

BOE Budget: Sales Tax Increase Enters Debate



School Board member Mike McMillan listens to Superintendent Jim McIntyre's proposal at the forum held at Fulton High School last Thursday.

By Tasha Mahurin
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Knox County School Superintendent Dr. James McIntyre pitched his proposed 2012-2013 budget to the community last week in a public forum held at Fulton High School.

The proposal calls for an additional \$35 million dollars in funding over the next five years and has sparked a

polarizing debate across Knox County since it was initially presented earlier this month.

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett has stated that the proposed \$35 million dollar request is simply not feasible without a tax increase- a measure which he maintains he will not take.

Referring to the request for additional funding as an “investment”, Dr. McIntyre has

repeatedly implored both Knox County Board of Education and now the community at large to invest in the future of Knox County by supporting the budget.

For the proposed budget to be passed the Knox County Board of Education would have to officially adopt the budget. The budget would then be

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South Knox Stadium Addressed By Superintendent

By Focus Staff

About fifty residents of South Knoxville gathered at South-Doyle Middle School last Monday to hear Superintendent James McIntyre explain why he wants to demolish the Pete Stafford Stadium. The stadium was originally built when South Knoxville had two high schools and was an impressive facility. After the school administration made the decision to consolidate South and Doyle High Schools, the school system claimed it had no responsibility for the upkeep of the stadium.

South Knoxville's elected officials were out in force to listen to Dr. McIntyre's presentation. City Councilman Nick Pavlis, County Commissioner Mike Brown, and Board of Education member Pam Trainor were all in the audience, as was Eighth District Board of Education member Mike McMillan.

Many former alumni have naturally been surprised by Superintendent McIntyre's rather abrupt

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Knoxville in Bloom



Spring came early to Knoxville this year and the Dogwoods are already abloom for the start of the annual Dogwood Arts Festival. For information on Festival and seasonal events, please see The Focus's special Knoxville in Bloom insert starting this week!

City holds ‘wall-breaking’ for Lonsdale Recreation Center



Mayor Rogero swings a sledgehammer into the wall of the Lonsdale Recreation Center.

The City of Knoxville held a wall-breaking ceremony last week to kick off the renovation and expansion of the Lonsdale Recreation Center, located at 2700 Stonewall Street, Knoxville. Mayor Madeline Rogero ceremonially broke the wall with a sledgehammer.

“Expanding and enhancing this recreation center will give the Lonsdale community a wonderful space to meet, gather and exercise,” Mayor Rogero said. “This effort demonstrates our commitment to a stronger Lonsdale.”

With an initiative to update, renovate, and expand community centers built in the late 1950s to early ‘60s, Knoxville Parks and Recreation chose Lonsdale

as the first of seven centers to receive an upgrade.

“We’re excited about the opportunity to enlarge and improve this recreation center to better serve its users,” said Joe Walsh, Director of Knoxville Parks and Recreation. “This will be a great addition for the Lonsdale community.”

The \$522,000 project will expand the center nearly 2,500-square-feet, with most of the space going toward a multi-purpose room that will host events such as exercise classes, community meetings, and birthday parties. Other upgrades include new ADA accessible restrooms, a new office, an expanded

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FOCUS Weekly Poll*

The Knoxville Chamber of Commerce is a privately held organization that promotes area member business interests.

In this year's city and county budgets the Knoxville Chamber and its affiliate organizations received approximately 1.5 million in local tax dollars.

Do you consider this an appropriate use of local tax dollars?

YES 37.50%

NO 62.05%

Survey conducted March 27, 2012.

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

Public meeting on proposed residential waterfront development

A public meeting to discuss a proposed residential waterfront development within the South Knoxville Waterfront District will be held on Wednesday, April 4, at the South Knoxville Elementary School, 801 Sevier Avenue, Knoxville.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. The proposed 10-acre redevelopment will sit on the former Transmontaige Site (Tank Farm).

John Gumpert, president of Camden Management Partners of Atlanta, GA, will be discussing his proposal to construct a 219- unit residential development located on the edge of the Island Home Park neighborhood. The development would also include a riverwalk, boat access, and new streetscape designs - including a roundabout at the Island Home Avenue and Maplewood Drive intersection.

During the public meeting, Mr. Gumpert will present his preliminary design to South Knoxville residents and provide an opportunity for neighborhood residents and stakeholders to offer their input and suggestion on the proposal.

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Publisher's Position

The Three Blind Mice



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

It would surprise virtually no one with any knowledge of government to consider it impaired.

The trifecta involved in acquiring more funding for the Knox County school system are Superintendent James McIntyre, the Knox County Board of Education, and the Knox County Commission. One could consider these collectively as the three blind mice. Unfortunately, they might be deaf and dumb as well and I am aware that is likely "politically incorrect."

Superintendent McIntyre has chosen this year to seek \$35 million in new funding by asking

the County Commission to increase taxes. That would equate to a 35 cent increase in the property tax as roughly one penny raises a million dollars. McIntyre is aggressively pushing his agenda and campaigning for the increase in taxes at every opportunity. Recently, he went to South Knoxville to listen to parents outraged by the notion of demolishing the Pete Stafford Stadium at South-Doyle Middle School. It didn't take long for McIntyre to remind those gathered that he could likely find \$150,000 were he to get \$35 million in new funding. Keep in mind, none of the \$35 million sought by McIntyre would be spent on anything except for schools. County Commissioner Mike Brown seemed to support the idea of increasing taxes at the South Knoxville meeting, although it is hard to imagine anyone thinking \$150,000 for \$35 million was a good deal. Surely South Knoxville can't be bought that cheaply.

Mayor Tim Burchett has already warned the county

has at least a shortfall of \$14 million and just last week it was announced the pension for the Sheriff's deputies requires another cash infusion of \$1.6 million. During the entire eight years Mayor Mike Ragsdale reigned supreme in the City County Building, virtually the only governmental entities to be fed were the school system and the Knox County Sheriff's department. The school system and the Sheriff's department together account for roughly 75% of Knox County's entire budget. Roads, health, libraries, courts and every other aspect of Knox County government have been allowed to languish and get along as best they can.

The Board of Education usually seems content to follow the lead of the Superintendent and, considering that the Board has no responsibility to pay for anything it wants, is almost always enthusiastic to get its hands on more money. The Commission, on the other hand, is frequently frustrated, as it legally

cannot determine how the Board spends money nor can the Commission direct where the money goes. The Commission's role is raising the necessary revenue and signing a blank check for the Board to endorse and cash.

As noted previously, every tax increase in history sought by the school system has come wrapped in package with a label "for the children." Yet there has been an appalling lack of responsibility and accountability in just how the school system spends those tax dollars. Local media has been notoriously poor at covering the Board of Education and school news and The Sentinel has faithfully supported just about every call for increased taxes since the beginning of time. At this point, it is surely reflexive, rather like a corpse twitching after death.

The school system has historically purchased millions of dollars of real estate all across Knox County, ostensibly to build new schools or expand existing facilities, only to

see their stated priorities to change after having spent millions of taxpayer dollars to acquire the property in the first place. In fact, the school system owned so much vacant land, they hired a former Assistant Superintendent to "supervise" these properties at a very handsome salary. The school system has owned some of these properties for decades where they sit unused and vacant and off the tax rolls. The school system should have perhaps five years to acquire property and put it to use or sell it off, but it is unlikely either the Board or the Commission will force that kind of reform. Perhaps the Charter Review Committee would do well to consider such a proposal to protect the taxpayers.

The Superintendent, who is the highest paid public official in Knox County, earning more than Vice President Joe Biden, Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court John Roberts, and Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives John Boehner, apparently does

not consider the state of the current economy. Many folks are having difficulty buying gas, milk and bread for their families. Certainly there is every reason to believe the public does not support the proposed increase in taxes. The Focus has published the results of the poll of 500 voters in Knox County and fully three-quarters of the people are opposed to a tax increase at this time.

I am not so naive as to believe that our local taxes are never going to increase. However, the school system and the Sheriff's department are hardly the only entities of government nor do they deserve to absorb any increase in revenue.

Mayor Tim Burchett, despite being paid far less than Dr. McIntyre, has the responsibility to keep the entire government running and functioning. Burchett doesn't have the luxury of tunnel vision, but then again, blind mice hardly ever see past their own concerns and interests.

The family that eats together

I am currently teaching the young adult novel, "The Giver" by Lois Lowry. It is set in a futuristic society which has eradicated pain and strife by converting to "Sameness," a system that has also removed emotional depth from the characters' lives. I enjoy watching students discover, along with the main character, the importance of choices and free will and the staleness of life without the liberty to make mistakes.

The community in the novel follows very strict rules which often seem ridiculous to students. Each year, one particular rule strikes them as more and more bizarre. The families in the novel are required to eat dinner together at the table every night and to talk about their feelings. Shamefully, this ritual in the novel even seems a little nostalgic and trite to me, but most of my students

find it completely absurd. Out of a class of about 25 students, only one said that his mother cooks most nights and that his family usually eats together at the table.

I admitted to the class that the previous night, I had eaten a Lean Cuisine in front of the television and my daughter had eaten some canned ravioli about an hour later. They confessed that, like Emma and me, most of their meals fluctuated between the freezer and the drive-thru. We all laughed and agreed that when we want "home-cooked" food, we go to Cracker Barrel. Some of them bragged about their fathers' intermittent demonstrations of finesse with grilling, but those instances were viewed as special occasions.

Many kids had the impression that other families ate together more often and were relieved that theirs were not the only ones with haphazard dinner schedules. I felt a combination of relief and sadness- relief that I was not the only mother who didn't cook and sit down with a family at a table every night and sadness because more kids than I

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City names new Parks and Greenways Coordinator

City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh has named Lori Goerlich, a former project manager for the Forest Preserve District in Will County, Illinois, as the Parks and Greenways Coordinator for the City.

The former project manager also has experience as a landscape designer with Jacobs/Ryan Associates, a Chicago-based landscape architectural consulting firm, and Thompson Dyke and Associates, a landscape firm with emphasis on municipal planning.

"I'm excited about getting the position filled and Lori starting work," Walsh said. "It's

great timing with our new administration and Mayor Madeline Rogero's deep support of parks and greenways. Lori has qualifications that are very relevant to what she'll be doing in Knoxville."

Goerlich has managed the design and installation of several park projects and has worked in urban areas on community enhancement and recreation. A graduate of Iowa State University, Goerlich has interned with the Chicago Park District and in San Francisco - where she was part of a team to submit the winning design for an urban park. Her duties as

Knoxville's Parks and Greenways Coordinator will include tying Knoxville's communities together through trails and greenways; seeking funding and in-kind contributions to fund greenways; and planning greenway routes as well as park improvements.

"Lori's resume shows her commitment to parks and greenways, and I'm glad she is joining the City of Knoxville," Mayor Rogero said. "Her dedication and passion will help us continue the City's commitment to a greener Knoxville and enhanced outdoor recreational opportunities."

Goerlich will begin Thursday, April 5.

City holds 'wall-breaking'

Cont. from page 1

computer lab, as well as upgraded windows, HVAC system, and flooring.

The Knoxville Community Development Corporation contributed \$150,000 toward the project, with the City covering the remainder of the renovation costs.

The Lonsdale community had a new neighborhood association in attendance since its former three associations, Lonsdale United for Change, Lonsdale Grassroots, and Heart of Lonsdale, combined to form one entity under the name of Lonsdale United for Change.

"It's encouraging to see these three groups come together for the same mission," Mayor Rogero said. "I know Lonsdale will benefit from this collaboration, and we

will continue to work with them to keep the positive momentum."

Lonsdale Recreation Center is situated on the same block as Lonsdale Elementary and the four-acre Lonsdale Park. In 2007, the City made a major renovation to the entire park. At that time, a section of Bragg Street was removed in order to join the school and park properties so that students could walk

safely on the greenway to the recreation center.

The City has contracted Thomas Caldwell, Architect, to oversee the current renovation project and K&F Construction to serve as the contractor. The center is slated to reopen in summer 2012.

For more information on the Lonsdale Recreation Center, please call 311 or visit www.cityofknoxville.org/recreation.

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FOCUS MORE ON Seymour

Seymour-South Knox Chamber has new leadership

Election Reflect Resent Changes in the Organization

The Seymour-South Knox Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet held on March 23rd was well attended by local area business owners and professionals, as well as a group from the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department. Several area schools were also represented but area officials were not present. Members started off the evening with a lively game of networking Bingo. The theme "Be a Pillar in Your Community" was a message woven throughout the event in everything from the table decorations and activities

to the presentation of the key note speaker. Members elected new officers in accordance with the recent bylaw revisions of the organization and they were immediately installed in a brief swearing in ceremony. The new officers are President, Thomas Hill of Computer Depot; Vice President, Susan Sterling of Smoky Mountain Animal Clinic; Treasurer, Rachel Campbell of Knoxville Post Office Credit Union (KPOCU); and Secretary, Rebekah Hill also of Computer Depot.

Mr. Hill addressed the members briefly outlining his vision for the organization and goals he hopes to implement in the coming year. "We are much like the pillars you see on the table before you. Together

we can support and hold up this community. We can grow our businesses and make a difference."

The keynote speaker was Dick Hinton with CHARACTER COUNTS!, the most widely implemented approach to character education in schools today. Mr. Hinton presented the topic "Ethics in the Workplace." The evening concluded with recognitions for Bettina Kooijman and Frank Clepper for their leadership, caring, and many years of dedicated service and contribution to

the community.

The Chamber meets regularly on the third Tuesday each month at Gondolier, 7644 Mountain Grove Rd. and welcomes all community leaders, small business owners, and professionals who are interested in growing their business and making a difference in the community.

For more information on the Chamber and/or upcoming community events visit www.SeymourTn.org.



Newly elected president Thomas Hill speaks at the Seymour-South Knoxville Chamber banquet.

The family that eats together

Cont. from page 2

realized are missing out.

Maybe I'm just being too nostalgic. No one's life looks like "The Waltons" or "Little House on the Prairie" anymore, but I would have settled for "Growing Pains" or "The Cosby Show." Did you ever notice how Claire Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" was a successful attorney and still came home and cooked a healthy dinner for five kids with fresh produce and cool ethnic sounding ingredients, all with a sense of humor and a sense of style? How on earth did I ever buy that actually being possible?

In Proverbs 31, the woman of noble character gets up while it is still night, provides food for her family, sets about her work vigorously, and her lamp does not go out at night. What I'm hoping is that one's children can still "rise and call her blessed" if the food she provides comes with a frosty and a small toy. So what if there isn't anything about Wendy's in Proverbs 31 right now; maybe there will

be in the next edition of The Message. (Just Kidding.)

A report issued in September 2011 by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University explains that teenagers who regularly have dinner with their families are less likely than others to smoke tobacco, use drugs or alcohol or have friends who use such substances. They are also more likely to feel that they have a good relationship with their parents. I guess no matter how trite or clichéd it seems, we all need to make more of an effort to do it.

At the very least, perhaps, we need to take the food from the freezer or the drive-thru to the table and eat it together. Maybe some nights our best effort will be to make sure that while we're going through the drive-thru we are at least having a conversation with the people who are in the car with us sans cell-phones, iPods, or PSPs. I'm willing to try a little harder. Are you?

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Art and more offered at Finicky Framers

By Kareta Johnson

If you are rummaging through your basement or doing spring cleaning in the attic and come across valued photographs, paintings, cross-stitches, or embroidered heirlooms; there is only one place to go in Knoxville so you can cherish them forever.

About 39 years ago, Jay Scruton opened up a custom framing business in Ashbury Park, New Jersey. Since then, Scruton and silent partner Bill have had shops in Florida and another in Texas, so they know a thing or two about owning a business. Scruton advises new business owners, "You're going to hit bad months, just don't over price yourself out of business. Know your craft, and pick a good location."

Taking his own advice, Finicky Framers moved their store location from Broadway to the Emory Park Shopping Center next to the Dollar General. "At the old location, you couldn't really see the building because it was blocked by traffic," explained Scruton. The new location has a spacious parking lot, convenient for customers to park on the end where the store is located. The store also has big new signs in the front and back for customers to see. Since the move, Scruton's loyal customers have followed him. Scruton recalled, "We have a woman that comes all the way from Sevierville." The store is the only frame shop in the area, so excellent customer service is a #1 priority. "People need to be aware that we are here, and to me word of mouth is the



Finicky Framers offers great customer service and lots of samples at affordable prices!

best advertisement," explained Scruton. He also orders 8 to 10ft framing and does his own cutting and fitting. This way it will be more affordable for the customers.

Reasonable prices and great framing are not the only things offered by Finicky Framers. As soon as you walk in the door, you are mesmerized by timeless art on the walls. The front room, known as "the Gallery" offers a unique array of artwork by Joseph and Cynthia Dawley, Barbra Haviland from Groves, TX, Leroy Neiman, Thomas Kinkade, Randy Souter, Thomas Mcknight, local artist Kathy Smart, and Sara Eystone.

Artist Sara Eystone is known for her vibrant floral paintings that combine red, pink, and corals to bring the painting to life. Her work is featured in private collections all over the world, from Sydney Opera House to the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. The Statue of Liberty Centennial Commission chose Eystone to design their commemorative plates which became two exquisite pieces- "Golden Lady" and "Celebration." It was when Eystone walked into Scruton's Ashbury Park, New Jersey shop, that he expanded his interest in artwork. She was

looking for a new framer for her remarkable paintings!

The store features unique artwork from painters to photographers, puzzles to needlework. Artist Sheila B. created an original watercolor that hangs in the store. The portrait is of flowers that are cool and warm shades of purple, that look incredibly beautiful and real. Jay Scruton even has his own artistic talent and has his photography displayed in different mats and frames. "I try to put different things out to get people to try new things with frames," stated Scruton. A very important factor in framing is to enhance the artwork by matching it with the mat and frame.

"Many people will make the mistake of trying to match the frame or mat with their furniture or carpet and that doesn't tie everything together," Scruton said. The best example is a photograph of a red, brick building by Liz Thomlison that Scruton framed. The first version of the photograph was framed and matted using an ordinary color scheme. Although it was a nice picture, it hid the details of the photograph. The second version that Scruton framed, he used a red mat and unique frame and the photograph pops out at you! You are able to see all the eccentric details of the brick building and the emotion the artist wanted to portray when the photograph was taken. Finicky Framers care about their featured artists and customers.

Finicky Framers welcome local

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In Perspective

As I contemplated my column this week I was reminded of a game I played



By Tasha Mahurin
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with my "Papi" when I was a child. Papi was part of a generation largely lost to us. He taught me things like only a fool gets bitten by the same dog twice, FDR was a good president (even if he was a Democrat), and how to change a spark-plug on a Snapper lawnmower.

He was a steel worker by trade and worked on the Henley Street Bridge when it was first built. As a child, I was fascinated by his seemingly endless knowledge. After watching him for some time in his workshop behind the house, I noticed he could "eyeball" anything. I soon began asking him the length of various objects and would then take my ruler and measure them. He could tell you its length within an 1/8 of an inch simply by glancing at it... Papi was a craftsman. He had mastered his trade.

Craftsmanship is an idea that often gets lost in 2012, however, it's a broad concept, not simply limited to those who work with their hands. I am reminded of Bill Landry whose ability to tell a story rivals that of any, and Pat Summit who has turned collegiate coaching into an art form. I think of people like the late James Dick who could turn an ordinary sandwich in to magic at Frussie's Deli or Hardy Johnson at Custom Shoe Rebuilders in Fountain City who can fix a heel in a minute flat.

Notice how the aforementioned have become local legends of sort?

Craftsmanship equals staying power. I've learned through observation that those who significantly succeed in business are those who truly master their craft. A dear friend and mentor once told me that genius is often lost in execution. So whether you're refining furniture or refining HTML encoding- do it with excellence.

Thanks Papi. Bona fortuna sit semper.

Local Businesses Win Awards as Best Workplaces for Commuters

Six Smart Trips participating employers have earned the designation as Best Workplaces for Commuters by the National Center for Transit Research (NCTR) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The local businesses are Elizabeth Eason Architecture, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Mast General Store, Metropolitan Planning Commission, Red Chair Architects, and Tennessee Valley Authority. These six businesses join the one other employer in the state to earn this designation.

Smart Trips, which locally promotes alternatives to

driving alone to work, hosted an awards ceremony at the Market Square Pavilion on March 29. Officials from the National Center for Transportation Research, Mayors Rogero and Burchett, local business owners and sustainability leaders helped celebrate this achievement.

Best Workplaces for Commuters recognizes businesses that provide the highest level of commuter benefit programs in the country. These six Knoxville businesses made the conscious decision to offer strong benefits and identify themselves as companies committed to reducing

pollution, commuting costs, traffic congestion, and employee stress caused by driving to work alone.

Jim Richards, manager of Mast General Store, believes this program directly impacts his business. "Our employees have embraced the benefit options. It is easy to offer these benefits and we are already seeing a reduced parking expense," says Richards. "Our folks feel empowered. Anytime we can support positive employee attitudes, our customers will feel the result."

"We are so thrilled to promote the BWC designation

Continue on page 2



Mayor Rogero congratulates six local businesses for being named Best Workplaces for Commuters.

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The disaster of good intentions

It was arguably the most significant piece of legislation passed by Congress in a quarter century. In early 2010, the House and Senate passed a sweeping, comprehensive and complex health care initiative backed by the full support of the administration of President Barack Obama. The bill purported to fix the American health care system by providing insurance coverage to everyone.

Exactly what was in the 2,000-page monstrosity was not completely known at the time of its passage. Perhaps not by anyone since different sections of the legislation were written by different people. But since 2010, the contents of the the health care plan - now commonly known as Obamacare - have leaked out. And some of the leakage is downright stinky. Maybe even smelly enough to threaten the legal viability of the whole blame shootin match.

Almost immediately upon the bill's passage - without a single Republican vote in the House - lawsuits were filed alleging that at least one of Obamacare's mandates was unconstitutional. At the center of the litigation was the requirement for every American to purchase health insurance - or pay a stiff penalty to the government. This, said the plaintiffs, amounted to the federal government forcing commerce upon the American people.

The legal challenges to Obamacare have wound their way through the court system for two years, and have now arrived at their final destination. Even as I write this article, the United States Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments as to the constitutionality of the health care plan. An up or down decision from the Court is expected in June. It may be the biggest decision they have made since Roe v. Wade.

If the justices do the right thing, performing the duty they are sworn to do - which is defend the Constitution of the United States - Obamacare will go down in flames. It might be fun. Should they choose to actually burn the 2,000-page behemoth, they could roast hot dogs and marshmallows in the Supreme Court chambers.

But it remains to be seen whether or not the Court will render a decision that effectively dismantles Obamacare. The result will no doubt come down along ideological lines. Since the Supreme Court currently leans to the political right, one might think Obamacare is in jeopardy. It will all depend on which the justices weigh more heavily: the bill's intent or its legality.



By Richie Beeler

Now some of you may think the Supreme Court would NEVER be swayed by intent, and would ALWAYS rule according to legal merit. You probably order a lot of stuff off TV in the middle of the night too. The truth is this Court will most likely decide this case the way nearly every Court before it has decided nearly every high profile case in history. Some justices will protect the health care plan because of its intent, while others will declare it unconstitutional on its legal merit.

Its intent is not completely evil, by the way. The notion of every American having health coverage is noble on its face. No one wants people to be deprived of quality, affordable health care. But sometimes even the best intentions can have disastrous consequences. Such is the case with Obamacare.

For starters, the bill was rammed down the throats of an American public that did not want it by a Democratic Congress that was blinded by its own radical socialist agenda, and drunk with its newfound power. Unlike milestone legislation of the past, there was nothing remotely bipartisan about Obamacare. Republican lawmakers made impassioned pleas for House leaders to listen to the American people, but their cries fell on deaf ears, or were drowned out by the banging gavel of Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

And so the bill passed and was quickly signed into law by President Obama, adding ANOTHER multi-trillion dollar liability to an already insolvent United States government.

But even laying aside the health care law's political and fiscal shortcomings, there remains the reality of an unprecedented power grab by the federal government. In the name of "good intentions" the President and Congress have forced the American people to buy health insurance, while saddling them with a debt they can never pay. And as for having good intentions, exactly where in the Constitution is Congress afforded such authority?

President James Madison once commented on the power of the federal government to confiscate the wealth of its citizens in the name of good intentions.

"I cannot undertake to lay my finger on that article of the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents."

Those words from the author of the Constitution could be a foreboding message for Obamacare. If only enough Supreme Court Justices are listening.

Another week has come and gone, and things are really speeding up. We have begun having sessions three days

a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday) with committee meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. In this column, I will describe some legislation we are currently dealing with.

A bill repurposing the Fast Track Economic Development

Program, which provides grants and loans to local governments or to their economic development organizations, will be used to facilitate pro-job growth activities. In passing the bill it is the intent of the General Assembly that these economic development funds will only be used in exceptional circumstances when the funds will make a significant economic impact on the affected community.

We, with assistance from scrap metal dealers, are again working on scrap metal recycling legislation that would reform how scrap metal companies deal with vehicles in their possession. A bill was filed to ensure scrap metal processors in Tennessee exercise due diligence before crushing abandoned vehicles that have been sold to them. In far too many cases, individuals who own the cars were not provided enough time to act and save their

property. Cars have been stolen and taken to scrap metal companies so the thieves can make a quick profit. This bill ensures a car must be on a lot for at least three business days from the date of purchase and that the scrap metal company's identification number must be included in the record that the purchaser is required to maintain for three years.

Since a number of School Boards are permitting types of remote voting at board meetings, a bill was passed to stop the current practice and permit limited remote teleconference voting. This would only be permitted if the member or immediate family member is hospitalized, is out of area for an emergency such as death of family members, out of area work assignment, or serving in military. This is limited to two times per year. We realize there are sometimes extenuating circumstances that would prohibit a person's voting. This could also apply to work sessions. Some boards are currently allowing this practice, and clarification was requested.

A bill that is a top priority for the Governor and law makers is quickly moving through committee. It reduces the state sales tax on food and food ingredients from 5.5 percent to 5.3 percent. This does not seem like a lot, but every reduction helps Tennessee families. This bill is currently in the House Finance Committee.

Now that the daylight hours are longer, I hope to have more time to be outside enjoying our beautiful Tennessee spring. Hopefully you are enjoying it also. If there is any way my office can be of assistance to you, you may contact us at 615-741-6879. It is an honor to be your Representative.

Local Businesses Win Awards as Best Workplaces for Commuters

Cont. from page 1

in Knoxville," says Alisa Ashouri, Smart Trips Coordinator. "We have relationships with dozens of companies in the region. It was clear our partners were ready for a bigger challenge. A national award like this demonstrates that local businesses are raising their commitment to sustainability and social responsibility."

Best Workplaces for Commuters www.

bestworkplaces.org is a public-private partnership developed by the EPA and DOT and establishes a voluntary National Standard of Excellence for commuter benefits. The criteria include offering items like transit passes, an emergency ride home for special circumstances, carpooling benefits and a certain percent of employees participating. Specific details on the standards can be found at <http://www.bestworkplaces.org/about1/standard-of-excellence>.

Smart Trips www.knoxsmartrips.org is a regional organization that promotes alternatives to driving alone and helps commuters find carpool partners, bike and transit buddies, save money on gas and help the environment. The organization plans to annually celebrate the BWC awards and honor the region's highest achieving business partners for commuter benefits.

Art and more offered at Finicky Framers

Cont. from page 1

artists and new customers to stop by and browse the featured artwork. They are more than just any ordinary frame shop. Owner, Jay Scruton, offers his customers friendly service, excellent turnaround time, as well as a ton of samples at affordable prices. After all, the store motto is "Framing should be affordable to everyone, not to a select few!" Scruton shared, "If you are fair to your customers, they will be fair to you." For more information, please visit the website www.finickyframers.com or call 865-803-2510.



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Edward Hull Crump

The Boss

Part 2

Pages from
the Political
Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Following his ouster as Mayor of Memphis, E. H. Crump ran for and was elected Shelby County Trustee. His removal from the mayor's office was a humiliation Crump never forgot and he certainly never forgave anyone he considered to have played a part in his removal. Crump attributed his removal from office as having been engineered by greedy private power companies who naturally feared his support for publicly-owned power.

Crump was able to settle one political score in the 1916 election. Republican Governor Ben W. Hooper had been an important factor in Crump's removal and had lost his reelection campaign in 1914. Crump had strongly supported Hooper's Democratic opponent, but Hooper was seeking a political comeback in 1916, seeking election as Tennessee's first popularly elected United States senator. Hooper's opponent in the general election was Congressman Kenneth D. McKellar.

McKellar had been a close friend and ally of the Memphis Boss for some years and had unexpectedly won the senatorial nomination by defeating two powerful opponents in the primary, incumbent Senator Luke Lea and former Governor Malcolm Patterson. Hooper was likely the strongest candidate the Republicans could field, but McKellar won the election decisively, a victory that would effectively end Hooper's political career.

Crump, with the large income he earned as Shelby County Trustee, turned his organizational genius to private business, forming an insurance company with partner Stanley Trezevant. Crump's insurance company eventually became the largest underwriter in the South. Crump would later add to his holdings ownership of a Coca-Cola bottling plant in upstate New York. In time, Crump would become a millionaire.

As the decade of the 1920s began, E. H. Crump was taking a greater interest in Tennessee politics. 1920 was not a happy year for Tennessee Democrats or Democrats much of anywhere for that matter. President Woodrow Wilson, incapacitated by a serious stroke, wanted a third term despite having become feeble and querulous. National Democrats wisely looked elsewhere for a candidate, settling on Ohio Governor James Cox. Governor Cox selected a promising young politician from New York, Franklin Delano Roosevelt,



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

E.H. Crump at Football Game-1949.jpg

as his running mate. The Republicans also nominated an Ohioan, Senator Warren G. Harding, and the GOP won a smashing victory at the polls in the first presidential contest where women could cast ballots.

Tennessee Democrats were horrified when Harding not only won the presidency, but also managed to carry Tennessee. Democrats were even more horrified, if possible, by the election of a Republican governor. Democrat A. H. Roberts had first been elected in 1918, running on a platform that promised not to give women the right to vote. That stance put Roberts at variance with Senator K. D. McKellar and E. H. Crump, both of whom strongly supported suffrage for women. The Tennessee legislature became the last state necessary to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution and Governor Roberts rightly feared many women would retaliate against him at the polls.

Alfred A. Taylor, then seventy-two years old and a seasoned campaigner, was the Republican nominee for governor and displayed a shrewd sense of showmanship while crisscrossing Tennessee, accompanied by a hillbilly band and his hunting dog, "Ol' Limber." Taylor entertained crowds with his a seemingly endless supply of folksy stories and humor while the hapless Governor Roberts tried his best to avoid the wrath of angry female voters and beg for a second term.

Naturally, Tennessee Democrats were intent upon reclaiming the governorship from Alf Taylor in 1922. The old warhorse of Tennessee's Democratic Party, former Governor Benton McMillin, wanted another chance to serve and his opponent in the primary was an attorney and tobacco farmer from Clarksville, Tennessee,

Austin Peay. McMillin had been governor from 1899 - 1903 and had been a frequent aspirant for the United States Senate, but never quite managed to get elected. McMillin had been President Woodrow Wilson's Ambassador to Peru and Minister to Guatemala and Wilson remained highly popular in Tennessee. Despite being seventy-seven years old at the time, McMillin campaigned hard for the Democratic nomination.

At forty-six, Austin Peay was a generation younger than Governor McMillin. Although E. H. Crump had yet to fully consolidate his power in Shelby County, Crump supported Peay for the nomination and was gratified when Austin Peay received a handsome majority in his domain. Peay's convincing victory in Shelby County more than accounted for his margin of victory statewide. Peay barely managed to edge out the elderly former governor Benton McMillin in the primary, winning by just over four thousand votes, while his majority in Shelby County alone was in excess of seventy-five hundred votes.

Peay went on to defeat Governor Alf Taylor and proceeded to significantly reform Tennessee's state government. Peay reorganized the structure of Tennessee's government, made needed changes to existing tax laws, revitalized and reformed education, and vastly improved Tennessee's antiquated highway system. Austin Peay's administration remains quite an accomplishment to this day.

E. H. Crump and the Shelby County machine supported Governor Peay for a second term, although Peay faced only token opposition in the person of perennial candidate Dr. John R. Neal. By 1926, Crump was viewing Governor Peay in a somewhat different light.

The Memphis Boss had ruefully come to the conclusion the Peay administration was favoring rural counties at the expense of Tennessee's more urban areas. Peay was collecting tax revenue from the urban counties and using the money to improve conditions in the poorer, less populated rural counties, something that did not sit well with Mr. Crump and his Shelby County base. Crump was also becoming uneasy with the possibility the popular governor might be eyeing K. D. McKellar's Senate seat, a suspicion shared by Senator McKellar. While Peay denied having senatorial ambitions, neither McKellar nor Crump was convinced.

Crump was also increasingly unhappy with Governor Peay's choice of friends. Luke Lea, former United States senator from Tennessee, had acquired enormous influence from his ownership of the Nashville Tennessean newspaper. Lea had enthusiastically supported Austin Peay's political ambitions and was one of the governor's closest advisors, a fact little appreciated by E. H. Crump.

Despite Peay's friendship with Luke Lea and Lea's obvious political clout, the independent-minded governor did not hesitate to refuse requests from Colonel Lea. Lea saw nothing whatever wrong with using the expansion of Tennessee's highway system for political purposes, something the governor absolutely refused to do.

Crump joined with the leader of another thriving political machine, that of Nashville Mayor Hillary Howse. The two urban bosses decided to support the gubernatorial candidacy of State Treasurer Hill McAlister who was challenging Peay as the governor sought to win a third consecutive two-year term.

Governor Peay was renowned in the Democratic primary, albeit only narrowly. McAlister ran very well in the urban areas, while Peay remained very popular with his rural base and the governor did especially well in traditionally Republican East Tennessee. Much of Peay's popularity in East Tennessee was due to his strong support for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Peay, only fifty-one years old at the time, died suddenly on October 2, 1927 from a cerebral hemorrhage. Peay's influence with the state legislature had seriously receded and his battles with legislators and problems with his health may well have contributed to his untimely death.

Speaker of the State Senate Henry Horton succeeded Austin Peay as Governor of Tennessee. Horton was serving his first term in the Tennessee Senate and was distressingly inexperienced, both as an administrator and as a politician. E. H. Crump watched with increasing alarm as his rival and hated nemesis Luke Lea moved quickly to fill the power vacuum left by Austin Peay's death. Governor Horton was grateful for Lea's support and followed the Colonel's advice so closely many critics believed Luke Lea to be governor in all but name.

It soon became readily apparent Horton would seek election as governor in his own right in 1928. Horton

would have the strong support of Luke Lea, who soon concluded he needed to divert the attention of E. H. Crump by encouraging the candidacy of West Tennessee Congressman Finis Garrett who was running for the Senate against incumbent K. D. McKellar. Garrett was the Minority Leader of the U. S. House of Representatives and had been in Congress twenty-four years before challenging McKellar for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate.

Lea realized launching a Garrett candidacy against McKellar would not only divert the attention of Crump and his Shelby County machine, it would also mean the urban bosses would have to divide their resources between contests for the governorship and McKellar's Senate seat. Lea had also acquired daily newspapers in Knoxville and Crump's own Memphis, giving Lea tremendous influence at a time when radio was not widely in use and Tennesseans got their news from newspapers.

Once again Crump supported Hill McAlister and the gubernatorial campaign was brutal, with both sides using every means to win. The entry of a third candidate concerned Governor Horton's supporters, as Lewis Pope had been a highly respected member of the late Austin Peay's administration. Horton was profoundly embarrassed when Peay's widow publicly endorsed Lewis Pope's candidacy while the governor was in Clarksville to make a speech.

The election results were mixed; Horton scraped by McAlister to win the gubernatorial nomination, but Senator McKellar crushed Finis Garrett to win a third term in the U. S. Senate.

Practical as always, E. H. Crump knew Henry Horton was going to be Governor of Tennessee for at least two years, which meant Luke Lea would continue to be the power behind the throne. Crump soon concluded an uneasy alliance with both Lea and the Horton administration, knowing all too well the power of the state government to cause trouble inside his own fiefdom.

Henry Horton was again elected governor in 1930, but mere days after the election came news that would transform Tennessee politics, topple the Horton administration and send Luke Lea to a North Carolina penitentiary.

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The Drive For Five:

Farragut Admirals Baseball

By Alex Norman

Stop me if you've heard this one before...

The Farragut Admirals baseball team is going for another state championship.

All indications are that the Admirals have what it takes to make another serious run at it this spring, for what would be their fifth TSSAA Class AAA championship in a row, and ninth in program history.

"Maybe there is some pressure, but it is not something I think about," said Farragut head coach Matt Buckner. "We prepare very hard all year long, and at the end of the day that is all you can do. We do not talk about winning a state title at all. What we talk about is getting better each day, and winning our conference."

"We are young age wise, but experience wise we return about eight players, both pitchers and position

Continue on page 3

Golden Gloves program stays in the family

By Steve Williams

Tracy Miller-Davis may not know the intricacies of warding off a knockout punch, but she knows how to keep a long-standing youth boxing program on its feet.

Miller-Davis learned a big part of the business from her father, Ace Miller, who passed away March 8 after directing the Knoxville Golden Gloves program for over 40 years.

Tracy expressed an interest "to step in and continue on with dad's legacy" and in an emergency meeting the organization's Board of Directors voted to appoint her as the new General Manager and Director of Boxing for Golden Gloves Charities.

Ace trained and coached many great boxers, including world heavyweight champion Big John Tate, but "his primary love was his local boxing program, the amateur kids," said Tracy.

Growing up, Miller-Davis worked closely with her dad in the boxing business.

"It's all I've ever done

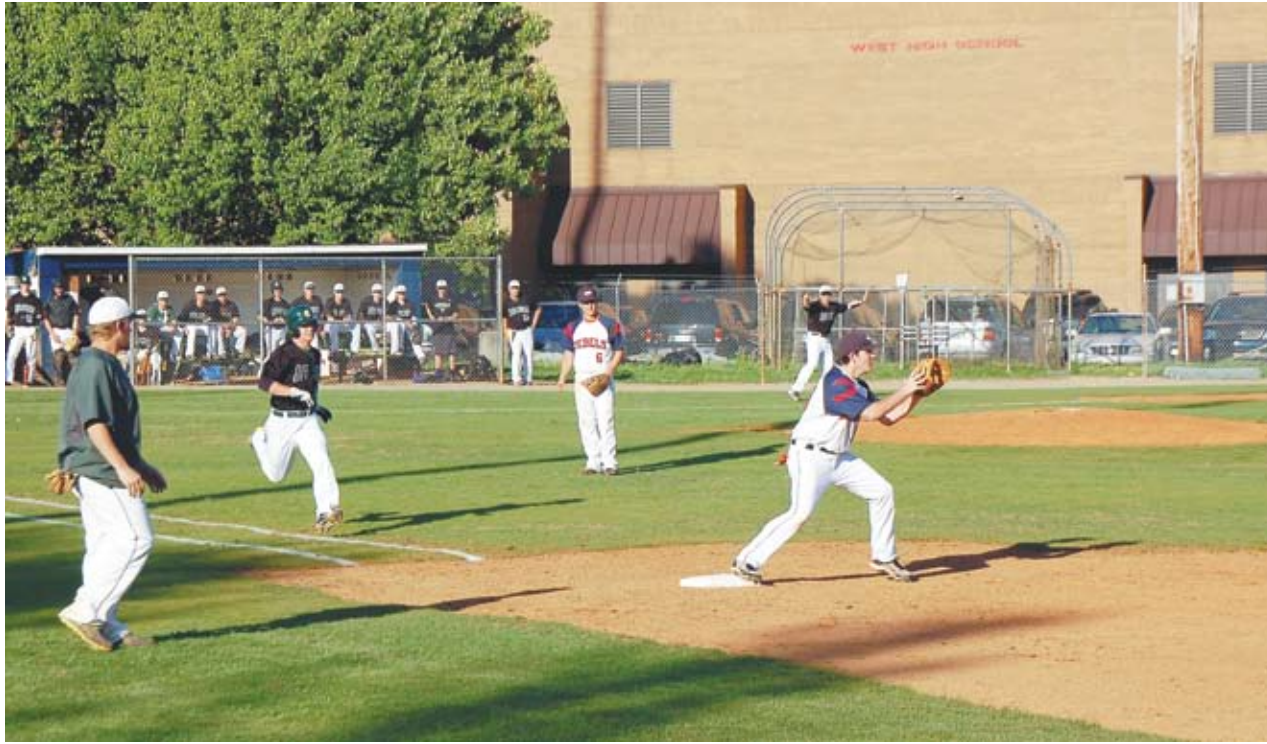
Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

A big crowd watches Darren Kinamore of Chattanooga West Side battle Aaron King of Crossville at the Ace Miller Golden Gloves Sports Arena Friday night. Kinamore won the 80-pound division championship bout.

West falls to Catholic, 8-2



By Ken Lay

Adam Sullivan entered the 2012 season not knowing when to expect from his young Catholic High School baseball team.

Well, Sullivan, the veteran Fighting Irish head coach, has to like what he's seen from his squad out of the gate.

Catholic saw its perfect start continue Tuesday night with an 8-2 District 4-AAA victory over West at Lindsay-Hawkins Park.

The Irish, who improved to 7-0 overall and 5-0 in

the district with Tuesday's win, wasted little time pouncing on the Rebels. Catholic took advantage of a pair of West errors and scored four runs in the top of the first. Austin Kearney reached on an error to lead off the game. He made it all the way to third when Adam Reed grounded out. Kearney scored the game's first run when he came home on a single by Ryan Nelson. John Mark Broussard added an RBI double while Andrew

Continue on page 2

West High first baseman Dan Williamson awaits a throw in Tuesday's game against Catholic. The Irish prevailed 8-2 in the District 4-AAA contest at Lindsay-Hawkins Park. Photo by Dan Andrews.



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Tracy Miller-Davis, newly appointed General Manager and Director of Boxing for Knoxville Golden Gloves Charities, huddles with family members, who are a big part of her "team," at the East Tennessee tournament Friday night. From left are Clint Farley, Miller-Davis, Harmony Farley, Breanna Farley, Taylor Graves, Jackson Miller, Trace Miller and KaLynn Graves.

Golden Gloves program stays in the family

Cont. from page 1

my whole life," said Tracy, prior to the start of the 68th annual East Tennessee Golden Gloves tournament Friday night at the arena which is named after her father. "I've actually been working here since I was 13 years old. When school let out in the summer, I came down here to work. Daddy started teaching me how to be his secretary.

"I've done everything from sell tickets to prepare for pro fights when he had Big John Tate and Bernard Taylor. There have been three National Golden Gloves tournaments in Knoxville. I worked hand in hand with him preparing for those national

tournaments.

"Probably one of my most proudest things is we have developed a gigantic volunteer group of people. Referees, judges, doctors, ringside officials, concession stand workers, ticket office and gate workers. About half are from our family and friends of his and friends of mine."

Miller-Davis, now 48, also said she worked along side her father at fund-raising golf tournaments and working for SAE fraternity fights.

The Knoxville program currently has 115 active amateur boxers, ranging in age from 8 years old to 30, said Miller-Davis. On an average night there are 55 to 75 kids in the gym. The four "base coaches"

are Jack Rose, L.M. Sams, Judge Hill and Tommy Cox.

Knoxville will host the Southern Golden Gloves tourney April 12-14, with a team of 12 advancing to the nationals in Nevada.

Miller-Davis, a 1982 Carter High graduate, works for Knox County schools as an administrative secretary in the Physical Education and Wellness department and athletics department.

As for being a female in a sport predominantly consisting of males, Tracy says, "That could be tricky. That could be funny. I don't know everything, but I'm gonna try to learn. I've got a lot of excellent advisers. Steve Shope, an attorney, has been president of

Knoxville Golden Gloves for years. Mark Phillips is head referee. I also have some good friends on the national level.

"I think as long as I continue to do what dad believed and what he taught me to do, we shouldn't have any problems."

Miller-Davis' greatest joy about being in the boxing business is "when I walk in the gym on a week night and it's full of kids. A lot of kids who don't have another thing in their life to do and they come here to work out. Then the biggest smile comes on my face. If I can do anything to keep that going - he worked all of his life to build this program -- then I don't want to stop."

West falls to Catholic, 8-2

Cont. from page 1

Raabe knocked in another run on a groundout. The Irish scored again on a West error.

From there, it was all downhill for the Rebels (4-3, 1-3).

"That first inning really got into our heads," West coach Buzz McNish said.

The Rebels answered with a pair of runs in the bottom of the frame on a two-run homer by Johnny Rhodes.

"Rhodes is a good hitter and he got a hold of a good pitch," Sullivan said. "He did a good job and sometimes that happens. You have to tip your hat to him."

The Rebels had a pair of extra-base hits in the first. Miles Woodhull led off the game with a double and



West High catcher Kenn Brown checks his swing in the Rebels 8-2 loss to Catholic Tuesday at West.

scored two outs later on Rhodes' home run.

After that, Kearney, allowed only a walk and one more hit over six innings.

"He threw pretty well," Sullivan said of Kearney, who struck out four and hit two Rebels hitters.

Kearney was also aided by some stellar Catholic defense. The Irish played errorless baseball and made some big plays.

"We hadn't swung the bat real well this year," McNish said. "Today, we hit the ball the best we have all year.

"But we hit the ball right at them."

Catholic had no such trouble. The Irish pounded 15 hits.

Catholic extended its advantage to 5-2 in the third when Blaine Harrison's grounder plated Kyle Kurtis. The Irish added another run in the fourth on an RBI single by Reed that made it 5-2.

The Irish added three more runs in the sixth on scoring singles by Nelson and Harrison. Broussard drove in the game's final run with a ground-rule double.

Down the Lane

WEEKLY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR TUESDAY, CLUB 55, MARCH 19, 2012

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--MALE

267 GENE ALLMON

245 C.L.HACKNEY

234 GARY WILSON

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE

618 GENE ALLMON

572 C.L.HACKNEY

560 STANLEY TAYLOR

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--FEMALE

185 LUPE ARCHER

174 BETTY PHILLIPS

173 BARBARA NELSON

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALE

475 BARBARA NELSON

469 JEANIE STURGEON

460 BEVERLY CRUMLEY

WEDNESDAY CLUB 55:

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--MALE

248 ROBERT WATKINS

246 BILL BYRGE

232 RONNIE RUSSELL

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE

688 BILL BYRGE

649 ROBERT WATKINS

618 CHARLIE MURPHY

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--FEMALE

227 CAROLYN MCGILL

185 KATHY CATE

182 MARGARET MYERS

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALE

572 CAROLYN MCGILL

517 KATHY CATE

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALE

497 SUSIE MARTIN

THURSDAY NO-TAP:

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--MALE

300 RICHARD DAVIS

300 GARY WILSON

280 JAMES HOLSENBACK

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE

771 GENE ALLMON

766 RICHARD DAVIS

748 CURTIS TINDELL

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--FEMALE

266 KIMBERLY OWENS

256 BEULAH ARMETTA

255 BETTY PHILLIPS

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALE

668 KIMBERLY OWENS

650 BETTY PHILLIPS

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Dooley has nothing to fall back on now

Derek Dooley has painted himself into the proverbial corner. There's only one way out for the Tennessee head football coach. He has to win big this coming season.

Dooley's handling of the latest issue with prima donna wide receiver Da'Rick Rogers is just another reason that has many UT fans wondering if he is the right man for the job. The perception is there is not enough discipline in the program. The Vols' fan base appears to be divided as much now, if not more, as it was when Phillip Fulmer's job was on the line in 2008.



By Steve Williams

When Dooley took over the program ravaged by back-to-back head coaching changes, he first sought to earn his players' trust and asked for fans' patience. The foundation would be built on class and integrity and Tennessee would once again be respected.

One of Dooley's first decisions regarding discipline was denying Brandon Warren's request to rejoin the team. Former coach Lane Kiffin had dismissed Warren from the team for disciplinary reasons the previous season. The former Alcoa High standout had earned freshman All-America honors as a tight end at Florida State prior to transferring to UT.

This appeared to be an early indication that Dooley was going to be a strong disciplinarian, but since then that hasn't been the case.

Rogers isn't the first star player to receive preferential treatment from Dooley. Running back Bryce Brown was allowed to miss all of the 2010 spring practice after his freshman season and was still going to be given the opportunity to rejoin the team in preseason camp. Defensive back Janzen Jackson was given chance after chance after chance before finally being dismissed last August.

Rogers has been in the doghouse more than Smokey.

He was one of the players reported to have no interest in playing in a lower-tier bowl game last season and gave a lackluster effort in the loss to Kentucky that snapped a 26-game win streak over the Wildcats and kept the Vols home for the holidays.

Rogers' attitude is believed to have been the reason veteran receivers coach Charlie Baggett, who has worked with NFL greats, left the coaching staff at the end of the season.

It was reported last week Rogers had served a two-week ban during winter workouts for an incident in which he physically threatened the team's strength coach.

When Dooley was asked why Rogers wasn't at spring practice last week, the coach said it was an internal team issue and Rogers had "stuff" to do before he would be allowed back. The coach wouldn't even call it a suspension. Come on.

Besides discipline, or lack of it, how has Dooley performed in his other duties his first two seasons?

Right at the beginning there was an uproar over former players returning to campus and visiting the Vols' football complex. Dooley wanted to change past procedure.

As a game day coach, Dooley has struggled. The Vols have been in contention at halftime of many games, only to see the opponent pull away in the second half. A big part of that has to do with a lack of talent and a lack of depth. A part of it also has to do with X's and O's and making halftime adjustments.

As for recruiting, Dooley has had some success, but his first two classes, according to the ratings, are middle of the pack in the SEC. If those rating are accurate that means there hasn't been any ground gained on the Alabamas and LSUs and other conference frontrunners. Realistically, we're just now starting to see the fruits of his labor in this area. Player development will play a part in the end result. The effect of seven new assistant coaches coming on board since the end of last season remains to be seen.

Dooley has created negative publicity nationwide for putting restrictions on players wanting to transfer elsewhere for personal reasons.

It should be noted, Dooley has had more than his share of bad luck. Remember those losses that should have been wins at LSU and against North Carolina in the Music City Bowl his first season. Justin Hunter, outstanding receiver, going down with a season-ending knee injury early in the game last year at Florida was a terrible break.

Heading into the 2012 campaign, some say Dooley has his back against the wall. I disagree. He has nothing to lean on now. Had he gone about things differently, particularly when it comes to disciplining star players, fans probably would be more understanding and more supportive if his third season isn't a big success. Now he has to win big.

Dooley probably knows that, too. Maybe that's why he's trying to keep Rogers. But here's the problem with that - the difference between a good team and a championship team is discipline.

The Drive For Five: Farragut Admirals Baseball

Cont. from page 1
players, that were big contributors last year.”

There aren't many seniors on the Admirals roster, but infielder A.J. Simcox is a pretty good one for Buckner to count on.

A.J., the son of former long-time Tennessee Volunteers assistant coach Larry Simcox, has signed to play at Tennessee in 2013, but will he make it there? Simcox will get some serious looks from the pro scouts. UT head coach Dave Serrano might have this work cut out for him to bring Simcox to campus instead of a professional contract.

“A.J. is such a awesome kid. He is a coaches dream,” said Buckner. “He is such a smart player. Defensively, he is as skilled as they come, and offensively he has been awesome.” Buckner adds that Simcox led the state of Tennessee in hits last season with 71.

Among the challenges for Buckner is making up for the innings Xander Taylor was supposed to provide on the mound. Taylor was slated to be the Admirals number one starter, but is out for the season with a torn labrum.

“Losing Xander is big loss for us, but fortunately we have been blessed with pretty good depth,” said Buckner. “Eric Freeman, Kyle Serrano, Chase Chambers, Patrick Raby, and Jordan Newby should be able to provide us with quality pitching.”

The Admirals are moving on without third baseman Nick Delmonico and pitcher Phillip Pfeifer, two of the best players in Farragut baseball history. Delmonico

was drafted in the sixth round of the 2011 Major League Baseball Draft by the Baltimore Orioles, and gave up a chance to play at Georgia to take his shot at the pro ranks. Pfeifer was picked in the 44th round by the Texas Rangers, and is currently a freshman at Vanderbilt.

“First off all, those two guys cannot be replaced. They are special, special talents, and were also awesome young men to coach,” said Buckner. “Those two just brought a mental edge that is hard to teach. They left their mark on this program, and also many of the players that are still here.”

Buckner is in his third year running the show at Farragut, but he was no stranger to the program, or the man that held the job before him. Buckner replaced Tommy Pharr, who is now the head coach at CAK.

Pharr brought in Buckner as an assistant coach from 2001-2003 at Farragut. Buckner also played for Pharr at Monterey High School, and has nothing but respect for his predecessor.

“Tommy is such a wonderful man. He taught me so much about the game and about just being a good man,” said Buckner. “I am so blessed to have been around him as a young man and as a young adult. As far as baseball goes, Tommy is a fierce competitor and a relentless worker. There are very few people who will prepare harder than Tommy Pharr.”

Buckner has a similar work ethic, and it has paid off with continued success at Farragut.



Pictured are the 2011 Knoxville Co-Ed Slow-Pitch Softball team The Cardinals. For information on how to join this fun league, please e-mail Jean Reif-Robinson at jeanreif@msn.com.

Co-ed slow-pitch softball season for seniors starting soon

By Jean Reif-Robinson

Attention Seniors! If you would like an excellent source of exercise, fun and a community of really nice people, you must join the Knoxville Co-Ed Slow-Pitch Softball League which is now in its fifth season. This is a non-competitive league which means we do not keep score, we do not call balls and strikes and we have special rules to promote safety for all players. We do, however, play as best we can whether we are at bat or in the field. If you are a woman, you must be 55 years old; if a man, you must be 60 years old. Special consideration is given for persons who are younger if that person has a diagnosed handicap and can still play slow-pitch softball.

We have four teams in this league: the Greyhounds, Young at Heart, the Cardinals and the Blue Sox. We also have a “pool-players team”

which we call the Green Team. The Green Team is for players who cannot come to most of the games during the season, or who are brand new in signing up for our league. Each Green Team member will play on one of the other four teams if he/she shows up on game days. In this league, everyone plays every game! That's what it's all about: healthy exercise and fitness, fellowship and fun. After all teams are set, T-shirts paid for by our sponsors are given to each team player and must be worn on game days.

Our season begins Tuesday, April 10 at Caswell Park, 620 Winona St, near downtown Knoxville at 9:30 a.m. (If it rains on the 10th, our first day will be Thursday, April 12.) The City of Knoxville graciously allows our league to use these fields because we are non-competitive. The only cost to players each season is a \$10 accident insurance

fee required by the City. Players must pay this fee before they will be allowed on the field.

The four teams play every Tuesday and Thursday from April through mid-October. (Each team manager or the player representative will notify team members if the game is rained out either by phone or by e-mail.) We ask players to arrive on time at 9:30 a.m. for warm-ups and to insure all teams are balanced and Green Team members are assigned. Games begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and play continues until approximately 11:30 a.m.

We hope you will join us! Bring yourself and bring a friend. (We have several married couples on our teams already.) The more the merrier! For more information, e-mail jeanreif@msn.com.

Lady Beavers work hard for 6-5 win

By Ken Lay

Karns High School's softball team had to work a little overtime for a victory Wednesday night.

The Lady Beavers, the two-time defending District 3-AAA Champions, struggled early but recorded a 6-5 nine-inning victory over Halls at Butler-Connor Stadium.

The contest between the district co-leaders was decided in the bottom of the ninth when Karns third baseman Amanda Adkins doubled home Elayna Siebert with the winning run.

“I just saw the ball and I hit it,” said Adkins, who went 4-for-5 with two doubles, a run and two RBIs. “It was big to get this win.”

The Lady Beavers, who improved to 8-2 overall

and 4-0 in the district, might have nabbed a win to give them sole possession of first place.

The early chapters of this epic saga, however, belonged to the Lady Devils (6-1, 5-1).

Halls jumped to a 3-0 lead in the top of the first. Katie Scott led off the game with a double and scored when Natali Sharp reached on an error. Sharp came home on a double by Katie Corum. The Lady Devils took a 3-0 lead on an RBI single from Alyssa Mabe. Karns starting pitcher Lakin Trotterchaud got out of the inning but didn't return in the second.

Karns knotted the contest with three runs in the bottom of the frame as it took advantage of two Halls errors. Hannah

Thomas and Adkins had RBI singles and the Lady Beavers picked up their other run on an error.

Lady Beavers reliever Casey Balboa, a transfer from Halls, entered the game in the second and was greeted rudely by the Lady Devils, who took a 5-3 lead on Stephanie Bridges' two-run double that plated Haylie Beason and Sharp which both reached on errors.

After that, Balboa kept Halls at bay and the Lady Beavers chipped away with runs in the fifth and sixth to tie the game.

“The first two innings, we'd like to forget,” Karns coach Judy Siebert said. “We struggled but we battled.”

“Casey did a great job. I was worried about starting her because

of all the emotion.”

Balboa surrendered a pair of unearned runs in the second. She allowed six hits over eight innings. Halls mounted a threat in the seventh with three hits. Balboa escaped danger when she induced a double play. Bridges opened the inning with a single

but was retired when Hannah McCloud rapped into the double play.

Corum and Mabe then singled before Leah Hall struck out to end the inning.

The Lady Beavers, who entered their half of the sixth trailing 4-3, evened the game on an RBI single from Kristen Sands

that scored Kelli Hensley, who reached on an error.

Halls engineered a minor threat in the top of the ninth when Bridges drew a one-out walk. She, however, was erased when McCloud grounded into an inning-ending double play.





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Arts & Entertainment

Joanna Smith shines at Tin Roof

On Friday, March 31, 2012 rising country music artist Joanna Smith performed at the Tin Roof on the Cumberland Strip in Knoxville. Her performance was amazing. Her vocals that might remind you of Deanna



By Jack Ryan,
Guest Columnist

the strategy of her current record label. Her label, RCA RECORDS, decided she should start from the bottom and go up, which is much different than what record labels (or

Carter back in her "Strawberry Wine" days. Her stage presence was equal to just about any of the big names...Carrie, Jennifer, Taylor, Lady.... I mean, Hilary. This young music sensation has got it. Her first two prominent songs tell us as listeners that she is much more interested in her career right now than settling down. I truly believe it's gonna pay off. The show was unique because it was Friday night and here Knoxville had a RCA recording artist in our backyard playing some amazing vocals and the local radio attention was nil. However, while no radio outlet paid attention, the audience did and they loved what they heard! The longer she performed, the larger the crowd became.

Before she took the stage, I had an exclusive interview with this talented young singer. One of the first topics we approached was

anyone in radio promotions normally tells the artists. Most of the time artists go from top to bottom and Knoxville is one of the middle stops on the way down. However last Friday night, Knoxville was in the middle on the way up!

Joanna is doing a Tin Roof tour and hitting college towns all over the South. Her first single was stolen (kinda) from Kenny Chesney because he didn't feel the song could be done right by a guy and he simply allowed her to have it. "We Can't Be Friends" is a breakup song where the boyfriend still wants to be friends, but the girlfriend's not so sure. Joanne says that just about describes her to T. She says she connected with Kenny because they both share humble beginnings. She is "no American Idol" and neither was he. But she is fine with that. She and Chesney met last year at CRS (Country Radio



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

RCA Recording Artist Joanna Smith cuts loose onstage during her Tin Roof show last Friday.

Seminar week) and she told him she wanted the song. He told her at the time he was going to record it, but changed his mind. Since she asked for it first, she got it.

Joanne accepts that this

kind of sweet talking and negotiating is "the journey and understands it's part of the destiny to grow as a person."

This girl is humble, sweet and approachable, sounds great on stage, and is really

fun to watch. In this day in time, that's what country music fans are looking for. For more information on this promising artist visit her website at www.joannasmithofficial.com.

Guest Columnist Jack Ryan won a CMA award for Broadcast Personality of the year, received a nomination for the same category with the Academy of Country music, won the "Silver Microphone" award twice and also won a "Communicator" award and a Gold Addy.

Open House

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Soft Tyranny

The headline in the Oregonian read “Healthcare on Trial...” We were in Portland, Oregon, visiting our daughter, yet nowhere in the country could you escape the monumental events taking place in Washington. And by the time you read this our fate will rest with the Supremes.

No, I'm not talking about Mo-Town's four Supremes, but the nine men and women of the Supreme Court who will decide on the Constitutionality (legality) of Obama-care. Call it what you like, but everyone knows the Affordable Care Act by its street name. As I looked at the group picture of our Supreme jurists, I wondered if they have the Wisdom of Solomon or will

they vote as partisans. As they parse the legal arguments as measured by the Constitution, will they make new law by judicial fiat?

As our Supremes hear lawyerly arguments on the Constitution's Commerce Clause which the rest of us find arcane, I wonder if they consider themselves better than their fellow citizens as so many in Washington do, including the oh so smart media? Do they listen to the two thirds of the country who want the broccoli clause repealed? The broccoli clause is, of course, the street name for the individual mandate provision in Obama-care which says the government can compel citizens to buy health insurance.

Opponents say that if the government can force a citizen to buy healthcare then what about broccoli or Michelle Obama's favorite, arugula? And if the mandate is struck down then Obama-care is doomed because it can't pay for itself and the “affordable” moniker is laughable.

And yet there's another cost angle of the Affordable Care Act to consider. The so-called non-biased Congressional Budget Office has just released their latest cost estimates of Obama-care and it's double the original ten year \$938 billion cost – and the yearly cost after 2021 is a quarter of a trillion dollars a year, forever. Not to worry, the government will just print some more Monopoly money.

But wait. There's even more going on in Washington. Kathleen Sebelius, President Obama's Secretary of Health and Human Services, just signed orders mandating that all insurance companies and institutions – excepting Churches – cover contraception, sterilization and drugs that produce abortion. Even hospitals and charities run by religions orders must comply with the government rules

despite their religious precepts. The argument is spun under the guise of women's health, but some have asked is pregnancy contrary to health? I don't want to be overly graphic, but why should I pay for someone else's condoms?

How did we come to such a state of affairs where the fate of a country of 316 million will be determined by nine? In 1912 the Progressive Teddy Roosevelt and his Bull Moose Party advocated national health insurance. In 1945 Harry Truman said medical care is a right of all Americans. And in 1965 Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare (for the elderly) and Medicaid (for the poor) into law, and George Bush expanded Medicare benefits with part D drug coverage. Along the way Bill and Hillary Clinton tried but failed to pass their 1300 page national healthcare law in 1993. However, President Obama and a Democratic Congress succeeded with their gargantuan 2700 page bill which few have read or understand. Even Justice Scalia asked the government's Solicitor General if he expected the justices to read the Obama-care law before

they ruled on its legality.

You may recall from American history that the issue of Federalism versus States' rights, rather than the issue of slavery, was the basis for our Civil War. Now, with the challenge to Obama-care, twenty-six states and many other agencies are suing the Federal government over the issue of individual's and State's rights versus a far reaching Federal Government. You may be surprised to hear that I am a Federalist at heart, and had I been a Tennessean in 1861, I would have sided with Union rather than seceding along with my state. However, I believe our government has encroached too far on our first amendment rights as free men.

The great British statesman, Lord Acton, once held that “All power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” We shall see by June whether we can be compelled to purchase something, even if it is good for us. And who determines what is good for us? Arguably, this is the purview of science. We do collectively agree on certain laws, but should the government be able to tell us what to eat

or buy?

In November we Americans will vote on whether we choose to re-embrace personal choices and accept their consequences. These are the rights of free men. Or we may choose to continue down the path of an ever increasing nanny state and become a country that the Founders would not recognize.

In 1787 at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention a woman came up to Benjamin Franklin outside of Constitution Hall in Philadelphia. She asked him, “What kind of government have you given us, Sir?” He said, “A republic Madame, if you can keep it.”

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

For appointments call Keesha at 865-522-0326.

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

Easter Blessings

The eggshells were tinted a bluish-green color and looked as though they had been dyed. But, they had not. These eggshells were naturally that way. Our father delighted in giving the bluish-green colored eggs to neighborhood children for Easter. His Ancona hens laid the small eggs with the bluish-green shells instead of the more common white or brown shells. The sight of them brought to mind our days growing up on the farm, long before we had Ancona hens.

Each year on Good Friday, we started the process of coloring eggs. The eggs were

plentiful—straight from the nest. They were washed, boiled, and checked for cracks. Then, the eggs were carefully dipped in various colors of dye and set out to dry. Next, picture patterns were applied for a finishing touch. The eggs were finally ready for hiding in the annual Easter egg event, and excitement mounted as children waited for the special day. Of course, everyone was hoping to find the treasured prize egg. Hopes were high for a sunny Easter Sunday. The first cutting of the lawn had been postponed until after Easter Sunday to provide plenty of hiding places for the decorated eggs. Though we live in a microwave and push-button world today, demands on our time have caused the art of egg-dyeing to dwindle. Plastic eggs have replaced the real ones. Along with eggs and Easter baskets, the Easter season brings thoughts of spring and all her

splendor—like the long-awaited robins and green meadows.

It spawns new life and new growth, this season we call spring. She begins her parade of colors early: Bradford pear trees are all dressed in lacy white; bright yellow daffodils and tulips line up as if on cue; red-buds add their splash of color; and the creeping phlox rolls out her blankets of fuschia, pink, lavender, and purple. They all lend their breathtaking beauty as if in announcement of the upcoming blooms of the flowering dogwood, the natural resource which has prompted dogwood trails and festivals. The “Legend of the Dogwood” is often read or recited this time of year, reminding us of Jesus' crucifixion. Now, whenever I see a dogwood, I am reminded of Jesus' “markers.” Focus readers may recall little Colton Burpo introduced us to Jesus' markers in “Heaven is for



Picture of pink dogwoods taken by Ralphine Major

Real” (Glimpses of Glory, Knoxville Focus, 2-14-11). In a near-death experience, Colton “visited” heaven and saw the Saviour. He described in detail the nail prints in Jesus' hands and feet.

In the days leading up to Easter, I see chocolate bunnies and baskets on store shelves, little lambs pictured on greeting cards, and advertisements featuring bountiful Easter dinners.

Amidst the fun side of Easter, I am reminded of the true meaning of Easter when I see scenes

from “Passion of the Christ,” hear a choir sing “He Lives,” and see pictures of a cross depicting the cruel death of a risen Saviour. May we all be reminded, every day, of the price that Jesus paid with His life so that we may have a new life in Christ, eternal life for tomorrow, and hope for today. My prayer is that you will attend your church of choice this glorious Easter Sunday and celebrate our Lord's resurrection—a day that truly changed the world!

Featured Speakers

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K. ROBERT WILLIAMS, M.D.

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Faith

Outward Spiritual Discipline #2:

SUBMISSION

The first outward spiritual discipline we looked at was that of simplicity. The second is that of submission. A good definition of submission is "the opposite of self-indulgence; the freedom to give way to others." It is a coming under the authority of someone else. No one can make you submit. It is something you do by your own free will. You might be forced to do something you don't want to do but that is not submission. That is coercion.

We find this principle at work in Mark 9:35. "Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.'" This is definitely not easy to practice. We have been conditioned to be first, to be the best and the greatest. It is not that God doesn't want us to do our best because we are told, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). We are to do our best because God gets the glory, not self. Our purpose is not to magnify self, but to magnify God. We submit to His rule in our life. God calls the shots, not self.

Until we submit, we will not be able to fully connect with God. God wants every part of our life. Half-hearted devotion is not enough. We don't pick and choose what we submit; we give it all up.

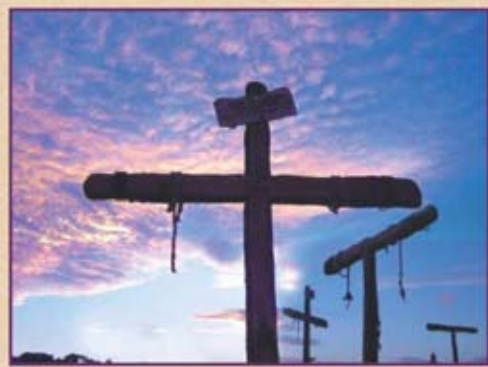
Submission is something all Christians get to do: men and women, old and young, masters and slaves. There are limits to submission, however. If someone asks you to do something that violates God's law, you are freed from having to submit. For example, if the government were to tell me that I could no longer preach about the risen Christ, I would have to obey God rather than man. Paul, Peter, and many others had to do this on numerous occasions.

Submission, as a discipline, is closely related to meekness or gentleness and is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23). Consider the following scenario: you are driving down the road and a jerk cuts in front of you and then slows down. What do you do? You can either yield to the Spirit or the flesh. The flesh wants to tailgate or yell. The spirit wants to show patience and gentleness. How we respond will be an indicator of how close our relationship with God truly is.

Does this mean that submission is the same thing as being a "doormat" for others to step on or take advantage of you? I don't think so. Jesus' life demonstrates one that was in complete submission to God yet did not allow the religious leaders to "walk on" him. He did allow them to put Him to death at the appointed time, but that was once again due to His submission to the Father's will for His life. Jesus' acceptance of the cross was a free will decision of love for us and His Father, which is the perfect example of submission.



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ



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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
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For transportation call 546-0001.

Church Happenings

Christ United Methodist Church

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Carnival is Saturday, April 7, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. Christ United Methodist Church is located at 7535 Maynardville Hwy. 865-922-1412.

City View Baptist

City View Baptist Church located at 2311 Fine Avenue will be hosting their Annual Children's Easter Party on Saturday, April 7 at 10am. Registration will begin at 9:50am. There will be Easter Egg Hunts with prizes, and a hot dog lunch will be served at noon. This is a free event.

Colonial Heights UMC.

Maundy Thursday - The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin phrase mandatum novum which means "new commandment." Our focus is on Jesus' last night with his disciples as he washes the disciples' feet and institutes the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. On his knees, Jesus demonstrates what it means to love one another and calls us to do the same. Thursday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m. Special music provided by David Schoeni, cello.

SKES Easter Egg Hunt - We offer a witness of God's love and care to children in the South Knoxville community. Volunteers are needed. The event is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at South Knoxville Elementary School. Saturday, April 7. Contact Jay and Megan Zartman at 323-2998.

Easter Sunrise - Come welcome the rising Son! Sunday, April 8, at 7:00 a.m. The service will be held in the pavilion, weather permitting. The youth will lead us. Breakfast follows in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Celebration! - We'll erupt in "Alleluia's" as we share in the most extraordinary and transformative news, "Christ is

risen!" One combined service at 10:30 a.m.

Faith United Methodist Church

Faith UMC will have an Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. on Sunday, April 8, 2012. Everyone is welcome. The regular service is at 11 a.m., featuring an Easter Cantata

The Young at Heart at Faith UMC meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. - noon. An exciting meeting is coming up on April 3rd: Rebecca Lane of Elmcroft Assisted Living in Halls will be talking about Senior Care Planning and Levels of Care. A potluck luncheon will follow the speaker. Everyone is welcome. Faith UMC is located at 1120 Dry Gap Pike. For more information visit www.faithseekers.org, email info@faithseekers.org and or call 865-688-1000.

Fountain City Presbyterian Church

Fountain City Presbyterian Church, located at 500 Hotel Road in Fountain City, announces their Easter Celebration Schedule. A Holy Week Prayer Service is planned for Wednesday, April 4, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Service, on April 6, will begin at 7:30 p.m. On Easter Sunday, The Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Worship Services will begin at 8:55 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

KFL Outreach Ministry Presents

The Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon (KFL) will meet April 3, 2012 at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway, at noon. Michael Hargaus will be the guest speaker. You may view his complete Bio at <http://kfl-luncheon.com>.

Mountain View Baptist Church

Mountain View Baptist

Church invites everyone to attend the Children's Program "He's Alive!" on Easter Sunday, April 8 at 11:00 a.m. Mountain View Baptist Church is located at 2974 Cecil Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917. For more information, call the church office at 525-4192.

Seymour First Baptist Church

Rummage Sale for Missions is scheduled for Saturday, April 21. The church is currently collecting donated items for the sale. To schedule pick up or delivery of items small and large, please call the church office at 577-1954.

Shepherd of the Hills Baptist Church

Shepherd of the Hills Baptist Church, 400 East Beaver Creek Drive, will be hosting the "The World's Greatest Easter Egg Hunt." Door prizes will be given away. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 7 at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. Preschoolers, Children and their families are invited.

South Knoxville Church of God

The South Knoxville Church of God will have a community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7, beginning at 11 a.m. There will be treats and fun for all who attend. Bring your children and join us for this Easter Eggstravaganza!

Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m., followed by Morning Praise and Worship service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening service is at 6 p.m. Our Adult Bible study is on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall, with light refreshments available during this service.

The South Knoxville Church of God is located approximately 1 mile off Chapman Highway at 5623 Magazine Road. For further information, please call 573-4141.

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Corner of Hill Road and Fort Sumter Road

Larry Woods, Minister • 922-4210 • www.hallschristian.net

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

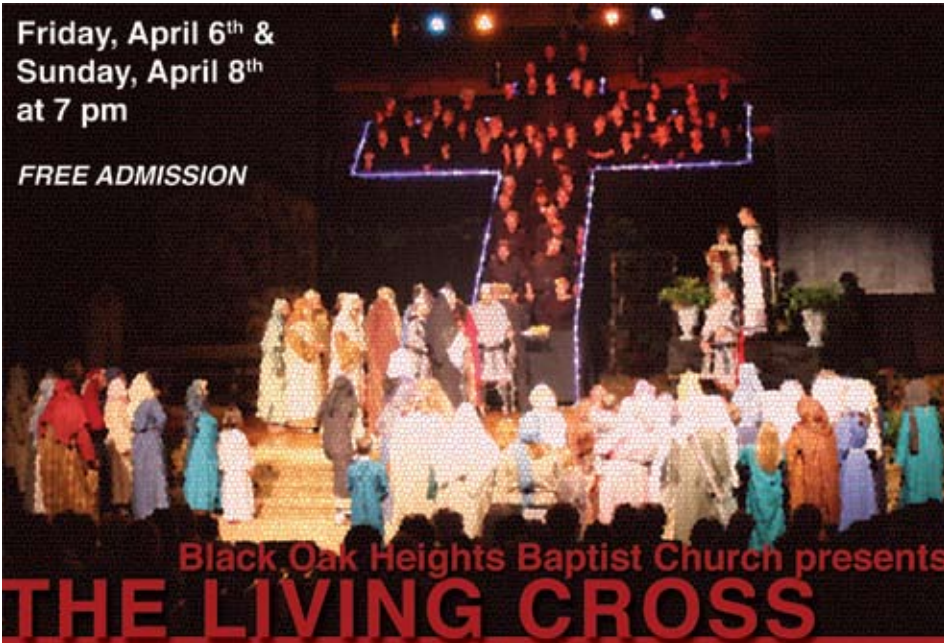
Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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Two Items Of Interest

DEATH OF A CHURCH: There is an interesting story concerning a small-town church and its new pastor. I don't know whether the story is true or if it is a parable, but consider its lesson. The author of this story is unknown.

A new pastor came to town and spent the first few long days calling on the inactive membership, one by one, family by family, begging them to come to his first service. Sadly, all his effort was in vain. None of them showed up on Sunday morning. On Monday morning, he placed a prominent notice in the local newspaper. The notice proclaimed that the church was dead, and, because of that, it was his duty as a pastor to give it a decent Christian burial.

The funeral was announced to be held the following Sunday afternoon. Morbidly curious, of course, the whole town turned out. Inside the church was a large coffin, prominently placed high in front of the pulpit, smothered with flowers. Everyone was seated, and anticipation was in the air. The service began. The pastor said an opening prayer, led in a quiet hymn, then solemnly read the church's obituary and delivered a touching and eloquent eulogy. He then invited the congregation to step forward and pay their final respects to the dearly beloved who had departed. Everyone got up from their seats and formed a line, which slowly filed by the casket. Each mourner peeped inside and then turned away in shock, with a guilty, sheepish look, some in tears.

Inside the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror where each one saw their own reflection!

TWO TRAVELING ANGELS:

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night at the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room.

Instead the angels were given a small space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "things are not always what they seem."

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, they let the angels sleep in their bed where they would have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field. The youngest angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how could you have let this happen? The first man had everything yet you helped him, he accused. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die.

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I repaired the wall so he wouldn't find it. Last night as we slept in the farmer's bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead. Things aren't always what they seem"

Sometimes that is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way they should. Two simple stories to remind us to have faith that God will make sure the end is to our advantage.

Thought for the day: The will of God will never take you to where the grace of God will not protect you.

Send coments to: rosemerrie@att.net or call 865-748-4717. Thank you.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

More on toys

Antique and collectible toys will always be a front runner in the market



By Carl Sloan

Star Wars came out in the 1970s and purchased their sanctioned action figures in bulk and kept them in their packages, you could have reaped a fortune today. I'm not talking hundreds but thousands of dollars for some single items.

Today many items that are sold as "collectibles" are either flat as a flitter or can be worth investing in and the difference can be as thin as a razor here. Movie collectibles are now good in many areas but the trick is to ask if this is a toy that could be more valuable in the future only if not opened? Now think about that. A toy not to be opened or played with? Yes that's right and many companies now market toys that are never meant to be played with but collected and kept unopened. There is no guarantee here that these collectibles will be valuable in the future; this is simply a marketing technique so be careful here.

Now let's move on to what the big collectors tend to look for in toys and why. The big push nowadays are toys from the 1920s to the 1960s and mainly those from companies like Marx, J. Chinn, Ertl, Buddy L, Tonka,

place, especially now that the movie industry makes huge profits on after market sales of items and collectibles from feature films. Had you simply gone to your local department store after



Greg Lawson, owner of Fountain City Auction, features a large Army tank with three figures as part of his large toy sale beginning at noon April 14. The public is invited

Wyandot, Hubley, European, Japanese and others. Pressed steel cars and trucks and old tin toy wind-up toys are very hot as well as metal lunch boxes with metal thermoses, 1960s Barbies and GI Joes, mechanical toys, 1930s - 50s cap guns, Victorian porcelain dolls, unopened toy sets, early electronic toys in fine condition, vintage die cast farm equipment, movie memorabilia such as Hop-Along Cassidy, Roy Rogers and Shirley Temple dolls, as well as pedal cars and other items that we baby boomers all played with and remember. Fellow boomers are still in the markets with jobs and income and thusly are able to collect items from

our past. The bottom line here is this: If it's in your attic or basement and 30-40 years old, it's very probable it's what the market is interested in today.

You also may get a great education on this subject by visiting Fountain City Auction Company at Auctionzip.com > 37912. On April 14, the toy sale starts at noon or you can view the sale that is up now on the internet by visiting Proxibid.com and search the sale. Here you can purchase items online or better attend this live event of over 4,000 toys being offered on this day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AARP April Driver Safety Classes

For registration information about these and all other AARP Driver Safety Classes, please call Carolyn Rambo 584-9964.

4/10 9 to 5 Buckingham Clubhouse, 801 Vanosdale Road, Knoxville

4/20 9 to 5 West Park Baptist Church, 8833 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville

Autism Awareness Day

Join Rock Paper Scissors Salon on Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. for Autism Awareness Day. Throughout the day the Salon will have food, snacks, drinks and door prizes. Drawings every hour! If you can't make it in mail in your business card to be entered in the drawing. The

ladies at Rock Paper Scissors hope you can join them and look forward to meeting you! Salon Address: 7419 Chapman Highway. Mail business cards to: Tracy, 7419 Chapman Highway, Knoxville, Tn 37920.

Civil War Talk

On Tuesday, April 10, 2012, the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable will host professor and author Thomas Flagel as its speaker. At 8:00 p.m. Mr. Flagel will speak on the topic: "Messengers of Death: How the Press Reported the Civil War." The talk is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and will be at the Bearden Banquet Hall at 5806 Kingston Pike (next to Buddy's BBQ and .2 mile east of the intersection of Kingston Pike and

Northshore Dr.) To attend the talk only is \$5.00. Alternatively, you can come at 7:00 p.m. and enjoy a delicious buffet dinner which is \$15.00 for members and \$17.00 for non-members. To make dinner reservations, please call (865) 671-9001 by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 9. We look forward to seeing you there!

Halls Community Prayer Breakfast

The Halls Business & Professional Association is pleased to announce the annual Halls Community Prayer Breakfast on Friday, April 6, 7:30 a.m., at Beaver Dam Baptist Church. The guest speaker is Robin Wilhoit, WBIR-TV news anchor. The breakfast will be catered by Shoney's. Please join us for this popular event.

Advance tickets are only \$10 and are available at the Shopper News offices on Doris Circle, the UPS Store in Halls, or by contacting Sue Walker at 925-9200. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Listening Hearts

Listening Hearts, A Gathering of Bereaved Moms - will meet 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, in the conference room of the Eye Institute (formerly Baptist Eye Institute), 2020 Kay Street, Knoxville, TN 37920.

Upcoming Programs of the South Doyle Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Tuesday, April 3: Guest speaker from ToastMasters, topic: "Paper Clutter" by Karen Sprinkle with Organizing It: Data, Time & Space. www.organizeltHome.com
Tuesday, May 1: Guest Speaker Seymour Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Kevin Nunn.

Tuesday, June 5: Program from Metropolitan Drug Commission: How to recognize drug abuse, drug houses and help and resources for families and neighborhoods
The Neighborhood Association meets on these dates at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Stock Creek Baptist Church.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization - Technical Committee Meeting, April 10, 2012.

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 10, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Topics to be considered: Amendment to the 2010-2014 TIP (Halls/Crossroads intersection), Consideration of the TPO Outreach Plan, Review of Elements of the Long Range Mobility Plan Update, Review of New Urbanized Area Boundaries, Review of Draft ITS Plan, Consideration of Bylaw Changes; and other business.

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

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1 box Pillsbury pie crust
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1/2 cup chopped pecans
1/4 stick margarine (melted)
1/4 cup flour
3/4 cup brown sugar (packed)

In saucepan, bring sweet potatoes to a boil, Drain and whip. Add coconut, pineapple, egg and condensed milk. Mix well. Place into an unbaked pie crust. For crunchy topping, mix brown sugar, flour, butter and pecans. Mix well and sprinkle over top of pie. Bake at 300 degrees for 20 minutes. Remove from oven. Using cookie cutter and second crust, cut out designs, place around edge of pie. Return to oven for an additional 10 minutes or until golden brown.

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1 Knoxville in bloom

April 2

2012 Dogwood Edition | The Knoxville Focus

Venable to speak at annual Marble Springs Storytelling Festival

Marble Springs State Historic Site, in conjunction with the Smoky Mountain Storytellers Association, will host the 3rd annual Marble Springs Storytelling Festival on Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. This Dogwood Arts Festival event will feature professional storytellers presenting stories based on humor, history, stories for and by children, Native American stories, Appalachian & Smoky Mountain Tales, just to name a few! In the evening, gather around the Bonfire for slightly scary ghost stories at 6:00 p.m. and seriously scary stories (for the brave!) at 7:00 p.m. There will be an additional set of severely scary stories at 7:00 p.m. in the Tavern

for visitors 18 and older.

This year, the Festival is proud to welcome special guest Sam Venable, Author, and featured storytellers: Ruthie McIntyre and Owen Duncan.

Fee: \$5 adults, \$3 students, Children 6 & under are FREE. Festival seating – bring your blankets & chairs. Free parking.

Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Make your group reservations prior to April 4 by contacting 865-429-1783 or cuznjan@juno.com

All activities take place at the Marble Springs State Historic Site: 1220 West Governor John Sevier Highway, Knoxville, TN 37920.

Marble Springs is operated by the Gov. John Sevier Memorial

Association (GJSMA), a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the memory of John Sevier and his way of life. Memberships are available for anyone interested in GJSMA. Funds raised assist GJSMA in providing affordable educational programming and preservation of the historic site.

For further information about the John Sevier Memorial Association, please call: (865) 573-5508 or Email: marblesprings@gmail.com

John Sevier was born on Sept 23, 1745. He became Tennessee's first governor in 1796. John Sevier obtained the property in the late 1780s. Marble Springs was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

Plant Sale to benefit UT Gardens

Spring is in the air, and now is the time to shop for some unique and cutting-edge plants for your garden as well as rain barrels, garden art, and outdoor ornaments.

The University of Tennessee Gardens is holding its spring plant sale on Saturday, April 7, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A preview sale will be held on Friday, April 6, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. for all UT employees, Gardens volunteers, and Friends of the UT Gardens. Friends will also receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases.

If you are not yet a Friend of the Gardens, you will be able to sign up for a membership at the preview sale and receive the member discount on plants.

UT Gardens experts will be on hand to offer gardening advice at the plant sale.

The UT Gardens are located on the campus of the UT Institute of Agriculture on Neyland Drive. For a map or for more information about the Friends of the Gardens organization, visit the UT Gardens' website: <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/>

Legend of the Dogwood

As a child I heard this tale, Long ago during the days that Jesus was here on earth in the form of man there were many dogwood trees. The dogwood was comparable in size to the oak tree and other monarchs of the forest.

Because of its firmness and strength it was selected as the timber for the cross, but to be put to such a cruel use greatly distressed the tree.

Sensing this, the crucified Jesus in his gentle pity for the sorrow and suffering of all said to it: "Because of your sorrow and pity for My sufferings, never again will the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth it will be slender, bent and twisted and its blossoms will be in the form of a cross two long and two short petals.

"In the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints brown with rust and stained with red and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see this will remember." ~ Author Unknown

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NEXUS: 2012



John Cichon's "Ze Monsta"

The Dogwood Arts Festival's newest feature exhibit, Nexus, was developed to showcase artists working in the field of contemporary sculpture. Small indoor sculptures encompassing all styles and genres from emerging and established artists will be selected for exhibition.

This year, Nexus has been juried by sculptor

and curator, Allen Peterson, presently at SCAD-Atlanta.

Please join the Gallery

for the First Friday festivities April 6. All events are free and open to the public.

EXHIBITION DATES

April 2 - April 14, 2012

RECEPTION

Friday, April 6, 2012

5-9 p.m.

Award Ceremony: 6:30 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS

Wed - Fri 11-6 p.m.

Sat 10-3 p.m.

For additional information on this exhibition, please visit <http://web.utk.edu/~downtown>.

The Gallery is located at 106 S. Gay Street.

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2012 Dogwood Arts Limited Edition Print 'Scenic Road' available for purchase

Andrew Saftel has been chosen as the artist for 2012 Dogwood Arts Limited Edition Print for his painting, "Scenic Road."

Born in Massachusetts, and receiving his B.F.A. from San Francisco Institute of Art, Andrew's interest in art began after working to publish editions of prints and sculptures at a printmaking workshop in San Francisco. He moved to Knoxville in 1985 and immediately felt inspired by the landscape and folk artists represented at the Museum of Appalachia in Norris, and specifically with Besie Harvey, Homer Green, and Howard Finster.

Influenced by local Knoxville-ians: Ted Saupe, Richard Jolley, Tommie Rush, Marcia Goldenstein, Tom Reising, and David Wilson, he started working day and night in his studio at the corner of Broadway and Central. After several years, Andrew built



Andrew Saftel's painting, "Scenic Road."

a large studio in one of the warehouse buildings on Jackson Street, where he worked for three more years before moving to his

present location in the Sequatchie Valley, where he continues to work.

"Scenic Road" was a re-

sult of a 2010 commission piece that focused on Tennessee and many old documents, photographs, and postcards pertaining

to the state's history, commerce, agriculture, and culture.

There are many com-

ponents of the painting, "Scenic Road," which can be pinpointed to specific fields of thought. He used a postcard that someone wrote from Tennessee describing a trip to the Smoky Mountains. The postmark in the middle of the painting connotes an exact moment: May 16, 1951 at 9:00 a.m. On the top left of the painting it says Newfound Gap and below that it says "Scenic Road" and "Mama said lets go home" – all taken from projected images of the actual postcard. On the top right corner of the painting is the Two Cent postage stamp. The old house in the painting is a house on the property adjacent to Andrew's in the Sequatchie Valley.

Andrew feels "Scenic Road" references an exact moment in time that is long lost and the words and feelings that someone had when visiting Tennes-

Continue on E6

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Unseasonable temperatures bring early blooms

Here it is April, the time we look forward to, Dogwood Arts Festival Time--the time when the dogwood trails open and the open gardens!!!



By Mike Cruze,
Master Gardener

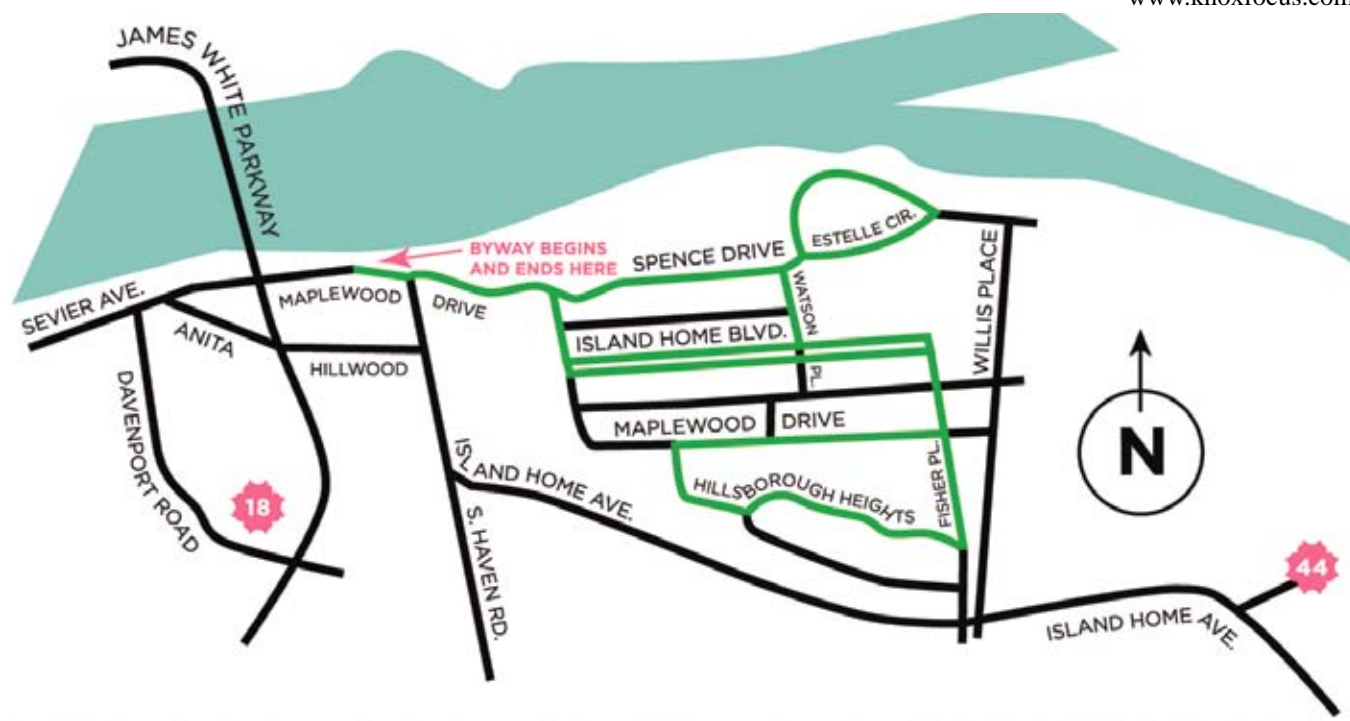
What a glorious, splendid time of year! But wait a minute. With the mild winter season, spring and Dogwood blooms came much earlier! The dogwoods have bloomed and are on the down swing as April opens and

the Festival officially opens on April 11 this year. Even though the dogwoods have bloomed, the dogwood trails will still be beautiful as East Tennessee is beautiful and there will be other things blooming. With everything blooming earlier than its normally anticipated time, we may expect to see the rhododendrons, mountain laurels and things such as that blooming in April rather than May.

With the Festival, however, there are so many other things to enjoy and do that the dogwood blooms certainly won't be missed that much! You can go to dogwoodarts.com for a complete list of events. These are some of the events but not a comprehensive list: April 11-30 Dogwood Trails, Open Gardens and Camera Sites; April 13-15 Market Square Art Fair; April 20-22 Rhythm N' Blooms and there are many more.

Speaking of dogwoods and the other beautiful blooming flowers, shrubs and trees at this time, let's just take a look at some of those and also some of the new hybrids that are available.

Be certain when you are looking to buy a new dogwood tree for planting to specifically plant the disease-resistant dogwoods, the Appalachian series. The



ISLAND HOME GARDEN BYWAY

BYWAY BEGINS AND ENDS AT ISLAND HOME AVE. AND MAPLEWOOD DRIVE

dogwoods in the southeast have been on the decline in recent years. This has been attributed to many factors. Diseases such as dogwood anthracnose and powdery mildew have taken a toll. Also the dogwood borer insects have been partially to blame. Thanks to research at the University of Tennessee, disease-resistant dogwoods are available. The Appalachian Series developed by Dr. Mark Windham and others offers powdery mildew and dogwood anthracnose resistance among the different selections.

We also love our redbud trees which, for the most part, bloom simultaneously with the dogwoods (generally in April but as we see this year, in March). The redbud has flowers that bloom not only on the ends of the branches but are all throughout their lengths. The flowers are only about 1/2 inch long and will be pinkish to purple. There are some interesting and showy hybrids of

the redbud tree that people select as ornamentals for their yards. One is the Forest Pansy, a redbud cultivar with brilliant burgundy blooms and purplish-red leaves on one side. Another is the Royal White, which features white flowers. The Silver Cloud hybrid redbud, despite not having a large number of flowers, possesses variegated foliage. A special note of interest is the Merlot redbud. The Merlot redbud has Merlot-colored leaves and is much more drought- and heat-tolerant than eastern redbud trees and has appealing shiny wine-red foliage that laugh at heat. At 12' x 15' Merlot is the perfect tree for small yards. Mature trees flower heavily with strong, bright magenta-pink flowers on bare branches. These flowers are attractive to bees, butterflies and nectar-loving birds.

Whatever cultivar you choose to plant, just know that when it blooms in spring (whether early in the month

of March or at the anticipated general blooming time in April), you will have a showy, beautiful yard! Whatever you do, get out and enjoy the beauty of the season and enjoy all the events of the Dogwood Arts Festival!

Also, HAPPY EASTER!!!

"Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;

Death is strong, but Life is stronger'

Stronger than the dark, the light;

Stronger than the wrong, the right..."
Phillips Brooks, "An Easter Carol"

"After all, I don't see why I am always asking for private, individual, selfish miracles when every year there are miracles like white dogwood." Anne Lindbergh

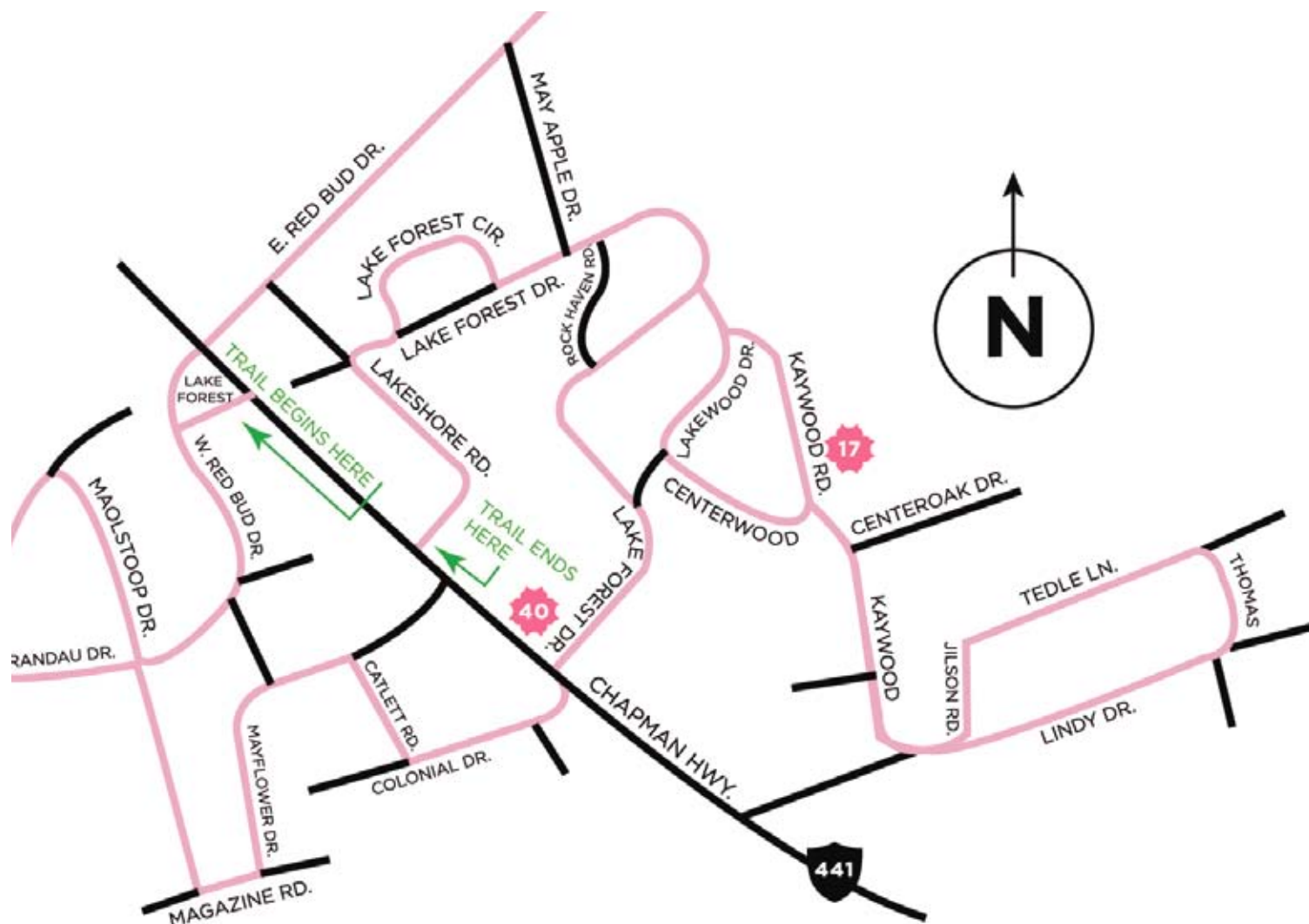
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CHAPMAN HIGHWAY DOGWOOD TRAIL

TRAIL BEGINS AT 5507 CHAPMAN HIGHWAY

* Note that the bloom graphic on the maps denote Featured Open Gardens as detailed on Page 8



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Dogwood Print 'Scenic Road' available for purchase

Continued from E3

see. It also references a method of communication, real and handwritten, that is quickly disappearing. As for the little house, it lay dormant and decaying for years, but has recently been lovingly restored by new owners — a symbol of hope.

Andrew says, "This painting encompasses themes that I have been interested in for many years: how people move through time together; how they interact and communicate with each other; how important

the hand written word is; how handwriting communicates more than what is being said; what is lost between humans as time moves on; what replaces older methods and materials in our modern world; and how people find hope in different ways in the face of a complicated world. As an artist I am interested in conveying, through the work I do, my observations and feelings about what I see around me. I am interested in how and what other people are communicating to each other."

Collected by many galleries and institutions, he

is also collected by many individuals, including: Rick and Jeannie Bennett, Kreis and Sandy Beall, Earl and Margit Worsham, Ashley Capps and Birgit Clark, Bob and Marie Alcorn, Ron Watkins, Nell and Roger Sampson, David Butler and Ted Smith, Susan and Sam McCamy, Governor Bill and Crissy Haslam, Ann and Steve Bailey, and Brad and Dina Martin.

"I am proud to be affiliated with the Dogwood Arts Festival this year, which has a long history of bringing the arts to East Tennessee," says Andrew. He goes on to

say, "So much about our region and its history has provided me with content and imagery for my work through the years and I still find East Tennessee fascinating and inspiring every day. Although my work references global, human, environmental, and historical themes, I consider myself an East Tennessee artist, since this is where I grew up as an artist and will always continue to work."

Andrew's more than 40 solo exhibitions and numerous public commissioned pieces, and have taken place in Tennessee, Massachusetts, Califor-

nia, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Colorado, and Montana.

A limited number of "Scenic Road" prints are available at \$100 each. Dogwood Arts will be taking pre-orders via dogwoodarts.com or by calling [865] 637.4561. The original artwork will be available for purchase at Bennett Galleries for



Andrew Saftel

\$5,000 during the month of April.



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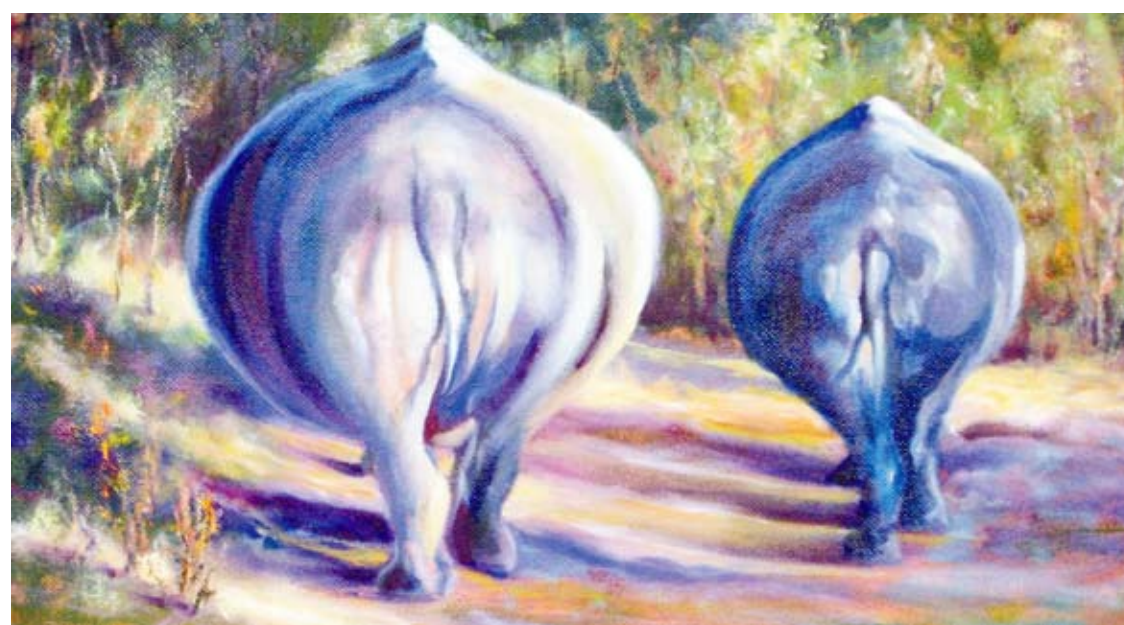
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Fountain City Art Center: Mystery Painting!



Mystery Oil Painting by Sarah Weber

By Sylvia Williams

On Friday, March 30, the Art Center held the opening reception and awards ceremony for the Annual Fountain City Art Guild's Spring Show and Sale. The oil painting which won "Best of Show" is entitled "Walk this Way," picturing two animals walking away from the viewer. The artist is Sarah Weber, especially known for her colorful and well rendered paintings of exotic animals. The judge, Harriet Howell, absolutely loved the painting, but most of the guesses about the type of animals in the painting have been wrong! We did a little experiment and found that only 10% of the public guessed correctly. Will you guess correctly? The answer will be at the end of this

article!

Other awards are: First Place, "Cathedral," Roy McCullough, oils; Second Place: "Childhood Dreams," Marty McConnaughey, oils; Third Place, "Coneflower," Fay Picquet, watercolor; Honorable Mentions: "Deja View," Doris Prichard, watercolor; "Le Pont au Passe," Penny Berridge, oils; "Perspective," Rob White, watercolor; "Please to Meet You," Debbie Hathaway, pastels. The show will be on view through April 29, including the Dogwood Arts Studio DeTours, April 28 and 29. Halls area schools artwork is also on display in "Student Exhibits."

Reservations for the 9th Annual Garden Party Luncheon and Auction Benefit in Baxter

Gardens, as featured in March's Southern Living, are now available at the Art Center for \$35 per person. This year's party will be on Saturday, May 12.

Check with us to find out about all the new classes this spring and summer, including children's art! We are in the old library building next to Fountain City Park at 213 Hotel Ave. Email: fcartcenter@knology.net; phone: 865.357.ARTS. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9-5; Wednesday, Friday 10-5; 2nd and 3rd Saturdays, 9-1.

See our new video on the website: www.fountaincityartctr.com, or on our Facebook pages!

The answer to the mystery: The two animals are hippos!!

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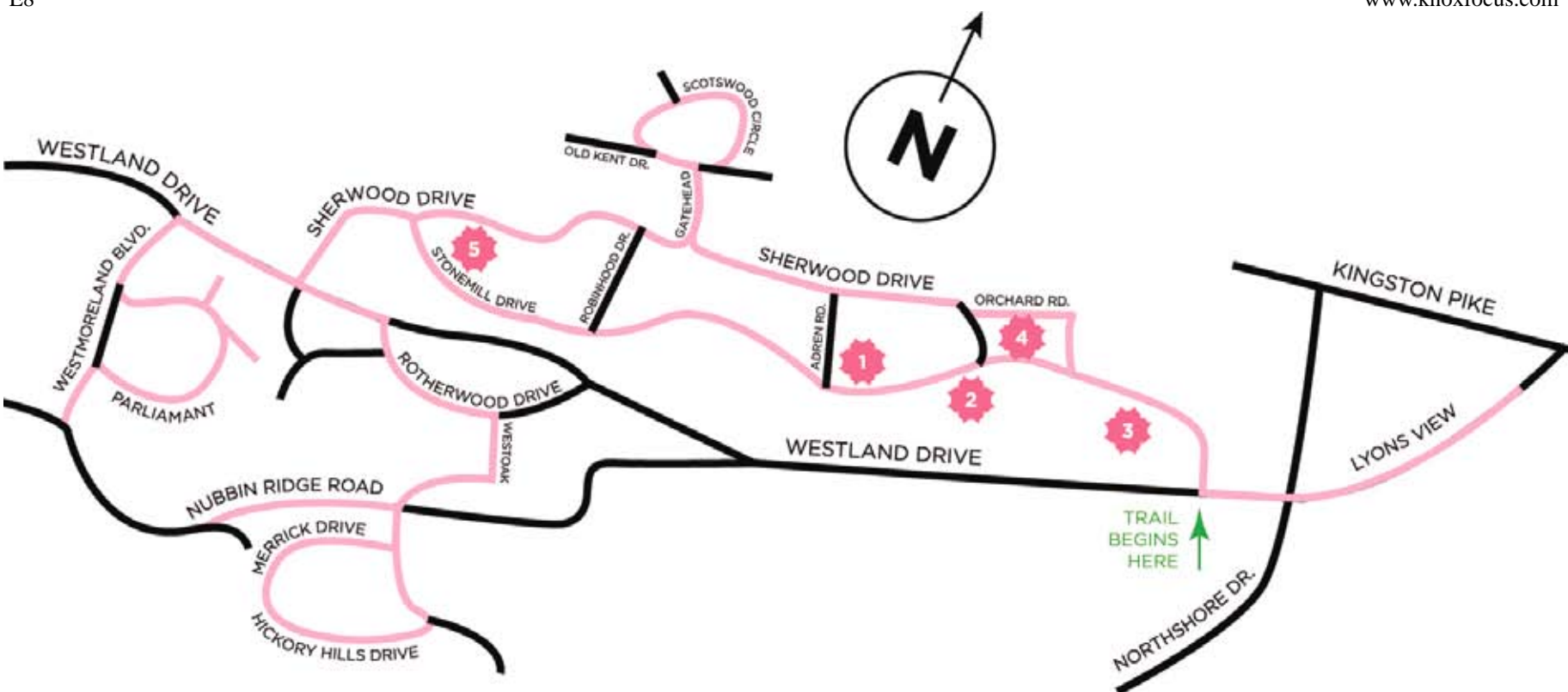
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WESTMORELAND

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FEATURED OPEN GARDENS in this week's issue:

Westmoreland

Past broad Northshore Drive and willow-bordered Fourth Creek, the entrance to Westmoreland is marked by colorful plantings and a rustic waterwheel. The Westmoreland Dogwood Trail ends at the junction of Lyons View Drive and Kingston Pike.

In Westmoreland, open stretches of smooth lawns and bright gardens alternate with deeply wooded area carpeted with mayapples and violets. From homes along Sherwood Drive's highest elevation, the Cumberland Mountains are

dimly visible toward the west.

Featured Garden

1. Peter & Chris Chilian
808 Arden, 37919

Camera Sites

2. Jonathan & Betsy Johnson (beautiful water feature)
6507 Sherwood Drive, 37919
3. Mike & Dena Morton (lovely plantings)
6416 Sherwood Drive, 37919
4. Jack & Joyce Tapscott (wonderful mature, two-color dogwood)
6504 Orchard Drive, 37919

Open Garden

5. John Law
7107 Stonemill, 37919

Chapman Highway

Residential Open Garden

17. Rick Hill
6014 Kaywood Drive, 37920 (Lake Forest)

Commercial Camera Site

40. Dogwood Animal Hospital
5900 Chapman Highway, 37921

Island Home Garden Byway

Residential Open Garden

18. Monte and Anne Whitney Stanley
3029 Davenport Road, 37920
Driveway north of Stanley's Greenhouses

Public Garden

44. Ijams Nature Center (natural plantings)
2915 Island Home Avenue, 37920
Hours: Daylight