campaign profile.

August brought defeat to Tom Stewart, with Kefauver winning the primary with a plurality of forty-two percent. The difference was clearly Crump's decision to back John Mitchell. The vote controlled by the Shelby County machine would have brought Stewart within four thousand votes of Kefauver's winning total alone.

A photo of Senators Stewart and McKellar attending a luncheon shortly after the Democratic primary shows Tom Stewart looking worn and mournful. Stewart was not happy at having lost, but was proud of the showing

he made in spite of the odds against him. Stewart wrote many friends across the state to thank them for having "stayed with me to the end".

Senator Stewart was gratified to have an airport in Obion County named for him. As a member of the Senate, Stewart had worked hard to have an air training school located in Obion County. By 1942 the facility was operational and pilots were being trained. Following the conclusion of World War II, the facility was given to Obion County, a process helped along by Senator Tom Stewart. Grateful Obion Countians promptly named it the Tom Stewart Airport. In time, the name of the late Congressman Robert A. "Fats" Everett would be added to that of Stewart; Everett had been Stewart's Administrative Assistant and it is still known as the Everett - Stewart Airport.

At the conclusion of his term in the United States Senate, Stewart moved to Nashville and opened a law office. Senator McKellar, certainly feeling guilty for not having supported his genial colleague, immediately proposed to make

Stewart the attorney for the Federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation, an appointment Senator Estes Kefauver bitterly opposed. Stewart enjoyed a successful law practice, with quite a few corporate clients. Politics beckoned the former senator once or twice more and Stewart was thought to be willing to run again in 1952, as reports circulated throughout Washington. D. C. and Tennessee that K. D. McKellar would withdraw as a candidate for reelection in 1952 due to his precarious health. One news report stated Senate Majority Leader Ernest McFarland was promoting a Stewart candidacy in place of that of Senator McKellar. The old senator denounced the rumors and insisted he was in the race to stay and Tom Stewart remained in private life. Stewart was urged by many to challenge Kefauver again in 1954, but the former senator replied he didn't believe Tennesseans wanted him in the Senate and remained content with his law practice and family.

Senator Stewart certainly retained an interest in politics and from time to time would issue endorsements of various candidates. Stewart's wife Helen died in 1965 and the former senator spent increasing amounts of time with his grandchildren, several of whom shared his passion for the sport of baseball.

Tom Stewart, a man who strongly believed in the virtue of work, was in his law office working when he was stricken with a fatal heart attack on October 10, 1972.

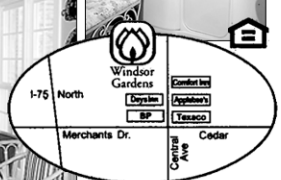
For those who knew Tom Stewart, there was much to admire in a man who still believed in small-town values. Tom Stewart was a generous and kindly man, the sort who believed in America and her people.

Senator Stewart also left a political legacy that continues to this day. His son and one-time law partner, L. Fricks Stewart became the Chancellor of the judicial district he had himself represented as District Attorney. With the retirement of Fricks Stewart from the bench, voters elected Senator Stewart's grandson, Jeffrey Stewart as Chancellor. For more than eighty years, there has been a Stewart serving the people in those Middle Tennessee counties.

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From time to time in talking with constituents I am asked just exactly what I do as a state representative. In order to answer that question, I thought I would devote this week's article to outlining my day to day schedule for this week in this "part time" job. Fortunately I had retired from my previous work when I was first elected, so I am able to devote as much time as necessary in fulfilling my legislative responsibilities.

We will begin with the previous Saturday when I held town hall meetings in two different areas of the 19th District. I firmly believe that part of my responsibility is to be available to my constituents to give them the opportunity to discuss with me any concern they might have with state issues. The following day, on Sunday, I went Sunday School and church at my home church and then remained afterwards to attend a luncheon with new church members and their deacon. Immediately after that luncheon, my wife and I loaded up our car and drove to Nashville to prepare for the upcoming week.

Monday began bright and early with a tour of the Career and Technical Education department of Blackman High School in Murfreesboro. I have spent much of my time in the Legislature dealing with educational policies, especially concerning the technical path, so I was happy to see the programs they offered. Monday afternoon I had six meetings before the House Session at 5 p.m.

I was up and going early Tuesday as UT sponsored a breakfast at 7 am to begin their UT Day on the Hill. It was good to meet with officials from the university to discuss their concerns. 19 other meetings followed, including Children and Family Affairs Committee which I chair. The Education Committee met in the afternoon followed by a Fiscal Ways and Means Committee meeting. Tuesday is generally my busiest day of the week, so I bring a sandwich for lunch and try to grab a bite to eat at my desk. Tuesday night I met over dinner with the fine people of Leadership Knoxville.

Wednesday was another early morning as I met with officials from Vanderbilt at 7 am. During the remainder of the day, I had thirteen more separate meetings to attend. That afternoon I had the honor of receiving the "Golden Apple Award" from the Tennessee Chapter National Coalition for Public School Options for my work with



From State Representative Harry Brooks

bills promoting virtual education and charter schools.

Thursday morning began with Calendar and Rules Committee at 8 am before the House Session at 9 am. Typically we finish session by noon, and if I don't have anything scheduled for the afternoon, we head back to Knoxville. Thursday evening I stopped in Powell for a joint community meeting with local school board and county commission members before getting home.

Friday morning I drove to Chattanooga for a Career and Technical Education Summit where I spoke, and then Saturday I had two more constituent town hall meetings. Sunday the schedule begins all over again.

As you can see, the responsibilities of a state representative involves much more than just the two sessions that are held weekly. In addition to everything mentioned above, I try to squeeze in time to read and respond to e-mails and return phone calls. I am busy; the time passes quickly, but I would not have it any other way. It is truly an honor to serve the people of the 19th District as your representative.

Riding for change

Continued from page 1

of parking places reserved for 'Park and Ride' passengers.

I had arrived downtown early. Since my Megabus trip didn't depart till noon I decided to get breakfast. I took the "Downtown Trolley" to Market Square. This trolley service is free and runs on schedule throughout the day. After breakfast, I boarded the trolley again to return to the downtown KAT center.

The Megabus arrived in front of the terminal for my noon departure, and I was on my way to Nashville. The overall experience was very pleasant. The bus, driven by a professionally dressed driver, had arrived on time, was clean and equipped with a restroom. The only problem I incurred during the trip was that the onboard Wifi did not work.

One piece of advice is to pay close attention to the weather. The Megabus drop off location in Nashville is unsheltered and open to the elements. I walked four blocks to the local bus stop which had my hotel on its route. Having a bus stop near your hotel can save you a fortune by avoiding the high cab fare. I suggest planning ahead and checking out the MTA city website. Book your hotel accordingly. My total trip time was about three hours from Knoxville to Nashville.

My bus ride home on Megabus was equally as enjoyable as the first part of my trip. For the KAT ride home I took the Kingston Pike route since it went the farthest west after 7 p.m. On the bus a homeless man kindly asked me for some money for food. So I showed him my press badge and made him a deal. I gave him some money for food but I asked him a lot of questions during our ride. To be honest, I asked so many questions I think he was about to give me my money back so I wouldn't ask any more questions. The bus pulled into Walmart where a family member was waiting for me in the parking lot. At the end of my journey my total expense from Farragut to Knoxville to Nashville and back was twelve dollars and fifty cents.

As a reporter I have a lot of opportunities to report on what is wrong with society. While on the ride home I was happy to reflect on how many right things about our society I have to report. Saving money, saving gas, saving wear and tear on my car, and saving the environment! I encourage anyone looking to save money in these tough times to explore Knoxville's money saving mass transit system!

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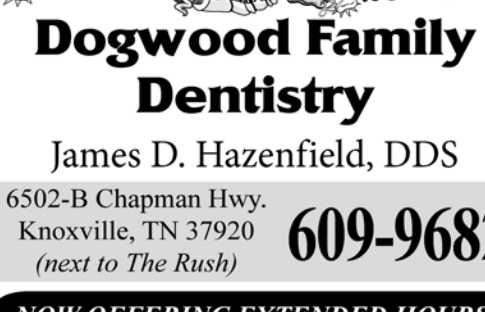
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<p>FBN Grilled CHICKEN BREAST</p> <p>\$1.79 Compare at \$2.98 7 Oz.</p>	<p>FBN SLICED PEARS</p> <p>\$1.49 20 Oz.</p>	<p>FBN DICED TOMATOES</p> <p>2 FOR \$1 Compare at 98¢ 14.5 Oz.</p>	
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Injured CAK captain honored with Tebow treatment

Red Devils rout Dragons, 12-0



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Blackbirds, Jackrabbits and Grizzlies, oh my!

This week's column is like the weather around here. If you don't like it, wait a few minutes and it will change.

First, a pop quiz:

Name the NCAA basketball tournament teams that have the following nicknames – Shockers, Musketeers, Jackrabbits, Mountain Hawks, Delta Devils, Billikens, Racers, Blackbirds, Gaels (two teams), Orange, Greyhounds, Bonnies, Grizzlies and Crimson. Bonus points: Name the three teams of Wildcats. (Answers at end of column).

TENNESSEE FANS obviously were disappointed to see the Vols fall to Ole Miss in the SEC tourney quarterfinals, which pretty much brought an end to UT's streak of six straight trips to the Big Dance. But the Vols have a lot of company on the outside looking in. Half of last season's 68-team field (34 teams) didn't make it back, including Butler, last year's runner-up. I was

surprised to find the number of non-repeaters to be so high.

The Vols, by the way, pulled away from stubborn Savannah State 65-51 in their NIT opener last week and will host MTSU in the second round tonight (March 19). The Big Orange needs two more wins to make it to the Big Apple.

THE LADY VOLS didn't get any favors from the NCAA selection committee. Why they were given the last No. 2 seed, instead of Kentucky, is puzzling. Tennessee blasted Kentucky 91-54 in the last regular season meeting between the two teams. The Lady Vols captured the SEC tourney title after UK won the regular season crown. Tennessee was ranked ahead of Kentucky in both the AP and USA TODAY / ESPN final regular season polls.

But Tennessee was placed in the same region with top-ranked and unbeaten Baylor, the overall No. 1 seed, while Kentucky was put in the same region with Connecticut (29-4). I wonder, could Pat Summitt's decision to not play the Lady Huskies in

recent years have had something to do with the committee's possible matchups?

The UT women have work to do first in Chicago. The Lady Vols were expected to get past UT-Martin, Summitt's alma mater, in Saturday's first round, then face DePaul in the Lady Blue Demons' backyard tonight.

BEFORE THE WOMEN'S bracket was revealed, I had made up my mind I would be pulling for the Lady Vols AND Delaware. That's because of Delle Donne. Have you heard her story? It brought tears to my eyes.

Donne, the nation's No. 1 high school player in 2008, signed with Connecticut but stayed on the Lady Huskies' campus only two days before returning to her home in Wilmington, Del. Turned out she needed to be close to her older sister Lizzie, who was born deaf, blind and with cerebral palsy. Turned out she had to be where she could hug her sister. A hug is the only way the two can communicate.

Donne, now a junior, is the

nation's leading scorer with a 28.3 point average. She has put Delaware (27-1) on the map. She is a beautiful young woman, and an even more beautiful human being who knows what is most important in life. No wonder there are "Delle-Ware" T-shirts.

Tennessee and Delaware could meet in the Sweet Sixteen. If that happens, I'll be assured of having a team to pull for against, most likely, Baylor.

TYLER SUMMITT will be the one to recognize when it is time for his mom to step down from coaching because of health reasons, said Fred Tucker, longtime Tennessee fan. I agree. The legendary coach announced last August she had been diagnosed with early onset dementia, Alzheimer's type.

Many of us have watched Tyler grow up around the Lady Vols program. It is not out of the question that he himself may someday be head coach of the Lady Vols. He aspires to coach. That's the reason he's been on UT men's

team the past two seasons, to soak up as much knowledge as he could from Bruce Pearl and Cuonzo Martin. Obviously, over the years, he has learned a great deal about coaching from his mom.

About three years ago, I was refereeing in an AAU tournament in which Tyler was coaching. I thought he did an excellent job. His team was excelling in fundamentals. He seemed to get his most delight when his team did particularly well on defense. You and I both know who he got that from.

ANSWERS to pop quiz: Wichita State Shockers, Xavier Musketeers, South Dakota State Jackrabbits, Lehigh Mountain Hawks, Mississippi Valley State Delta Devils, Saint Louis Billikens, Murray State Racers, Long Island Blackbirds, Iona and Saint Mary's Gaels, Syracuse Orange, Loyola (Md.) Greyhounds, St. Bonaventure Bonnies, Montana Grizzlies and Harvard Crimson. Bonus: Kentucky, Kansas State and Davidson Wildcats.

Lady Bobcats open season with win

By Ken Lay

Central High School's softball team opened its season Tuesday night with an 8-4 District 3-AAA victory over Anderson County at Fountain City Ball Park.

Lady Bobcats coach Mike Cox was pleased with the victory but wasn't thrilled with his team's offensive output despite watching his squad plate eight runs.

"It's like I said two weeks ago, it's going to come down to who plays the best defense and who gets the timely hitting," Cox said. "We have a long way to go with our hitting."

Central found itself down 2-0 early as the Lady Mavericks cashed in on some shaky defense. ACHS leadoff hitter Leslie Humphrey reached on an infield single. Two outs later, she scored on a single by Molly McCormick singled. McCormick ended up scoring on the play

on a three-base error.

The Lady Bobcats answered with three runs in the bottom of the frame. Courtney Syles started a two-out rally when she was hit by a pitch. Kaitlyn Howell singled to put runners on first and second. Styles came home on a base hit by Maleah Hipsher. Howell scored on a double by Chloe Cox.

ACHS (0-2 overall, 0-2 in the district) tied the game in the second on an RBI double by Jessica Ottinger, the Lady Mavericks No. 9 hitter. Her hit plated Sydney Nelson, who singled with one out.

The Lady 'Cats scored four in the second thanks to a two-run homer by Styles, a scoring single by Chloe Cox and a Lady Mavericks error. Central had a 7-3 lead by inning's end.

Anderson County, which dropped a 10-7 decision to Halls at home

to open its season on Monday, March 12, took advantage of another Central error in the fifth. Humphrey reached on a one-out error and scored on a double by Kaitlyn Parker.

Central got its final run in the sixth on Styles' solo shot in the sixth. It was her second round-tripper of the contest. Both traveled over the left-field fence.

Lady Bobcats pitcher Kacy Russell kept Anderson County at bay throughout much of the contest. She surrendered four runs (two earned) and seven hits. She struck out four.

"I thought Kacy threw pretty well. She pretty much kept the ball down," coach Cox said. "She got the ball up a few times and we gave them a run in the first inning when we threw the ball around."

The Courtship of Peyton Manning

Cont. from page 1

to get him aboard and I think he'd be the guy to get us into the playoffs."

Adams big talk, including a reported contract offer which would lead to Manning sticking with the organization even after retirement, got Manning to visit Nashville.

There are things to like about the Titans situation for Manning. They have an improving defense. They have a spectacular receiver in Kenny Britt, who, if he can stay out of trouble and recover from injury, can make the jump to elite status. Former NFL rushing champion Chris Johnson is still in the backfield.

And yes, we haven't forgotten about the fact that to many in the Volunteer State, Manning is bigger than Elvis Presley and Andrew Jackson combined. Manning's return to Tennessee would be cause for massive celebration, in a state whose athletic teams haven't had much to cheer about.

But this is no slam dunk. The most aggressive suitors for Manning have been the Denver Broncos.

After a roller coaster ride with Tim Tebow at quarterback, it appears that Broncos VP of Operations John Elway wants to go in another direction. The Broncos have gone so far as to watch Manning workout in North Carolina... at Duke University. Manning's former coach, former Tennessee offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe, has given glowing recommendations, that injured neck apparently not a concern.

The idea of Manning, a Tennessee alum, forcing the release/trade of Tebow, a Florida alum, is enough to make any Vols fan smile.

After a visit to the Arizona Cardinals, and discussions with the Miami Dolphins, Manning made the decision to exclude both teams from this process.

His courtship? Not done yet, however. The San Francisco 49ers, a team that finished on overtime loss away from the Super Bowl, is wooing Manning as well. Head coach Jim Harbaugh apparently believes the Manning can get them over the top.

Whether it's the Titans, the Broncos, the 49ers, or even some other team we don't know about yet, Manning will play in the NFL in 2012.

And for the team that lands him? All the recruitment, will have been worth it.

Injured CAK captain honored with Tebow treatment

Cont. from page 1

"coached from the bench and was still a team leader through the injury," said her mom.

"As far as her faith was concerned, she took the attitude of 'Why not me?' and has really grown through that process."

Nelson has received college basketball scholarship offers from Maryville College, Emory & Henry in Abingdon, Va., and Covenant College in Chattanooga, but

because of having gone through two ACL knee injuries and surgeries, she is not sure if she will continue her basketball career in college.

"Maryville College would be my first choice," she said. "Right now I'm leaning away from playing. But I still have my options open."

And Elle will always have the memory of getting Tebowed.

Down the Lane

Rosie's Senior Bowling Review



WEEKLY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR TUESDAY, CLUB 55, MARCH 5, 2012

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--MALE
238 HUBERT GUSBY
225 JOHN FISHER
222 C.L.HACKNEY

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE
602 HUBERT GUSBY
577 JOHN FISHER
575 STANLEY TAYLOR

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--FEMALE
166 MARY SKEEN
163 JANET HUFFAKER
162 MARY MATLOCK

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALE
447 JANET HUFFAKER
440 MARY MATLOCK
431 MARSHA KAVANAUGH

WEDNESDAY CLUB 55:
HIGH GAME SCTRATCH--MALE
253 HUBERT GUSBY
246 ROBERT WATKINS
237 BILL BYRGE
237 BARRY MCGILL

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE
647 MIKE CATE
644 CHARLIE MURPHY
642 RONNIE RUSSELL

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--FEMALE
182 CAROLYN MCGILL
182 KATHY CATE
175 LORETTA CLARK

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALE
582 MARIA MILLS

497 KATHY CATE
470 MABEL MINK

THURSDAY NO-TAP:
HIGH GAME SCRATCH--MALE
297 BILLY MAJORS
285 CLANCY GLIDEWELL
278 DENNIS WALLACE

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE
830 BILLY MAJORS
775 BILL BYRGE
774 BILL MCMILLAN

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--FEMALE
219 JOY TNDALL
216 BETTY PHILLIPS
214 NEDRA SATTERFIELD

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALE
640 JOYTINDELL
595 BETTY PHILLIPS

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Joining forces for Knoxville's urban youth

The arrival of semi-professional soccer in Knoxville last year was good news for fans and athletes alike, including some of the sport's youngest participants – Knoxville's urban children.

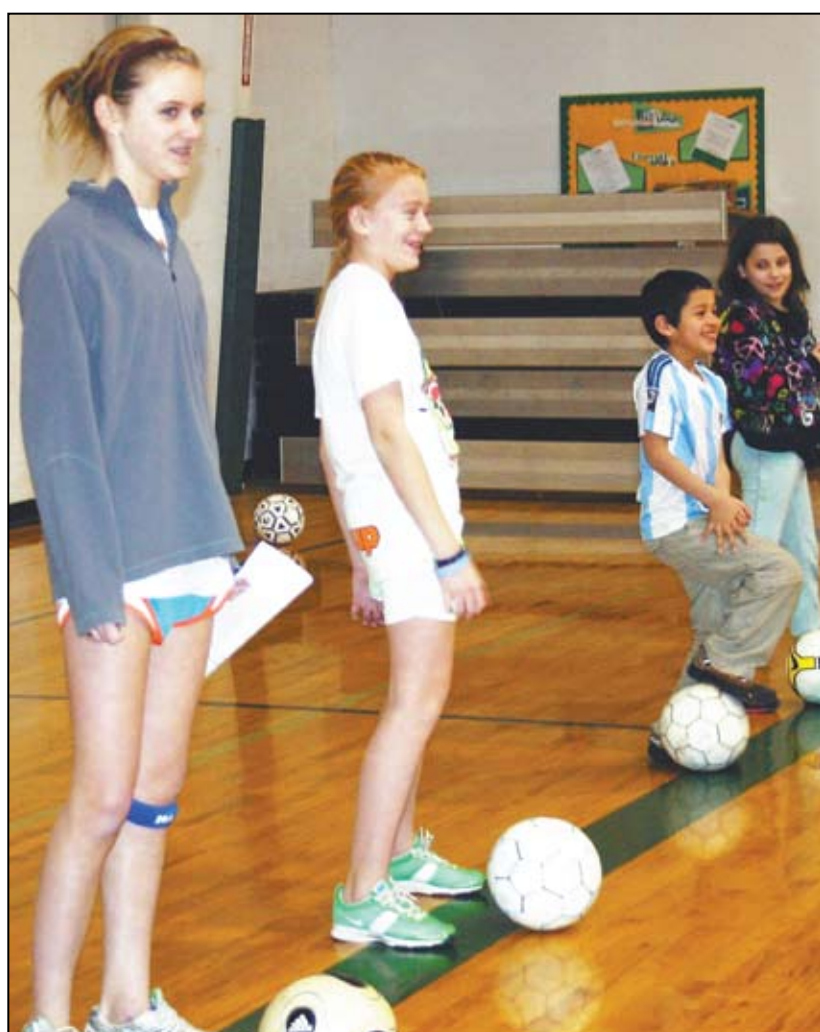
The Knoxville Force, which is part of the National Premier Soccer League, serves as a focal point for social change by offering soccer programs and projects that enhance the health and well-being of a broad and diverse population of the Knoxville community.

Soon after the franchise start-up, the Knoxville Force and Emerald Youth Foundation collaborated to provide soccer programs for children, including a one week summer camp. The camp's popularity with kids, coupled with the desire of the Knoxville Force to serve the community, positioned the organization to offer a winter indoor soccer academy that recently included more than 40 elementary and middle school boys and girls.

Tom Gerlach, Knoxville Force community outreach director and former Christian Academy of Knoxville soccer coach, brought CAK students to Emerald Youth to facilitate the academy. The students are part of the CAK's Sports Ministry Leadership Training Program, which trains middle and high school students to become sports leaders and mentors. While Gerlach and Emerald Youth staff helped organize the schedule and activities, the academy was run entirely by the CAK students.

The 25 teens volunteered two nights per week at Emerald Youth's gym, teaching basic soccer skills and playing scrimmages and games.

"I believe the program was a huge success," said Gerlach. "The Emerald Youth kids improved their soccer skills and had so much fun doing it. The most incredible part



Christian Academy of Knoxville students joined with semi-pro soccer team the Knoxville Force this winter to facilitate a six-week soccer academy for Emerald Youth Foundation children. Pictured are (l to r) Ruth Ellen Bailey, Larkin DeLaria, Jimmy Mendez and Ciera Moore.

was the influence that the older teens had on the young players. To have such a positive impact these days, speaking into their lives, is something that is sadly lacking but so important."

Kent Stanger, Emerald Youth Foundation's citywide programs director added, "It was incredible watching kids teaching kids. I can't say enough about the energy and enthusiasm of the CAK student leaders. They really poured themselves into this effort, and

I'm certain our young people will remember the experience for a long time to come."

The collaboration is expected to continue for the near future, as the Knoxville Force will lead another summer soccer camp this June for Emerald Youth, and both groups hope to offer an outdoor soccer league to urban youth during the fall months. For more information, contact Tom Gerlach at TGerlach@knoxvilleforce.com or Kent Stanger at kstanger@emeraldyouth.org.

Champions Junior Golf Announces 2012 Tour Junior Golf Tournaments in East Tennessee

Junior golf is not only a great experience for the young golfer and their family, but the experience is full of life lessons. Champions Junior Golf is proud to announce the 2012 Champions Junior Golf Tour. With the only competitive junior golf experience throughout the Spring and Fall in the Knoxville area, Champions Junior Golf is dedicated to providing affordable, local opportunities for junior golfers to play in a professional tour-like atmosphere. CJGT tournaments are single-day, affordable events designed for boys and girls 18 and under (minimum age 5) using age and gender appropriate yardages and divisions. No invitation or minimum score is required to play on the CJGT. Junior golfers of all skill levels are welcome.

With a one-time membership fee for the entire year, the 2012 Champions Junior Golf Tour host six events each season. These tournaments allow junior golfers to both showcase and develop their golf skills while having fun in a competitive environment enjoying a game they can play for a lifetime. While participation in CJGT events provide an avenue for the young golfer to learn the core values of life, family involvement is important

to instill confidence in a young player. Therefore, CJGT encourages family participation by allowing caddies for all players during tournaments. What could be better than a family spending a few hours together on a beautiful golf course?

Awards are given to the top five players in each age and gender division at every event. Throughout a Champions Junior Golf seasonal tour, golfers earn points for every tournament played. The player in each age group who accumulates the most points over the course of a season's tour will earn the title of Tour Champion. In addition to Tour Champions, CJGT will award a Player of the Year in each division upon the completion of both seasons.

Over the past several years, the CJGT has hosted over 75 events at various courses in East Tennessee, allowing over 200 juniors to enjoy playing over 1800 rounds of golf. We are very excited once again to bring quality junior golf events to the Knoxville area this year. Simple, on-line registration is now open for the 2012 Champions Junior Golf Tour. For more information, visit the CJGT website at www.championsjjrgolf.com.

Bass Tournament set to reel in proceeds for the Helen Ross McNabb Center

The 19th Herman Gettelfinger Bass Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, April 7th on Fort Loudoun Lake.

Grand prize is \$10,000 based on 150 paid boats. All proceeds reeled in from the tournament will benefit the Helen Ross McNabb Center. The event will begin at the Tellico Canal Ramp and the ease off is at safe light.

The tournament's pre-

registration fee is \$200 per boat (two-man team) and the day-of registration fee is \$225 per boat. The registration fee includes lunch for all participants. An optional luncheon fee is \$10 per boat. Pre-Event Registration will be held on Friday, April 6 at C&C Outdoors (1122 Concord Road, Knoxville, TN 37934) from 3:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

Back for the 2012 tournament is the "Duck Hunt!"

Twenty-five rubber ducks will be released into various parts of the lake. Any registered participant who finds a duck(s) can bring it to the weigh-in to claim their prize.

The tournament sponsors include: Chris McReynolds Roofing, Inc., Tuesday Night Toad Tournament, C&C Outdoors, Enterprise Oil Company, Calhoun's, Highway Markings, Inc., Lamar, WIMZ

-103.5, Pyxl, Diet Mountain Dew, Integracon, WBIR, Xingtea and Knoxville News Sentinel.

For more information contact Beth Farrow at 865-329-9030 or Beth.Farrow@mcnabb.org.

The Helen Ross McNabb Center is in its 64th year

of providing quality mental health care services in East Tennessee. In 1948, the Center began as a child guidance clinic and has evolved through the years to become a multi-service regional agency. The Center currently operates in 19 counties,

providing mental health care, addiction/recovery treatment and social services for nearly 11,000 children, adults and families. For more information, visit www.mcnabbcenter.org or call 865-637-9711.

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SALE #2

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SALE #20

(1) **TAMARA CATLETT ESTATE-ROOMY OLDER HOME, SEYMOUR-2-** Story 4BR, 2BA home in excellent location. Furn. & Personal Property sell separately as one lot. Address: 220 E. Maryville Hwy, Seymour, TN.

(2) **TAMARA CATLETT ESTATE-PRIME 8.6 AC FARM, SEVIER CO. - W/** barn, lg. shed, pond, older home not livable. MOUNTAIN VIEWS! Address: 929 N. Knob Creek Rd., Seymour, TN.

(3) **PREMIER COMMERCIAL, DOWNTOWN NEWPORT OLD POST OFFICE.** Lg. corner lot w/ lots of parking, 3600 sq. ft. on main level w/ 7 offices, 4 BA, vault, quality remodeling, lg. bsmt. Address: 219 E. Broadway, Newport, TN.

(4) **RIVERFRONT-8.06 AC W/ 720 FT. ON HOLSTON RIVER** - Several great bldg. sites, mostly level & high above river, near Church Hill, TN in Hawkins County, TN. Joint access road for access to Sale #5: 39 AC Island.

(5) **39± ACRES PART OF CHRISTIAN ISLAND** - One of most popular fisheries in America. Private get-away island is level, wooded w/ access off Christian Bend Rd. through Sale #4. Sells from tax map, no new survey.

(6) **TAMARA CATLETT ESTATE-OLDER HOME ON LG. LEVEL LOT** - One-level 1050 sq. ft. w/ 2 sm. outbuildings. Furn. & Personal Property sell separately as one lot. Address: 5613 Lon Roberts Dr., Knoxville, TN.

(7) **TAMARA CATLETT ESTATE-PARTIALLY REMODELED HOME** - North Knox. near St. Mary's Hospital. Older home w/ approx. 1100 sq. ft. & handy access at back. Address: 504 E. Churchwell Ave., Knoxville, TN.

(8) **5.72 AC FOREST MTN LAND-4.4 Mi.** from Red Lobster & 441 Parkway in Sevierville, near Wahoo Zip Lines. Part of old home place, lots of frontage on Matthews Hollow Rd. Unrestricted w/ sm. stream & views at top.

(9) **MINIMUM OF 1 HOME SITE FROM LOTS #21, 23 & 75 OF COOL SPRINGS** - Best of the Best with top amenities, pool, pool house, playground, pavilion, sidewalks & elegant homes. Just off Boyds Creek Hwy 338.

(10) **MINIMUM OF 1 HOME SITE FROM LOTS #11, 19, 20 & 29 ELLIS VILLAGE** - Historic Boyds Creek area, easy to build on w/ underground elec., water & sewer, quality homes nearby.

(11) **MOST POPULAR COMMUNITY-LOT #197 MAJESTIC MEADOWS** - Great Boyds Creek location just off Boyds Creek Hwy. Underground elec., utility water.

(12) **LOT #17 IN THE PRESERVE AT ENGLISH MTN** - Live in the mountains, gated community w/ nice homes, paved streets & mountain views, partly wooded. Located on Mountain Ash Way.

(13) **LOTS #20 & 25 FOREST DELIGHT** - Remote mountain living. Very nice-laying wooded home sites. Lot #20 approved for 2 BR, Lot #25 approved for 1 BR. Only 4.5 mi. off Chapman Hwy 411, Sevier County.

(14) **LAKEFRONT COMMUNITY-LOTS #3 & 5 ZANDERS POINTE** - Level home sites near White Pine, Jefferson County. Sites do not front Douglas Lake but have great views, utility water. Near Baneberry Golf Course.

(15) **WOODED LOT #48 BURNING OAKS** - Nice rural living in Sevier County, short distance off Hwy 411 w/ paved streets, lays well, gently sloping.

(16) **HOME SITE #17 OF ENGLISH MTN SEC 7** - Live on top of the mountain. On paved road, wooded, nice homes nearby, gently slopes down from road.

(17) **6.38 AC ON ALPINE RD** - Mountain acreage w/ elbow room. Forest-covered, slopes up from paved road. Great views at back. On Alpine Road going up English Mtn. in Sevier County.

(18) **2.16 AC ADJOINS RIVERGATE** - Near Walters State Comm. College. Roomy site w/ water, sewer, gas & underground elec. Not far from new hospital on Meadow Ridge Cr.

(19) **6.1 COZY MTN HIDE-AWAY w/ STREAM** - Off the Grid, deep in Smokies in a park-like setting w/ small mtn. stream along front, small waterfalls, views from top. In Rocky Flats area.

(20) **36 ft. CHALLENGER MOTOR HOME** in great condition w/ 2 slide-outs. Motor home will be at Civic Center March 23rd. 2003 Challenger by Damon, only 18,000 mi., inside looks almost new, used very little. On a Chev. chassis w/ GM Vortec engine.

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Arts & Entertainment

The new era of Country Music

While writing this article my attention was constantly returning to my Facebook wall. My great friend, the amazing, award-winning country radio host Jack Ryan had been replaced by a syndicated show. Even days later, hundreds, if not thousands, of fans still place messages of shock, sadness, and anger on Facebook about the loss of their beloved nighttime radio host. As a personal friend and member of the Country Music Association, I take this to heart. Jack Ryan and I have spent hours talking about new up and coming artists in IHOP at 2 a.m. after shows at Cotton Eyed Joes. Jack Ryan was at the vanguard of promoting new country musicians. He even hosted a Sunday night show dedicated exclusively to giving young new talent that break on the radio they so desperately craved and prayed for. Now, all that great radio has been silenced.

This past week, I was in Nashville, doing what I and The Knoxville Focus are so dedicated to doing: Giving hope and newspaper ink to the gifted musical artists who are grinding it out everyday. Artists who are eating Ramen Noodles, waiting tables, and making frequent trips to the Pawn Shop. Artists who are so close to the record deal but need that slight push by the mainstream media. Artists who believe so strongly that they sacrifice everything for that goal, that one shot, that ultimate dream, of being a country star. Simply stated, the artists that Jack Ryan has championed for over the last ten years. It is with a strong heart that I dedicate this column to Jack Ryan and his ten years of great radio. I am sure we have not heard the last of this great talent!

Sometimes everything falls into place at the right time. For me that happened last week. When I received an email from the Country Music Association stating that there would be a "round table discussion" and that I was invited, I jumped on the offer. What started out as a simple trip to a meeting, turned into an amazing experience involving covering mass transit, meeting new talent, making some new friends and meeting some old friends, and the highlight: speaking before a packed audience of CMA members.

After reviewing my calendar I noticed that a young promising musical artist that I have been following online named Holly Stewart (hollystewartmusic.com) would be performing at a local Nashville club the night before my meeting. Ms. Stewart is a brilliant 19-year-old singer-songwriter who has successfully used social media to broaden her fan base. Every Wednesday for over the past 60 weeks Ms. Stewart has released a new song on Youtube. Many artists who use Youtube as a marketing tool constantly cover other artists. They try to be someone they are not. In a refreshing twist, Ms. Stewart writes and sings her own songs. She gives a brief dialog explaining each song and what it means to her. The night I watched Ms. Stewart perform, Nikki Shannon Fernandez (www.facebook.com/nikkishannonfernandez) shared the stage with her. Fernandez is an amazing singer with an amazing ability to play the piano. They took turns singing a song then letting the other sing a song. Seeing and hearing them both play live was a great experience. While at the show I met photographer Larry R Dyke, who upon hearing I spent \$15.00 on a cab ride offered me a ride back to my hotel. Not wanting to spend another \$15.00 on a cab ride for a four mile ride, I took him up on the offer and we had a great conversation of new and undiscovered talent in the Nashville area during our ride back to my hotel. The next morning I checked out of my hotel and was picked up by Shannon and Nicole Johnson. As you might recall during the last CMAfest I did a feature on the rising Country singer Nicole Johnson. We stopped off at "Noshville" and talked about the industry. During our breakfast conversation we spoke about the passion, persistence and relentless-ness one must have in order to make it in the country music business. After that we stopped by world renowned fashion designer "Manuel." He is the man who has done fashion work for some of the biggest celebrities of our time including James Stewart, Elizabeth Taylor, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and hundreds of other major celebrities along with four US presidents. Shannon and Nicole are close friends of the fashion designer and he is a big fan of Nicole. It was awe inspiring to hear him rattle off A list celebrities so nonchalantly while watching him perform his magic with fashion. After we wrapped up, Shannon and Nicole dropped me off at my CMA meeting. The Country Music Association is the most prestigious organization a musician can join in the world. There is a strong credentialed selection process to join. Everything from a background check to meeting certain rigid requirements, such as song placement on charts, is taken into consideration. It is a highly selective organization based solely on merit. I am a member of the CMA because of my journalistic work in promoting country artists. At the CMA round table, the CEO of the CMA, Steve Moore, asked the members in attendance what they would want to see from the CMA organization. After a couple of questions I outlined my vision. I stated to the CEO and members of the organization that a new award should be created. An award for those at the vanguard of discovering new talent, giving ink to those who are talented but have yet to get that big break. The CEO stated he thought it was a great idea. Looking back, with the loss of Jack Ryan in Country Radio, we now need an award like that more then ever!



Top, Nikki Shannon Fernandez on piano and Holly Stewart on guitar at the That's Cool stage. Above, Manuel, Nicole Johnson and Dan Andrews.

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Faith

Inward Spiritual Discipline #4: STUDY OF SCRIPTURE

The first three inward spiritual disciplines are prayer, meditation, and fasting. The fourth and final inward discipline we will look at is that of study. Daily reading of God's Word is an important habit in connecting with God. I am often asked, "I talk to God in prayer, but how does God talk to me?" One of the main ways we hear God's voice today is through the Bible. Men, many centuries ago, penned the Word's of God so that we might have them recorded for that original generation and for the generations to come. We are invited to read God's mail that was written for instruction, correction, encouragement, and guidance in daily living. While we do not have any original letters that make up the Bible, painstaking detail has gone into preserving the original text that make up the books



**By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ**

of God's Word is an important habit in connecting with God. I am often asked, "I talk to God in prayer, but how does God talk to me?" One of the main ways we hear God's voice today is through the Bible. Men, many centuries ago, penned the Word's of God so that we might have them recorded for that original generation and for the generations to come. We are invited to read God's mail that was written for instruction, correction, encouragement, and guidance in daily living. While we do not have any original letters that make up the Bible, painstaking detail has gone into preserving the original text that make up the books

of the Bible. (For further study, I recommend "How We Got the Bible," Neil R. Lightfoot, Baker Publishing Group, 2010, ISBN 0801072611).

As you begin the discipline of Bible study, remember that we are not just trying to gain information. We want that information to take root in the heart. We don't just want to know facts; we want to internalize them so that the Word of God becomes something that is living and active. We want God's truths to sink down deep into the heart where it can take root and be a source of nourishment throughout our lives. Jesus, as He was being tempted by the Devil in the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry, relied upon Scripture that He had memorized. These verses, from Deuteronomy, came to His mind as the Devil tried to twist Scripture to tempt Jesus toward sin. But these Words of God were deep in His heart and were a source of strength for Him in combating the Devil.

There are a few helpful steps to aid you in your study of God's Word. The first is repetition. You

don't need to focus on many verses as you study. You may just want to chew on one or two verses. Repeat them again and again. Pray that God will show you what you need to learn from the text.

The second step is concentration. There are days I have to read a passage several times due to my mind wandering. Get in a quiet place, clear your mind of pressing thoughts, and concentrate on the Word as you read.

The third step is comprehension. As you read, ask good questions of the text: Who was the original audience? What is the historical background? What is the context of the passage you are studying? Are there words you need to look up? Unless you comprehend the text, it matters little what you are reading.

The final step is reflection. After reading, stop and consider what God is trying to show you. The same passage will strike you in different ways depending on what is going on in your life. God's Word has an amazing way to correct and encourage you just when you need it the most.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

On Monday, March 12, Sheriff JJ Jones and Mayor Tim Burchett presented the Original Church of God Concord and Concord AME Zion Church with \$500 to help with the repair costs from recent vandalism. Pictured l-r are Jones, Burchett, Minister Alan Jones of Concord Original Church of God, Reverend Stephen Steel and Reverend Elaine Steele of Concord AME Zion Church. The FBI is currently investigating the case.

Church Happenings

KFL Outreach Ministry Presents

The Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon (KFL) will meet March 20, 2012 at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway, at noon. Carroll Carmon will be the guest speaker. You may view his complete Bio at <http://kfl-luncheon.com>.

New Beverly Baptist Church

Eternal Vision will be singing and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ at New Beverly Baptist Church located at New Beverly Baptist Church Road, Knoxville 37918 on Sunday, March 25 at 6 p.m. There is no charge, but a love offering will be taken.

For more information, visit the church website at newbeverly.org, or call the church office at 865-546-0001.

Mt. Harmony Baptist Church

Mt. Harmony Baptist Church will be having a Singing on March 31st at 7:00 p.m. Mount Harmony Baptist Church will have an Easter Cantata on April 1st at 6:00 p.m. The Church is located at 819 Raccoon Valley Rd NE, Heiskell, TN 37754, 1 mile west of I-75 at exit 117. Everyone is welcome to come.

South Knoxville Church of God

There will be a "MEN'S

ONLY" dinner on Friday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m. We would like to invite the men in our community to come and fellowship with us. Pastor Mike Sexton of Lakewind Church will be the guest speaker for this event.

The South Knoxville Church of God is located approximately 1 mile off Chapman Highway at 5623 Magazine Road. For further information on upcoming events, church activities, or directions, please call our church office at 573-4141, or visit our website at SKCOG.COM.



Exciting Night of Gospel Music!

ETERNAL VISION

This great group will bless you with great music, singing and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

When: Sunday, March 25 at 6 p.m.

Where: New Beverly Baptist Church
3320 New Beverly Church Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918

Info: Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor
865-546-0001
www.NewBeverly.org
www.EternalVision.net

Directions: I-640 to Exit 8. Go north on Washington Pike to redlight at Greenway Drive light (facing Target). Turn left. Church is 1/4 mile on the right. Doors open at 5 p.m.

**No charge, but a Love Offering will be taken.
Don't Miss It!**

UT's College of Nursing, AARP Partner to Improve Health Care in Tennessee

Cont. from page 1

challenges with healthcare access and affordability," Shaver said. "There's a shortage of healthcare providers statewide, especially in the rural areas, and overall health outcomes are poor. Together with other health and social service organizations, individuals and businesses, AARP and the University of Tennessee believe we can improve our standing."

Victoria Niederhauser,

dean of the College of Nursing, said being a co-leader of the Action Coalition aligns with the college's mission of leading the way in nursing education, research and practice to maximize health and transform health care.

"The Tennessee Action Coalition is a showcase for what we value — working with community partners like AARP to improve health and health care through the provision of care to individuals, families and communities and through policy advocacy, education and research," said Niederhauser. "The momentum that this coalition will build will directly impact the health and well-being of Tennesseans through improved access to care, a better educated nursing workforce, and advancing nursing leadership roles in a reformed healthcare system. Furthermore, the coalition will support continuing to understand the nursing shortage and help better

plan for the future workforce needs in our state."

UT's College of Nursing is a nationally recognized leader in nursing. The college enrolls more than 600 students in undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs. The master's program offers concentration areas in global disaster, family practice, administration, pediatrics, mental health and nurse anesthesia.

The college's graduates consistently achieve pass rates on licensure and certification exams of 96 percent or higher, exceeding state and national averages. The college runs a school-based, nurse-managed clinic in Knoxville, engages in international outreach with faculty and students and generates practice nursing research that improves health, health care and quality of life.

For more information about the Campaign for Action visit www.thefuture-ofnursing.org.

Come worship with us New Beverly Baptist Church

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Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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House to Home

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Antique & Vintage Toys

Antique and vintage toys are among the most top collected and sold items in the world and I will write often about this subject. This week we will talk about toys in general, excluding dolls which is a topic that is volumes unto itself!

All toys, be they Beanie Babies from Happy Meals or a piece of movie memorabilia, have basically the same thing in common; they draw emotion from each and every one of us. The remembrances of our childhood always include toys.

Today I would like to talk about the ones that collectors look for the most and their marketability aspects. Antique wind up toys circa



By Carl Sloan

1880s - 1930s top the list, hands down. Most of these are marked Made in Germany, England, USA, and later Japan and Hong Kong. Here you can get into huge values with wind up performing toys such as "The Minstrel Band" fetching \$700 to \$2500. Most wind ups that you will find today are of vintage age, 1940s to 1960s, and are all noted in the collector's books. Here you will see names such as Marx, Mattel, Japan and others on these tin toys with colors which are called by collectors "tin lithos."

As with all collectibles, condition is important though the good news is that motors and external parts

can always be replaced.

Other toys to keep an eye out for are the ones from the 1960s era that used D cell batteries; these are very sought after in good condition. The top example are toy robots which can sell for \$300-\$800 quickly from a collector, especially those hailing from Japan where they seek out their own export items from the past.

Heavy steel and die cast is another area you need to be aware of. Die cast 24 scale farm and construction toys from the 40s-60s are really hot right now with makers such as Ertl and others are being sought. Tonka and Nylint Company made good steel toys in the USA 1950s-60s.

Original boxes are important with any toy and let's not forget the old classic metal cap guns for sure.



Examples of fine toys to be offered April 14

The manufacture dates can range from 1900 to 1960 and they were made from cast iron, die cast and pot metal for the lesser ones. Here the Hubley company made some of the best ones as well as cars, trucks and other fine toys. Again top prices if you have the original boxes and good

condition; the least played with is the key here.

Please do join Fountain City Auction on April 14 for a major toys and collectibles auction scheduled to start at noon at the gallery 4109 Central Ave Pk. If you have any toys that you wish to consign for this fine sale, please contact Gregory

Lawson at 865-604-3468 and visit the listing soon at AuctionZip.com 37912 to view the sale. Other items to be included in this sale are fine early Southern quilts, rare Civil War sword, Nazi daggers and much more. Auction hosted by Proxibid.



Rachel Chapman (speaker), and new club members Roseanne Disney, Patricia Wells and Lois Sentinelle

Floral Design Program for Norwood Garden Club

Rachel Chapman knows how to create blue ribbon winning miniature and small flower designs. Rachel shared some of her expertise with Norwood Garden Club members when they met at the home of club president, Bettie Floyd, for their February meeting.

Rachel is a charter member of the Norwood Garden Club which was organized in June of 1954. She has served as the club president several times and is currently serving as club treasurer. She also serves on the Tennessee Federation of Garden Club's Board of Directors as hospitality chairman for Knoxville meetings.

Rachel brought along several of her award winning creations to show how she goes about selecting materials for the designs. She creates

designs to follow a given theme of the show. She collects small objects, containers and small scale dried plant materials throughout the year in order to be prepared for a show scheduled for any time of the year. She encouraged club members to learn art principals of design because all are used in judging floral art.

Norwood Garden Club reinstated two former members who had let their membership lapse due to illness. Lois Sentinelle and Patricia Wells were given a hearty welcome by the members. Roseanne Disney was also welcomed as a new member of the club.

Membership is open to anyone who loves gardening, conservation, floral design and related subjects. Call 947-6037 for information on how to join the club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2012 Lincoln Day Dinner

The Knox County Republican Party will host its annual Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday, March 31 at Rothchild's Catering and Banquet Center located at 880 Kingston Pike. Dinner is at 6 and the program will follow at 7. Knox County Sheriff JJ Jones and Knox County Register of Deeds Sherry Witt are co-chairs of the event. Bob Corker will be the speaker. Tickets for the dinner are \$30.00 per person. Reserved tables of 10 are \$750. To order tickets, contact Suzanne or Jo at the GOP headquarters at 865-689-4671. There will also be a silent auction from 6:00 to 7:00.

Halls Republican Club

The next Halls Republican Club meeting will be Monday night, March 19, 2012, at QQ Pizza (formerly Mandarin House) at 6:15 p.m. if you plan to dine or 7:00 p.m. for the meeting. Guest speakers will be Knox County GOP Chairman Ray Jenkins and Knox County GOP Vice-Chair Phyllis Severance. They will discuss the strategy for winning the November election. To find out what's going on in the Republican Party, please visit the web site: www.knoxgop.org.

Knoxville Writers' Group, Wed. March 28, 2012

Knoxville Writers' Group meets Wednesday, March 28, from 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., Naples Italian Restaurant, 5500 Kingston Pike. Grant E. Feters, published

author, will speak on "Struggles of Making the First Book." All-inclusive lunch is \$12.00. RSVP by Monday, March 26 to 865-983-3740.

LeConte Photographic Society

The LeConte Photographic Society will present a program by Karen Jones on "Creative Post Production for Photographers" at The King Library on Saturday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m. This program is free and open to the public.

Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools

The fourth annual Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools will be held Saturday, April 7th at 8 a.m. at the Knoxville Zoo and Chilhowee Park. A minimum of \$5 of every registration goes back to your school.

Opportunities to participate include a 5K run/walk, a 1-mile family fun walk, and a 100 yard dash. All registration forms and checks (made payable to Run for the Schools) must be turned into your school by Wednesday, March 14th. Students are \$10 and all others are \$20.

Every participant receives a race t-shirt and a complimentary day at the Knoxville Zoo following the event. Race t-shirts and bibs will be delivered to each school the week of the race. For more information about the Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools, visit www.runfortheschools.org, call 865-599-2187 or e-mail kcanan@runfortheschools.org

tvacreditunion.com.

Smoky Mountain Mini-Con

On March 24, the Knoxville Scale Modelers Association (KSMA) will host a public exhibition of models of vehicles including tanks, airplanes, ships, trucks and cars, as well as figures from fantasy, literature and history. The event, called Smoky Mountain Mini-Con 2012, will take place at

the Ellington Plant Sciences Building of the University of Tennessee. Knoxville (2431 Joe Johnson Drive). Admission and parking are free. Vernon's BBQ will operate the event's concession. Directions are available at www.freewebs.com/knoxvillescalemodelers/upcomingshow.htm.




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2 large eggs
1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin (or 2 cups cooked
pumpkin)
1 c. nonfat dry milk powder
2/3 c. brown or white sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. ginger
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/4 c. all-purpose flour
1 c. water
Whipped topping, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingre-
dients together, EXCEPT water, in a large bowl.
Gradually stir in water until well mixed. Pour into
a greased 9-inch pie plate or an 8- by 8-inch
square pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 55
minutes or until a knife inserted 1 inch from
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