

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Burchett Takes Message To The People

Mayor Opposes Tax Increase

By Focus Staff

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett's recording an automated message to voters caused a stir or a stink, depending upon one's point of view. Burchett's robo-call mentioned the budget request of Superintendent James McIntyre, which will necessitate a 35 cent increase in the property tax if adopted by the Knox County Commission. The result was successful if the volume of calls coming into the Commission office and to Commissioners was any measure. It was pretty easy to tell folks were not happy.

Burchett's automated calls began hitting residences as County Commissioners and members of the Board of Education settled into their chairs at Calhoun's On the River for a joint meeting. Commissioners and Board members listened as the Chairs of the two

bodies unveiled yet another budget proposal. Mike Hammond, Chairman of the Knox County Commission, and Thomas Deakins, the Chair of the Knox County Board of Education, regaled their colleagues with a proposal that would give the schools thirty-one cents in new tax revenue, instead of the thirty-five cents sought originally by McIntyre. The Hammond – Deakins proposal is a hybrid tax proposal, involving an increase in both the property tax rate and the local sales tax rate.

The new proposal suggested by Mike Hammond and Thomas Deakins caused Mike McMillan, East Knox County's representative on the Board of Education, to shake his head and gasp, "That's worse than anything proposed so far! It's the worst of both worlds."

Independent polls conducted for *The Focus* show an overwhelming

majority of the people of Knoxville and Knox County are opposed to a local tax increase of any kind. The number of citizens opposed to increasing the sales tax, already one of the highest in the nation, surprised even *Focus* publisher Steve Hunley who commented, "Rarely have I ever seen a poll on a public question that was nearly unanimous."

Still, Superintendent McIntyre and his allies have doggedly persisted in trying to sell his ambitious program. Terming it an "investment," the Superintendent and members of the Board of Education have tried to minimize the proposed tax increase by pointing out it would amount to pennies per day, while failing to mention that the reality is that the funds would not be collected daily, but through



Knox County Mayor
Tim Burchett

higher mortgage and rent payments. McIntyre and his supporters have had remarkably smooth sailing except for the last few months, enjoying the public support of the daily paper, television stations, and a week-long appearance with his staff on the Hal-lerin Hill radio show that was little more

than an extended infomercial.

Yet as Hammond and Deakins made their presentation, Mayor Burchett's pre-recorded voice was heard in homes all across Knox County and the people responded in the hundreds. The Commission office's telephones virtually crashed, with the line staying busy for literally hours on end, exasperating the staff. The flood of telephone calls washed over the Commissioners themselves and more

Continue on page 3

FOCUS Weekly Poll*

The current Knox County property tax rate is \$2.36 per \$100.00 of assessed property value. Knox County Schools Superintendent James McIntyre has requested 35 million dollars in new revenue for the school system. This would require an additional 35 cents or 14.83% increase in property taxes.

Do you support this proposed property tax increase?

SUPPORT 26.38%
OPPOSE 73.62%

Survey conducted
May 24, 2012.

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

Remembering Earl Dunn, a World War II Veteran

By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

She lingered for a moment after filing her chart in the cabinet. I was glad she did. Our small talk turned serious as Virginia began sharing with me about the day her husband, Earl, had a heart attack. I was captivated by each detail of their story. She was in another part of the city that day at a meeting. He was driving in the Fountain City area when he was stricken by the heart attack. Earl drove his car into a curb and passed out. A gentleman following him noticed the letters on the license plate: WWII. "He paid a price for me," the gentleman said to himself as he stopped to help. Fortunately, Earl had his heart attack in the vicinity of the Fountain City Firehouse, and they also came to help this WWII veteran. My family and I had grown accustomed to seeing that WWII license plate each time we pulled into the parking lot of the cardiac rehab facility.

Earl Dunn's life was saved that day by a total

stranger—a stranger who knew the sacrifices Earl and others had made for the freedoms all Americans enjoy. As an eighteen-year-old high school graduate, Earl wanted to join the Navy. But, as the names of every other one was called, Earl's name was skipped. When his plans did not work out to join the Navy, Earl joined the Army. The Army sent him to Texas for training. When he arrived at the base, Earl received word that he had been accepted in the paratroopers. The Army then put him back on the train to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he trained as a paratrooper. While in the 82nd Airborne, Earl made a total of thirteen jumps. The last jump was made for a man who could not make the jump himself; so, Earl made it for him. At war's end, Earl had become a sergeant, and his unit was invited to march down Fifth Avenue in New York City's Victory Parade. Earl's unit had to sew patches on their uniforms of another unit that they would



A 1945 picture of Earl in his paratrooper gear just before a jump

be joining in the march. Virginia said that Earl always remembered getting to march in the parade.

After his military service, Earl graduated from The University of Tennessee with

a degree in Engineering Physics. His military career was not quite long enough for the GI Bill to cover all expenses.

Earl had to pay for the last quarter of school himself. But,

he was determined to complete his education. After graduation, he applied for a job in Oak Ridge, but there was no opening. For the next year, Earl worked in Dahlgren

Cont. on page 2

McMillan Questions Disciplinary Policy

By Focus Staff

Mike McMillan, East Knox County's member of the Knox County Board of Education, says he is considering asking his colleagues to review the existing policies on discipline.

"I've seen several instances where students have been suspended, ostensibly for fighting, but in some cases students who have been defending themselves against bullies have been treated as if they started the fracas.

"I think there needs to be some differentiation in determining these policies," McMillan said. "If a student is defending himself or herself, I don't see that as quite the same as starting a fight."

McMillan said he had been contacted by several parents recently and looked into each case individually and after speaking to Superintendent Jim McIntyre discovered there doesn't appear to be a uniform policy, but rather the principal of each school makes the final determination.

"I don't oppose the notion of giving the principal the power to make such determinations," McMillan stated, "but I do think a policy of simply suspending every student for fighting without attempting to find out the circumstances is a bit much."

"For instance, if a student is attacked by another student and strikes a blow to keep himself or herself from having the stuffing beaten out of himself or herself, that student is suspended, oftentimes for the same period of time as the attacker and that's just wrong," McMillan said.

McMillan said an official policy may not have to be adopted, but he will continue to discuss the issue with colleagues and the Superintendent to press for a "more logical and fair way" of dealing with students who are merely trying to defend themselves.

"Occasionally we need to use some common sense in sorting these things out," McMillan said.

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FOCUS Weekly Poll

Survey taken March 20, 2012

The current Knox County property tax rate is \$2.36 per \$100.00 of assessed property value. Knox County Schools superintendent James McIntyre has requested 35 million dollars in new revenue for the school system. This would require an additional 35 cents or 14.83% increase in property taxes.

Do you support this proposed property tax increase?

Support (25.95%)

Oppose (74.05%)

By Age	Support	Oppose
18-29	33.33%	66.67%
30-49	36.84%	63.16%
50-65	33.73%	66.27%
65+	18.75%	81.25%
Total	25.95%	74.05%

By Commission District	Support	Oppose
1	22.58%	77.42%
2	24.56%	75.44%
3	22.92%	77.08%
4	40.26%	59.74%
5	32.81%	67.19%
6	25.86%	74.14%
7	18.03%	81.97%
8	14.04%	85.96%
9	25.00%	75.00%
Total	25.95%	74.05%

By Gender	Support	Oppose
Unknown	27.27%	72.73%
Female	31.36%	68.64%
Male	20.58%	79.42%
Total	25.95%	74.05%

FOCUS Weekly Poll

Survey taken May 24, 2012

The current Knox County property tax rate is \$2.36 per \$100.00 of assessed property value. Knox County Schools superintendent James McIntyre has requested 35 million dollars in new revenue for the school system. This would require an additional 35 cents or 14.83% increase in property taxes.

Do you support this proposed property tax increase?

Support (26.38%)

Oppose (73.62%)

By Age	Support	Oppose
18-29	100.00%	[None]
30-49	32.31%	67.69%
50-65	30.22%	69.78%
65+	21.92%	78.08%
Total	26.38%	73.62%

By Commission District	Support	Oppose
1	21.88%	78.13%
2	20.69%	79.31%
3	17.02%	82.98%
4	48.10%	51.90%
5	33.33%	66.67%
6	37.29%	62.71%
7	17.19%	82.81%
8	16.67%	83.33%
9	10.20%	89.80%
Total	26.38%	73.62%

By Gender	Support	Oppose
Unknown	33.33%	66.67%
Female	28.98%	71.02%
Male	23.14%	76.86%
Total	26.38%	73.62%

Rotary Club awards outstanding teachers

The Rotary Club of Knoxville awarded its Outstanding Teacher of the Year awards to Linda Elmore of Karns Elementary and Matthew McCurry of Carter High School on Tuesday, May 22 at the Marriott.

Each winner received a check for \$500 and a \$250 gift certificate to A&W Office Supplies.

“This year the voting was very close among the top group of nominees,” says Bill Hurt, chair of the Rotary Club of Knoxville’s Education Recognition Committee. “The most rewarding part of our process was in reading what the teachers wrote about their own teaching philosophies and accomplishments. You get a sense of how dedicated and inspiring they are in the classroom.”

“We use four criteria to evaluate our nominees,” says Hurt. “First is education and professional development activities. Second is an example of excellence in the classroom. Third is school and community involvement, which fits into Rotary’s mission of service. And fourth is the future of Knoxville schools, specifically, what steps can be taken to advance the goals of the five-year plan.”

Linda Elmore is a fourth-grade teacher at Karns

Continue on page 4

Remembering Earl Dunn

Cont. from page 1

and served as the President of the Nicholas Gibbs Historical Society for many years. The Nicholas Gibbs homeplace is located in the Gibbs Community. At Knoxville High School, Earl played on the championship football team; so, it was not surprising that he became a dedicated Tennessee Football fan. He was even a season ticket holder for more than fifty years. Virginia remembers that they often took cardboard boxes to the game to put their feet in to keep them out of the snow, and they would have to scrape snow off the benches. In cardiac rehab, I often saw Earl wearing the Tennessee orange before upcoming games.

Not long after Virginia shared Earl’s amazing story with me, he was scheduled to go into the hospital for a heart procedure. Before leaving cardiac rehab one day, we talked about his Sunday School lesson for that week. This teacher already had it prepared. Earl was an ordained deacon and Sunday School teacher at Smithwood Baptist Church for forty-one years and later taught Sunday School at Arlington Baptist Church. His surgery went well, but complications later developed.

Earl passed away almost three years ago. One of his most cherished memories in recent years, Virginia told me, was the opportunity he had to visit the war memorial in Washington, D.C., with HonorAir Knoxville. She said he often encouraged other veterans to go on the trip sponsored by HonorAir, a program Eddie Mannis started to honor war veterans.

On this Memorial Day, may we remember all of the “Earls” who have served and are serving in our nation’s military. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude for everything that we as Americans have in this great country.

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Earl began a forty-one-year career at the Y-12 Weapons Plant where he worked with top security clearance until his retirement. Even now, Virginia is often reminded by those who worked with Earl that he was known for his perfectionism. They worked diligently to submit work with no errors, so Earl would not have to return it. Finally, they did. But, Earl still found one thing—they had forgotten to sign it. In those days, the employees were docked in pay if they could not get to work during inclement weather. Earl bought a jeep, thinking it would be the most reliable means of transportation. I saw his last Jeep Cherokee complete with the WWII license plate. Even after landing the job in Oak Ridge, Earl still made another trip to Texas. Virginia’s job had transferred her to the Lone Star State, so Earl flew out there to get married. Their wedding took place in a methodist church in El Paso.

“It was a miracle,” Virginia said of the circumstances surrounding Earl’s heart attack. Not only was it a miracle he survived, but it was a miracle there was help right behind him that day. For nearly two years in cardiac rehab, I was privileged to know this veteran who “paid a price” for all of us. He had a kind and quiet nature about him. Now, I look at the picture of this young paratrooper; and I see determination; perfection; and a love of Christ, country, and family. I learned that his aunt, Emma Dunn, had been my history teacher in high school. I was sure that I must have heard her speak of this nephew’s service to our country. Earl was a descendant of Nicholas Gibbs

Poll Finds Strong Opposition to Tax Increase Remains Solid

By Focus Staff

The Knoxville Focus polled just over 500 voters two months ago and asked the same question in this week’s poll: “Knox County schools Superintendent James McIntyre has requested \$35 million in new revenue for the school system. This would require an additional 35 cents or 14.83% increase in property taxes. Do you oppose or support the tax increase?”

Two months ago just over 74% of voters opposed a property tax increase. Every district in the city and county opposed increasing property taxes for the schools. After two months of intense campaigning on behalf of the tax increase by the Superintendent and his allies, the numbers remain virtually the same. There has been some movement in some of the districts with the Fourth District creeping towards supporting the tax increase. Two months ago, almost 60% of voters inside the Fourth District opposed the tax increase; now only approximately 52% oppose it. The Fourth District is one of the most affluent districts in Knoxville and Knox County and includes Sequoyah Hills. It is hardly surprising Superintendent McIntyre’s budget proposal would find favor inside the Fourth District as it is home to many employees of the University of Tennessee, as well as the business community elite.

In stark contrast, the least affluent communities in Knoxville, the First and Second Districts also showed some movement, although not in favor of McIntyre’s tax increase. The First, which is primarily home to Knoxville’s African-American community, registered over 78% opposition to increasing the property tax. Two months ago, 77% residents of the First District were opposed

to an increase in the property tax. Likewise voters in the Second District, which is largely a community of working class and retired folks, proved to be more solidly against increasing property taxes. Just over 79% of residents of the Second District are opposed to increasing property taxes, a jump from just over 75% two months ago.

The sales job done by McIntyre and his surrogates doesn’t seem to have worked in the Third District, which is comprised largely of folks inside the City of Knoxville, as are the First and Second Districts. Almost 83% of voters inside the Third District are opposed to increasing the property tax, a jump of nearly 5 points from two months ago when 77% of voters were opposed to increasing the property tax.

Opposition to increasing the property tax did drop, albeit very slightly, inside the Fifth District, which is centered around the Town of Farragut and points west. Two months ago, just over 67% of voters were opposed to increasing the property tax; currently just over 66% remain opposed to increasing the property tax. Opposition to the tax increase also dropped in the Sixth District, which is the northwestern part of Knox County, including the Powell and Karns communities. Roughly 63% of voters in the Sixth District are opposed to increasing the property tax, falling from just over 74% two months ago, a drop of quite nearly 8 points.

In the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Districts, the results were pretty much the same with one notable exception: the South Knoxville based Ninth District. Opposition to increasing the property tax was the overwhelming sentiment in both the Seventh and Eighth Districts, with the opposition rising slightly in the

Seventh and barely diminishing in the Eighth. The biggest movement in the entire poll occurred in South Knoxville where almost 90% of voters say they are opposed to increasing the property tax. Previously only 74% of South Knoxville residents had said they were opposed to McIntyre’s tax increase, but two months later the opposition in South Knoxville has grown to almost fully 90%.

The number of people polled on both occasions is almost identical; that holds true even inside each of the districts. Not a single member of the Knox County Commission can vote for the property tax increase and truthfully claim he or she is representing the majority will of his or her constituents.

Several well-heeled individuals and the Chamber of Commerce realize the sales campaign by Superintendent McIntyre and his allies has failed to convince Knox Countians of the need to raise taxes for schools. So they have hired virtually every PR firm in town and a barrage of TV commercials supporting a tax increase are expected to start airing shortly, if they haven’t already. The purpose of the television advertising campaign is to prop up Superintendent McIntyre and convince Commissioners the political fallout won’t be as severe as they fear.

According to these polls, the vast majority of Knoxville residents and Knox Countians remain solidly against increasing the property tax.

If you want to register your own opinion with your County Commissioner, you can reach your Commissioner through the County Commission office, 215-2534.

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Publisher's Position

A Stuck Pig Always Squeals



By Steve Hunley,
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When Mayor Tim Burchett launched a series of automated telephone calls to Knox Countians last week reminding voters the County Commission will be considering increasing local taxes, the reaction from supporters of Superintendent James McIntyre's request for 35 million new tax dollars was swift and curious.

The Superintendent's allies were clearly horrified the Mayor would take his case directly to the people. They were quick to

sputter their collective outrage. Commissioner Amy Broyles bellowed that the Mayor's actions might be illegal, a notion which Law Director Joe Jarret quickly struck down. Commissioner Mike Brown insinuated the Mayor had engaged in a bit of "dirty pool."

Just a couple of weeks ago, Commissioners were cheerfully and casually telling anyone who would listen their telephone calls and emails were running in support of McIntyre's budget and the tax increase. However, when Burchett's automated calls hit, the Commission office had so many calls that the telephone lines were busy for hours on end. This resulted in more than a few Commissioners seeming downright shocked and more than a little petulant.

McIntyre and his allies have been promoting his demand for 35 million new tax dollars — and the 35 cent property tax increase it would take to fund it — for two months. McIntyre has

had The Knoxville News-Sentinel chiming in at every opportunity and the school system has highlighted every endorsement up to and including the Chamber of Commerce and the business elite. The local news media has been very kind to McIntyre; he has rarely had to field a tough question by anyone in the mainstream media.

When Commissioners starting hearing from an unhappy public — the very people who will have to pay higher mortgage and rent payments to pay the freight for McIntyre's tax increase — they seemed astonished.

The notion that Mayor Burchett has done something wrong by appealing directly to the people he represents is as amusing as it is hypocritical. School Administrators routinely utilize taxpayer resources to send out mass emails and robo-calls to parents. One principal in East Knox County recently sent out both to summon a crowd to hear about the school

budget and a crowd of about five parents showed up. Burchett did NOT use any taxpayer resources to pay for his own robo-calls, instead paying for the cost of the calls himself.

There is no question that Mayor Burchett's calls were effective. The announcement that the Superintendent's backers were spending over \$40,000 on television ads to promote his budget and tax increase was an open admission that they were desperate to try to influence public opinion in support of a large tax increase.

Apparently these folks supporting the Superintendent don't much appreciate a genuine dialogue, which means both sides are heard in a debate. We are constantly told McIntyre is some sort of visionary, an opinion which seems to be confined to millionaires, the business elite, and local media which is dependent upon the same folks for advertising.

A chief executive (mayor)

appealing directly to the people is hardly new in American history. After doing a little checking, I found several interesting examples with varying results. Woodrow Wilson toured the country by train, personally asking Americans to support the League of Nations. President Franklin Roosevelt remains famous to this day for coming into the homes of Americans with his radio "fireside" chats. In the age of television, it has become routine for presidents to talk to the American people directly over the heads of the Congress and special interests.

Allowing citizens to have their voices heard by their elected representatives is as American as apple pie and motherhood. Of course most of the folks supporting Superintendent McIntyre's demand for more money — and when all totaled up, we are spending more than \$518 million on the Knox County School system — don't want an

honest dialogue, they want us to shut up and get out our checkbooks.

Not a single County Commissioner could honestly vote for McIntyre's budget request and say they were representing the thinking of the people they claim to represent. Not with Mayor Burchett. Perhaps that is the reason for the fury on the part of some Commissioners and the business elite.

These are the same people who believe just about every public official should be appointed rather than elected, because it is easier for them to control events by appointment rather than having elections. Elections cost money and while they are willing to spend freely, the public can be unpredictable.

But one thing to never forget, a hit dog always howls and a stuck pig always squeals. And we know who is squealing like a hog in a sausage factory.

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Burchett Takes Message To The People

Cont. from page 1

than a few were rattled.

Just a few weeks ago, Commissioners were genial as they revealed the majority of emails and telephone calls ran in favor of the Superintendent's tax increase. More than a few sounded shocked, if not downright petulant when confronted with a wave of calls from irate citizens expressing their opposition to a tax increase.

Amy Broyles, perhaps Mayor Burchett's most strident critic on the County Commission, huffed that she questioned the legality of the Mayor initiating robo-calls against the tax increase. In the meantime, Knox County Law Director Joe Jarret quickly advised the calls were perfectly legal, especially as Burchett is paying for the calls out of his own pocket.

South Knoxville Commissioner Mike Brown complained about the calls, but seemed to have charted a new course at the joint meeting of Commissioners and Board of Education members. Brown flatly told Superintendent McIntyre that it doesn't appear he has done an effective job of selling his plan to the public.

Brown had previously issued a strong, if odd, endorsement of the Superintendent's proposal and the tax increase. Commissioner Brown cited the need to do more for teachers, as many educators were leaving to go to better paying systems or new graduates opted to teach elsewhere for higher salaries. Brown did hit upon one of the glaring weaknesses of Jim McIntyre's budget as the Superintendent's budget does almost nothing for classroom teachers. McIntyre included his much-heralded "merit pay plan" in his budget request, but even the Superintendent doesn't seem to know what it will finally cost or just how many teachers would qualify and

benefit. The Knox County Education Association has pointedly refused to endorse the Superintendent's budget and estimate that perhaps 15% of teachers will qualify for the merit bonus.

Board of Education members have recognized the conspicuous absence of teachers supporting McIntyre's budget and have desperately pleaded with educators to come out and promote the Superintendent's tax increase. Some have suggested the merit bonus plan criteria could be restructured just as soon as the budget is adopted and the tax increase is in place. Of course that would mean the standard would have to be lowered considerably from McIntyre's original proposal, an option not likely to please an already suspicious and unhappy public.

McIntyre did include another plan in his budget that will take the best teachers out of the classroom and promote them to "coaches," who would coach their former peers to become better teachers. That proposal drew the ire of Board of Education member Mike McMillan who asked, "If you take the best players of the team and promote them all to coaches, do you really think you're headed to the Sugar Bowl this year? Or even the next?" McMillan said that the same goal could be achieved through different means, leaving the best teachers in their classrooms and for far less money than requested by McIntyre.

The failure to attract the most basic constituency of any budget for education, teachers, is a glaring one for McIntyre and for those who hail him as one of the "best school superintendents in the nation" have to question his grasp of certain political realities and fundamentals. Of course McIntyre is quick to point out he is not a politician, yet passing a budget is the

most political of processes and the Superintendent has made several notable missteps throughout the budget debate which has escalated to a full scale war.

McIntyre's allies inadvertently acknowledged that Burchett's direct appeal to the people was very effective. It was immediately announced by the pro-tax increase folks that an independent group would purchase air time to broadcast commercials promoting McIntyre's budget and the tax increase. One of the principals in that independent group is Chamber of Commerce head Mike Edwards. The Chamber receives significant funding from the taxpayers of both the City of Knoxville and Knox County. While Edwards would almost certainly argue he is wearing a different hat while guiding the independent expenditure campaign to pass McIntyre's budget, the fact remains the Chamber endorsed the tax increase and the taxpayers help support it whether they like it or not.

Also in his budget, Mayor Burchett cut back the appropriation for the Chamber, which did not please Edwards at all.

Tim Burchett seems to be totally committed to his budget. Burchett's repeated insistence he would veto any tax increase passed by the County Commission finally seemed to resonate with the business community and it wasn't long before supporters of McIntyre began dropping broad hints they would move to

replace the Mayor in the next election, quite a tactic for a group that almost universally supports everyone in government being appointed.

Burchett fired back, stating in one interview the budget was being pushed and bankrolled by the self-appointed "elite" in our community, intent upon enforcing their small collective will upon the entire citizenry. While McIntyre earns more than the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Vice President Joe Biden, Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court John Roberts and House Speaker John Boehner, the majority of folks who will finance McIntyre's budget are people who work hard for their money and frequently struggle to make ends meet.

The fact the Chamber and the business elite are buying TV time is an admission Burchett's robo-calls are a game changer. The odds of the County Commission passing a massive tax increase seem to be becoming longer with every passing day.

The stakes in the budget battle between the Mayor and the Superintendent are very high indeed. If the tax increase passes, Burchett will be in a difficult position with a Commission that will likely ignore him. Whether the budget fails or passes, the business elite will most likely try and field a candidate against the Mayor in both the primary and general elections. The same folks who backed the failed candidacy of Mark Padgett against Knoxville Mayor

Madeline Rogero will likely be busy raising big bucks for Burchett's opponent. Perhaps they will try and recycle Padgett.

If the budget fails, Jim McIntyre is left like a man bleeding badly in shark-infested waters. His survival rate will drop dramatically and it would almost surely end his dream of serving as Tennessee's Commissioner of Education. The Board of Education will have to look hard for excuses to continue to retain McIntyre.

Of course the Board itself will likely find itself under increasing scrutiny. Four members will be up for reelection in 2014—Gloria Deathridge, Lynn Fugate, Thomas Deakins and Pam Trainor — all of whom have enthusiastically backed McIntyre and the tax increase. It seems a pretty sure bet that the nature of School Board campaigns will change for 2014 and will be about accountability and spending rather than a theme of "it's all for the children."

Deakins has already announced he won't be a candidate in 2014, leaving an open seat up for grabs. The remaining Board members will likely be carrying significant baggage into the

next election and it is entirely possible they will have to defend McIntyre and his record unless they have cut him loose by that time. Still, if there is a tax increase, voters may not forget. There are already rumblings that serious opposition is forming to take on both Deathridge and Trainor.

Most of the County Commission can't seek reelection due to term limits and for those few brave souls who vote for the tax increase, they are most likely going to join their colleagues in a forced retirement. Mike Hammond, Commissioner-At-Large, is an applicant to succeed Gloria Ray and may be betting that he can take over the Sports Corporation and leave the Commission without seeking reelection. If he has miscalculated, he will be an underdog in any Republican primary county-wide.

The "elites" may very well find themselves buried under an avalanche of votes of their own making. It's pretty easy to see why they dislike elections.

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Seymour

Seymour High presents ‘Tom Sawyer’

The SHS Choral Department recently presented “Tom Sawyer, the Musical” and didn’t fail to entertain and delight audience members. Faithful members of the community, family, and friends came to support the choral students who had worked for months in preparation for Seymour High School’s 15th annual musical. Also in attendance on opening night were Senator Doug Overbey and State Representative Richard Montgomery who both praised the hard work exhibited by all the students. Even though the musical has ended its run, the compliments continue to pour in through cards, letters, and e-mails. One audience member who had no child in the program but had heard the SHS Choral programs were well done attended on Saturday night. After seeing the production, he stated that the SHS production was “as good as any professional production” that he had seen.

Each year the choral department adopts at least one local organization to partner with and highlight during the Winter Concert or musical. This year the children from the Boys and Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains were the special guests of the choral department for the Saturday matinee of Tom Sawyer. Seymour Branch Director, Eric Harper, brought the children from the Boys and Girls Club to the Saturday show where they were treated to front row seats and snacks from the concession stand.

Mrs. Burkhart implemented the idea of partnering with a local organization several years ago in an effort to provide her



Jacob Weaver as Sidney Sawyer, Courtney Frederick as Aunt Polly, Blake Huff as Judge Thatcher (front bench) and members of the Seymour High School Chorus act out the funeral scene in which Tom Sawyer attends his own funeral.



Matt Gainey as Tom Sawyer and Micah Binkley as Huck Finn make a blood vow to keep quiet about witnessing a murder.

students an opportunity to give back to the community that consistently supports them. In addition, she feels that it is important to not only focus on achievement but also on

being significant.

Stated Mrs. Burkhart: “The children who attended the matinee don’t really care that we’ve been State Champions twice or that we are nationally recognized.



Pictured from left to right are Meghan Mayes, Erika Ivey, Angela Karl, Nicole Warner and Hannah Williams.

They just know that we were kind to them and wanted them to have a good time. There is the old saying that people don’t care what you know until they know how much you

care. That’s basically the lesson I want my students to learn. I want them to be brilliant at what they do and care about others in the process as they strive towards excellence.

I know this year’s choir has learned that lesson well. It has been evident in everything that they have accomplished and in the people that they have touched along the way.”



Rotary President Sam Weaver and outstanding teachers Linda Elmore and Matthew McCurry

Rotary Club awards teachers

Cont. from page 2

Elementary. Elmore is sensitive to the challenges that some children face outside the classroom: “Sometimes a child is struggling because of physical needs not met at home. I am a strong believer that the long-term learning cannot take place until physical and emotional needs are dealt with, so I take the time to get to the root of a problem and serve as needed.” Elmore earned her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from the University of Tennessee in 1965. She taught fifth grade at Cedar Bluff Elementary for six years, 4-year-olds at Central Baptist Church of Bearden Preschool for 11

years, third grade for one year at West Hills Elementary and for the past 14 years at Karns.

Matthew McCurry is director of bands and technology coordinator at Carter High School. “Although our high school is one of the smallest in the county, with a student enrollment of 925,” wrote Carter High Principal Cheryl Hickman, “our band has consistently remained the largest in the county! Students of every ability level, every grade level and every interest group belong in our band. I know very few teachers who could manage such a varied and unique group with the confidence and poise that Mr. McCurry exhibits every day.

Going to England to march in the 2009 New Year’s Day Parade in London was the trip of a lifetime for many of our students.”

As technology coordinator, he takes care of website updates, computer repairs and other equipment needs.

McCurry earned bachelor’s degrees in Instrumental Music Education and Vocal Music Education in 2000 and then his master’s in Educational Leadership in Supervision and Administration in 2009 at Carson Newman College. Before moving to Carter High as associate director of bands, he taught at Gibbs High, Holston Middle and Carter High.

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City, County join for RFI on tourism

The City of Knoxville and Knox County are evaluating their tourism marketing needs through requests for information (RFIs) for professionals to help both governments make the most of their tourism budgets. The RFI has a deadline of June 5.

"During the past few months, we have said there needs to be a larger discussion taking place about our attributes and how Knoxville is marketed," Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero said. "By identifying our needs with a fresh perspective, we can ensure the dollars we spend on tourism have a greater return."

"Hearing from the private sector is an important step toward making sure that whatever organization is marketing Knoxville and Knox County is doing so as effectively, efficiently and transparently as possible," said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. "The RFI process will give us an opportunity to explore our options as discussions around the KTSC contract continue."

As part of this continuing process, the City and County are asking interested applicants with expertise in community branding and marketing to help define our community's attributes and identify what makes the area unique and marketable. Part of the process will likely include meetings with key stakeholders as well as public input.

Currently, the Knoxville Tourism & Sports Corporation is responsible for attracting business and leisure travelers to Knoxville and Knox County in addition to booking conventions and conferences. The contract between KTSC and both governments expires on June 30, 2012, which allows the opportunity to explore its tourism efforts and allows KTSC to compete as a key marketer of the region.



L to R - Penny Fanning, Laura Jones, Jeff Seagraves (Mortgage Investors Group) and Connie Brodish clean head stones at the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery

Keller Williams Realty Honors Veterans

Over 60 Keller Williams' real estate agents participated in Red Day, a nationwide day of community service sponsored by Keller Williams International, on May 10.

Each year, Keller Williams Realty offices across the county are asked to select a project where agents can give back to the communities that support their careers in real estate. The Red Day theme comes from a simple three word phrase; Renew, Energize, and Donate. For the second year, Knoxville agents

cleaned the grounds and head stones at the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery located on Lyons View Pike in West Knoxville. Over 5400 head stones were brushed and washed over the course of eight hours by the local agents.

"We like the idea of cleaning the cemetery in honor of Memorial Day. It's a project that touches a lot of people in the Knoxville area. Our people quickly realize the gravity of the sacrifices made by those who are buried there. It is rewarding

to give something back to those who helped secure the freedoms we enjoy every day. Red Day and our work at the East Tennessee Veteran's Cemetery supports our vision to have lives worth living, careers worth having, and businesses worth owning," said Chuck Fethe, Red Day Project Leader. Event sponsors included Concord Title, Mortgage Investor's Group, Statewide Pest Control, and Bentley' Home Inspections.

Mayor Honors Public Works Department

Mayor Madeline Rogero and Senior Director of Public Works Christi Branscom recognized Public Works Week last Monday at the Public Works complex at 1400 Loraine Street.

Mayor Rogero presented the Public Works Department with a proclamation naming the week as Public Works Week.

The City of Knoxville's Public Works Department includes Building Inspections and Permits and Zoning, Engineering, Parks and Recreation, and Public Service. These divisions together are responsible for setting and protecting development standards for our neighborhoods and businesses; maintaining our roadways and sidewalks; providing parks and greenways for our citizens; planting trees, mowing grass, collecting



Mayor Madeline Rogero with Public Works personnel Mark Karnes and Arturo Cano. The two help facilitate businesses and special events from the Strip to the Old City

yard waste, and generally ensuring the quality of life in our community.

The Public Works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital

importance to the health, safety, economy and overall well-being of the City's community.

The year 2012 marks the 52nd annual National

Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association.

Haslam signs bills reshaping Boards and Commissions, TRA

Last Wednesday, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam announced he has signed two bills from his 2012 legislative agenda that make structural changes to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) and 21 boards, commissions and licensing programs.

More than 200 of these organizations exist within state government, and many have independent hiring and spending authority with limited oversight. Haslam announced a review of state boards and commissions during his 2011 State of the State address, and after a comprehensive evaluation, he proposed reforms to improve performance, accountability and efficiency.

"It is our job to make state government as accountable and responsive as possible to Tennessee taxpayers," Haslam said. "These changes are a first step toward increasing the performance, accountability and effectiveness of state government to Tennesseans."

House Bill 2385/SB 2247 changes the membership of the TRA from four full-time members to five part-time members, allowing the authority to attract well-qualified directors with applicable experience who may not have been able to serve full time. Also, the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the House now jointly appoint a full-time executive director. The TRA bill was sponsored by state Reps. Gerald McCormick (R-Chattanooga) and Pat Marsh (R-Shelbyville) in the House and Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris (R-Collierville) and Sen. Mike Faulk (R-Kingsport) in the Senate.

Among other changes, HB 2387/SB 2249:

1. Eliminates 138 board appointments by combining boards and reducing

Continue on page 2

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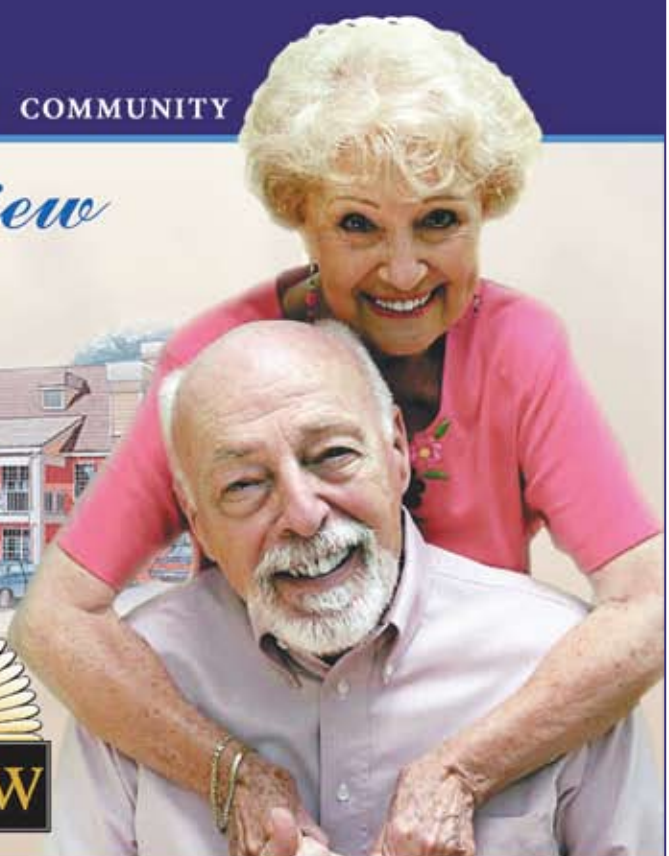
1. Monthly Rental, no buy-in fees
2. Large walk-in closets
3. Convenient to the park

4. Prices start at \$1400 (includes two meals a day, housekeeping, transportation and activities!)

Sensibly designed with the active senior in mind, Parkview, an independent living community, offers the opportunity for residents to enjoy life to its fullest. Whether it's enjoying all the activities and amenities or finding a quiet place to reflect, Parkview has thought of everything.

Attention Veterans and Widows of Veterans: Ask about our Rent Assistance Benefits!

Directions: Take the Broadway Exit on I-640 and travel north. Just past Fountain City Park, turn left on Colonial Circle at stop light. Take immediate left into Parkview Fountain City.



The Perfect Vacation May Just be a Staycation

Rising gas and travel costs have many families rethinking summer plans

Summer is almost here and while many families will head out of town on vacation, rising gas prices and challenging economic times will keep others closer to home. The average family vacation can easily run \$4,000 or more for a week for a family of four, particularly if it includes airfare and renting a car at your destination.

Families can plan a perfect vacation without breaking the bank. A staycation involves planning family fun closer to home. While they might include day trips, families on staycation reduce costs by staying in their own home. Staycations also provide the perfect opportunity to explore and enjoy your own community and surrounding areas.

CredAbility offers the following ideas for families considering a staycation this summer:

Day Trips

Sometimes the best fun is less than an hour from home. Consider local theme parks, water parks, festivals, gardens, zoos, sporting events and more. A quick Google search of "things to do in your city" can produce dozens of ideas. Your local newspaper website will also have a calendar of things coming up in your area.

Travel to another Country without Leaving Home

Pick a destination and create it in your own home. Visit the library and check out books and DVDs on that country. Have fun with the family making an itinerary of places to go, research and make foods native to the country and even make costumes based on the country's culture. It's a great educational and fun concept!

Fine Dining

Plan an elegant picnic at a local beach, lake, park, or in your backyard. Get out your nice dishes and glasses, and pack a tablecloth and linen napkins. Dessert and fresh flowers are great touches. Bring some fun

outdoor games, such as bocce ball or badminton and make a day of it.

Throw a Party

Plan a theme party, like a luau, beach night, or the 50's and invite friends, neighbors, and relatives. Plan the menu and ask everyone to bring an item. Visit local thrift stores and garage sales ahead of time for decorations and clothing. It not only saves you a ton of money, but we all love to rummage for a great deal! You can also have it at a local city, county or state park. After the theme party, pack up all the items you purchased and sell them as a lot on eBay so you can recoup some of your expense and pass the idea on to someone else!

Bring out your budding crafter

Plan an afternoon of fun crafts, right down to creative foods. The Family Fun website (<http://www.familyfun.com>) has thousands of ideas to help your family have fun together.

Save on your Staycation

You don't have to spend a lot of money or go far from home to find good old-fashioned family fun. A family of four can bowl for two hours or head to a movie matinee for about \$50. Spend an afternoon roller skating or ice skating. Take a golf lesson or go horseback riding. Get a few families together and field a couple of teams for a softball game.

Sign up for Groupon (www.groupon.com) and Living Social (www.livingsocial.com) to get daily deals for your city. Most offers are at least half off regular costs and you can easily plan a week's worth of activities at a discount. They are also a great resource if you are looking to save on summer day camp for your kids.

Really Want to Get Away? Try a House Swap

House swap with some family or friends in another town. It's a getaway to a new place and destination without having to dole out the dollars for a hotel stay, airfare and more.

Enrichment Federal Credit Union Donates to Paws-to-Visit

On April 19th, Enrichment Federal Credit Union made a \$500 presentation to the Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley to help their "Paws-to-Visit" program. The program takes shelter dogs out of their cages and into assisted living locations across town. The visits not only provide love and attention to the residents, but also help re-socialize the dogs and make them easier to adopt. Many times you don't see the true personality of a dog in the shelter, but by getting them out around people, you can really see how they will react in many situations.

The Paws-to-Visit program not only brings comfort and joy to assisted living facilities; it also extends an educational arm by visiting schools, Girl Scouts and other groups to teach about proper animal care and the importance of spaying and neutering your pets to reduce pet overpopulation.

In 2008, Enrichment Federal Credit Union launched a Pet Pals Savings Club as a way to help pet owners save for everything from their pet's medical expenses, boarding or



Amy Buttry, HSTV Finance Director; Katy Jett, EFCU Community Relations Manager; Ashley Schneider, HSTV Adoption counselor - - Barney and Lana are two 6-week old Border Collie Mix pups that are ready for a new home.

grooming costs, food and supplies or even for a new pet. The Pet Pals program has a unique feature that benefits the community the credit union serves. Through fund raising efforts by the staff and contributions based on the number of new Pet Pals accounts opened quarterly, Enrichment FCU makes donations to various animal shelters, animal groups, rescue groups or humane societies each quarter. Since the account started, the credit union has donated over \$3,500 to area animal groups.

"What a better way to demonstrate the credit union difference," said Wayne Hope, EFCU CEO, "not only are we helping our members save for the future needs of their pets, but we are able to give back to the Humane Society for a program that is socially enriching for both the person and the animal. Credit unions were founded on the philosophy of 'People Helping People' and with the Pet Pals Savings Club, we are able to give back to groups in our community that are making a difference."

Haslam signs bills reshaping Boards and Commissions, TRA

Cont. from page 1

and reforming the membership of

- the Duck River Development Agency,
 - the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission,
 - Community Services Agency board, and
 - the Commission on Aging and Disability;
2. Combines seven boards into three –
- the Conservation Trust Fund Board absorbs the Conservation Commission,
 - the Oil and Gas Board and Water Quality Control Board are

combined to form the Board of Water Quality, Oil and Gas, and the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Board, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and Solid Waste Board are combined to form the Underground Storage Tanks and Solid Waste Disposal Control Board;

3. Gives the governor hiring authority for the executive directors of the following five agencies
- the Commission on Aging and Disability;
 - the Commission on Children and Youth;
 - the Tennessee Higher Education Commission;

- the Tennessee Arts Commission; and
- the Council on Career and Technical Education.

The boards and commission bill was sponsored by state Rep. Gerald McCormick (R-Chattanooga) in the House and Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris (R-Collierville) and Sen. Mike Bell (R-Riceville) in the Senate.

On April 11, the governor signed HB 2386/SB 2248, which transfers oversight of parolees from the Board of Probation and Parole to the Department of Correction. That proposal was also part of the governor's public safety action plan.

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A Feudin' Son of Tennessee: Kenneth McKellar

Chapter One

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

It will soon be one hundred years since the people of Tennessee elected their first United States Senator by popular vote in 1916. Prior to that time, senators had been elected by state legislatures. The framers of the U. S. Constitution had never intended that members of the United States Senate would be elected directly by the people. The Constitution stated: "The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, chosen by the legislatures thereof for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote." By 1912, twenty-nine states elected their senators on the basis of nominees of each party's primary or general elections. With the passage of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, senators were thereafter elected directly by the people.

Kenneth Douglas McKellar has the distinction of being not only the first Tennessean ever to be popularly elected to the United States Senate from Tennessee, but is also the longest serving senator from our state. No other person in Tennessee history has ever completed more than three full six-year terms, save for McKellar. Senators William B. Bate and Isham G. Harris, both former Confederates, had been elected to fourth terms, but each died very soon into their respective fourth terms. There have been 1,931 men and women to serve in the United States Senate; only 22 have served as long as Kenneth McKellar or longer. McKellar's thirty-six years in the United States Senate is still the record for length of service for Tennessee and there is good reason to believe it will be for all time.

To put McKellar's length of service into perspective, he served for a total of forty-two years in both Houses of Congress; six years as the Congressman from the Tenth District and thirty-six as senator from Tennessee. McKellar served in Washington, D. C. during the administration of seven Presidents, including that of Franklin D. Roosevelt who was elected four times. No less than eight other men occupied Tennessee's other Senate seat during McKellar's long tenure.

McKellar - - - and Tennessee - - - was fortunate to have served in the Senate during a time when that body venerated and rewarded longevity of service, which in time brought the Tennessean enormous power and influence. Eventually McKellar occupied the largely ceremonial post of President



PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Kenneth D. McKellar, circa 1911 when he was first elected to Congress

Pro Tempore of the Senate, a position usually reserved for the Senate's most senior member. During the administration of Harry S. Truman, who had succeeded to the presidency following the death of FDR, the vice presidency was vacant. Truman, himself a former senator from Missouri, knew the power McKellar wielded inside the Senate and shrewdly invited the old Tennessean to sit in on Cabinet meetings. McKellar was in fact virtually Acting Vice President of the United States, presiding over the Senate, being paid the Vice President's salary and even having use of the vice presidential limousine and driver. Yet McKellar, unlike an actual Vice President, retained all the rights and prerogatives of a sitting United States Senator. McKellar could speak on the Senate floor, as well as vote in committee and on the floor. McKellar still presided over two Senate committees, including the most powerful of Senate committees, the Appropriations Committee. Every dollar spent by the U. S. government passed through the Appropriations Committee, giving Kenneth McKellar great influence in directing dollars to Tennessee, which at the height of the Great Depression meant much to a state and people suffering from the nation's near economic collapse.

It was McKellar's power as Acting Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee that generated perhaps the most famous McKellar story, a tale which has been much repeated through the years. In fact,

Senator Lamar Alexander repeated it again not long ago. The story has to do with the birth of Oak Ridge as the "Atomic City." Essentially the details are the same, although the story has been told with minor variations; it goes that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt summoned Senator McKellar to the White House for a conference. McKellar was the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, but the actual Chairman of the committee was Virginia U. S. Senator Carter Glass. Senator Glass was frequently ill and was rarely in his office or on Capitol Hill, making McKellar the defacto Chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

FDR wanted to discuss a secret appropriation for America's nuclear project during World War II and asked McKellar if he could "hide" two billion dollars, an astronomical sum at the time, in the appropriations bill. McKellar, without missing a beat, replied, "Of course I can, Mr. President, but where in Tennessee are we going to hide it?"

In this day and age of campaigns barraging the public with incessant television and radio commercials, inundating people with telephone calls, and a constant flood of emails, it is probably difficult for some readers to conceive during the election for Tennessee's first popularly elected senator in 1916, radio was not even in wide use. In an age when one can sit at the computer and with the touch of a single key instantly send a message to a friend or family member globally, it

is indeed strange to consider the only direct means of communication at that time was either in person or via the United States postal system. Doubtless it will come as something of a shock to many that not even mail was delivered to the door of every household in Tennessee. In many instances, there were tiny post offices dotting small and rural communities and folks would visit the post office, which was also frequently a general store or the like, chat with neighbors, purchase various products and pick up their mail.

Candidates made their appeal to prospective voters through personal contact, shaking as many hands as possible and speaking at the courthouse square in as many of Tennessee's ninety-five counties as could be managed. Candidates campaigned in the frequently terrific heat of Tennessee's blistering summers and usually spoke outside in an age before air conditioning and the people turned out to hear candidates.

Successful candidates for statewide office built up a large acquaintanceship of personal friends and contacts in every community and county. Candidates were forced to rely upon personal qualities, as they could not be packaged and sold to the voters like toothpaste. While not every successful candidate was a great orator, it was a time when voices needed to carry across courthouse squares and any candidate with an ability to speak well was better off than not, especially as political gatherings

were considered entertainment by much of the public. A measure of affability and personal charm didn't hurt either in an age when personal contact was a key ingredient to ultimate political success.

It was customary for candidates to have a campaign headquarters, usually in a hotel, where flyers, posters, buttons and literature of all sorts was handed out to supporters. \$10,000 was an extraordinarily large expenditure for a statewide campaign, which is amazing to consider when that sum would not likely suffice in a race for the County Commission today.

The news of the day came to the public through daily and weekly newspapers and, to a lesser extent, magazines. Newspapers thrived in that age and there were at least two newspapers published daily in each of

Tennessee's metropolitan areas, usually a morning and evening edition. Many of the weekly papers had a wide circulation inside their own counties or communities as well.

The daily newspapers in each of the major cities frequently took opposing views on important questions of the day, as well as the different political personalities and parties. For instance, many readers will recall the old Knoxville Journal, which was edited by the late Guy Smith and was considered to be the "Republican" paper in Knoxville. Conversely, the Knoxville News-Sentinel was considered the city's "Democratic" paper. The Nashville Banner, published by the Stahlman family, was viewed as the more conservative of two leading dailies in the state's capitol, while the Tennessean, especially after being bought by Silliman Evans, was thought to have perhaps the most liberal outlook in the Volunteer State. The Tennessean earned a reputation for persistently supporting the candidacies of those politicians viewed as reformers, insurgents and or progressives.

Memphis had the Commercial Appeal and the Press Scimitar, with one paper more favorably disposed toward the tightly organized Shelby County headed by Edward Hull "Boss" Crump, while the other daily naturally hectored the Crump organization and the supporters.

There were no pollsters available to candidates in 1916, meaning the respective candidates could not poll to determine their own strength with the voters, nor could they ascertain through polling data what issues were important to the public and adjust their own views accordingly. Candidates were necessarily forced to rely upon their own political instincts and beliefs. Even transportation in a statewide campaign in 1916 was limited, as one could not easily drive from Knoxville to Memphis. The quickest way to get from Memphis to Knoxville was by train.

Perhaps the most significant difference was voters had to pay a tax to be able to vote. As we watch the turn out in elections today diminish, it is incredible to think in 1916 Tennesseans paid a poll tax to cast their own ballots.

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Lady Spartans Collect 3rd State Trophy

By Ken Lay

For the third consecutive year the Webb Lady Spartans are the Division II-A State Tennis Champions.

Webb won its third state title with a 4-0 victory over St. George's Wednesday at Old Fort Park in Murfreesboro by sweeping the first four singles matches.

At No. 1 Singles, Spartans sophomore Anna Catharine Feaster defeated Claire Sullivan 6-3, 6-0.

Vicki Garcia downed Libby Heflin 6-0, 6-4 at

No. 2 singles. At No. 3, Kathryn Evans nabbed a 6-1, 6-1 decision over Elizabeth DeGutis. The Lady Spartans clinched the championship when Jeanine Bell downed Nathalie Vacheron 6-3, 6-2.

Webb boys fall short in title match: The Spartans were also looking for a third consecutive championship but fell just short.

University School of Nashville edged the Spartans 4-3.

Webb got singles victories in the match from freshman Lonrenzo Rollhauser, senior Rajat

Agarwal and sophomore Gabi Dagotto.

CAK girls fall in title match: Notre Dame edged the Lady Warriors 4-3 in the Class A/AA Championship match Wednesday at Old Fort Park.

CAK got singles victories from Leighton Porter and Haleigh Chastain. Porter, CAK's No. 3 singles player, downed Callie Voges 6-1, 6-1. At No. 6 singles, Chastain rallied from a 4-5 third-set deficit to defeat Sarah Joyce 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 to force the match to be decided in doubles. There, the Lady

Irish took two of the three matches.

The Lady Warriors' got a doubles win from the tandem of Holly Chastain and Porter, which beat Voges and Katie Joyce 8-2.

Historic run ends in title match for Rebels: West High reached the Class AAA Championship match but fell to Brentwood 4-0 in a match between Tennessee's two undefeated teams.

The Rebels (13-1) advanced to the title match with a 4-0 victory over Murfreesboro-

Oakland. West actually recorded five singles victories before the match was called.

Steven Patrick, Harrison Smith, Alex Frye, Conner Armfield and Logan Brown recorded singles victories, for the Rebels, who were making their first team appearance at Spring Fling.

Locals doing well at individual championships: Several individuals from West, Webb, CAK and Hardin Valley Academy were fighting for singles and doubles individual championships but results

Tennessee Struggles To Do Things The Right Way

By Alex Norman

Note for all the kids studying public relations at the University of Tennessee. There is no need to open a book in an effort to learn the proper way to handle a crisis. Just pay attention to the manner in which Tennessee is handling the merger of their men's and women's athletic departments.

And then do the opposite.

The odds are that you are aware of Tennessee football coach Derek Dooley's public relations problems.

From the DeAnthony Arnett transfer debacle, to the press conferences in which he criticizes his own players, to his avoidance of the media from more than 5 weeks after Tennessee's historic loss to Kentucky... Dooley, the ultimate control freak, isn't able to control the message he's trying to relay about his football program.

So perhaps it shouldn't be a surprise that the Tennessee athletic department is losing the public relations battle with regards to the dismissals of two high profile employees.

Bud Ford, the long time Vols Sports Information Director, and Debby Jennings, the long time Lady Vols Sports Information Director, are no longer affiliated with the University of Tennessee.

Let's start with Ford. For 45 years, he worked in Tennessee Sports Information. When he started, LBJ was President, America was in Vietnam, and we hadn't yet landed in the moon.

Ford started with Doug Dickey patrolling the Vols sidelines and ended with Derek Dooley. He saw enough bad basketball in between the Ray Mears and Bruce Pearl eras to last more than a few lifetimes.

It was announced that Ford was retiring, and moving into the role of "Vol Historian."

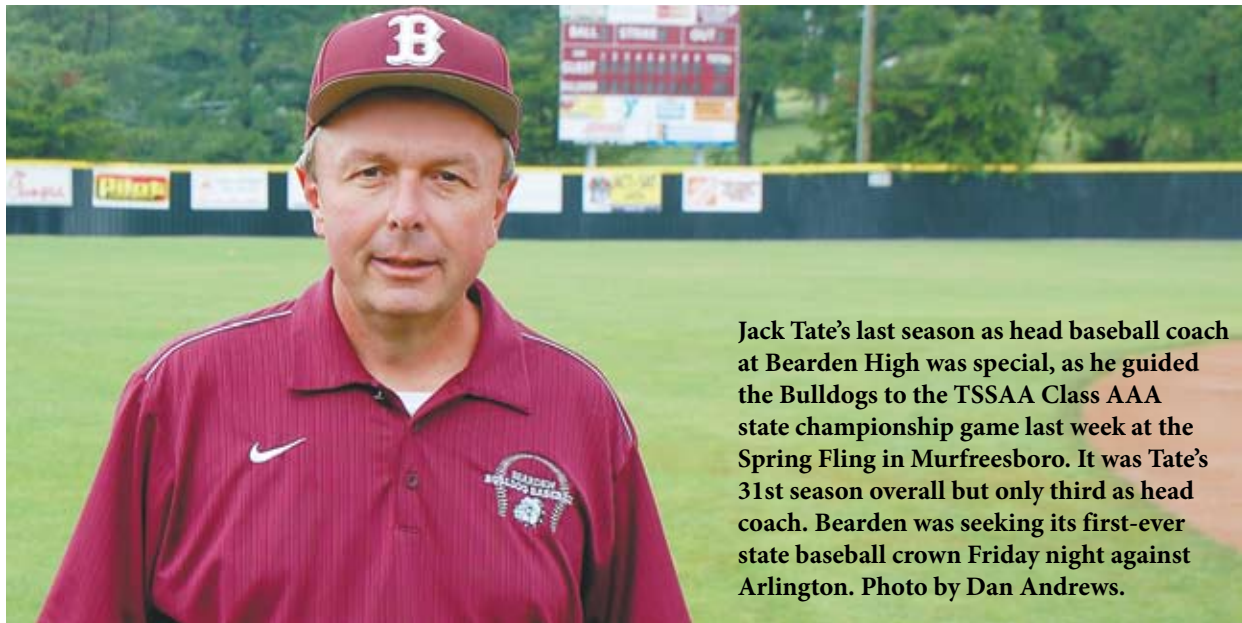
Tate packs career full of memories into one season

Jack Tate is not leaving Bearden High School. That's the good news.

Before this season began, Tate did announce he would be stepping aside as the Bulldogs head baseball coach at season's end. That was the sad news.

What has happened

Continue on page 2



Jack Tate's last season as head baseball coach at Bearden High was special, as he guided the Bulldogs to the TSSAA Class AAA state championship game last week at the Spring Fling in Murfreesboro. It was Tate's 31st season overall but only third as head coach. Bearden was seeking its first-ever state baseball crown Friday night against Arlington. Photo by Dan Andrews.

'Better team' wins State

Webb boys defeat Franklin Road Academy in sudden death

By Ken Lay

The Webb Spartans had to work a little overtime to win their first soccer state championship in school history.

The Spartans nabbed the Division II-A Championship on the strength of an overtime goal from sophomore Nick Favaro in the third minute of sudden death to

outlast Franklin Road Academy 3-2 Thursday night at the Richard Siegel Soccer Complex in Murfreesboro.

"I'm especially happy for our six seniors," Webb fourth-year coach Seth Harbin said. "This group of seniors has really worked hard and it's great to see all that work pay off.

"This is my first group of seniors

and they will always be special to me. There's nothing better for me and the kids. "It's a special moment and it's really indescribable."

Harbin's may not have been able to put his feelings into words, but it didn't take long for the title to sink in.

"I think it sunk in on the bus because we had a two-and-a-half hour ride home and everybody was tired and excited," Harbin said.

Webb (17-3-1) took a 1-0 lead early Thursday night when Matt

Swilley scored in the 14th minute and the Spartans held that advantage at halftime.

FRA pulled even early in the second half when Poom Sripongtankul scored in the 44th minute.

The Spartans, who defeated Franklin Road 2-0 in the regular season retook the lead when Syed Adil tallied in the 50th minute.

Webb held that advantage until James Smith knotted the match at 2-2 with three minutes left in regulation.

Continue on page 2

Continue on page 2

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Senior Division 50 & Older

Tate packs career full of memories into one season

Cont. from page 1
in the duration is stuff movies are made. A magical season.
Tate guided the Bulldogs to the TSSAA Class AAA state championship game last week in Murfreesboro.
It couldn't have happened to a person any more dedicated to Bearden High athletics.
Not only was this Tate's 31st season with Bearden baseball, he's also been the statistician for the football program for 31 years

and kept basketball stats for 26 years.
The 1978 Bearden High graduate, now 51, is a longtime American Government and Economics teacher. His classroom looks like a sports museum, with all the pictures on the wall, but if he teaches as passionately as he coaches, I'm sure he excels on the academic side of his profession.
I first got acquainted with Jack around 30 years ago when I was prep editor at the old Knoxville

Journal. Tate was one of our best stringers, phoning in Bearden sports results. You could count on Jack for his report on the Bulldogs.
It came as somewhat of a surprise to me when Tate was named Bearden's head baseball coach back in 2009. He had paid his dues, but his resume was a bit different. Tate didn't follow the usual path taken to being a high school head coach.
Then 48 years old, Tate had been a perennial

assistant coach. He didn't play high school baseball himself. Instead, after playing youth ball in the Rocky Hill program, he worked as a bat boy for Knoxville Sox and Blue Jays professional teams at old Bill Meyer Stadium from the time he was 13 years old until he was 19.
Tony LaRussa, who guided the St. Louis Cardinals to the World Series title last year, was one of the managers Tate served under as a bat boy, back in 1978.

"I remember he treated everybody with respect," said Tate. "He made a big impression on me. He was very professional in every aspect of the game. I had respect for him as a person and as a manager."
Tate's first baseball season with the Bulldogs was in 1982, when as an undergraduate student at UT, he helped out then head coach Richard Cowan as a volunteer assistant. Tate would go on to assist five other head coaches, including Bill Permakoff for

10 years and Matt Buckner, who left Bearden after the 2009 campaign to take over rival Farragut's highly successful program.
Tate also had a summer job as official scorer for the Tennessee Smokies from 1992 through 2000.
Resumes can be deceiving. Jack had baseball in his blood and a unique understanding of the game. His best quality though may be his rapport with the high school player. After all, members
Continue on page 4

'Better team' wins State

Cont. from page 1
"If you watched the game, you could tell that we were the better team," Harbin said. "We just made a couple of mistakes and they took advantage of them."
The Spartans advanced to the title match with a semifinal win over Evangelical Christian School Wednesday. In that game, Will Walker scored twice and Robby Strachan added a goal. Webb was also awarded a goal when an ECS player scored a Spartan goal.
CAK set to play for Class A/AA Title: Christian Academy of Knoxville was set to play for its first State Title since 2009 Friday night but results were not available at press time. The Warriors opened the tournament

Tuesday night with a 1-0 overtime victory over Chattanooga Christian. Stevie Johnson scored the lone marker of the match.
CAK then dumped White House 5-2. Jon Ragland scored four goals for the Warriors in the semifinals and Ben Holt also scored.
Bulldogs fall in Class AAA Semifinals: Bearden saw its hopes for its first state championship in six years dashed in a 4-0 loss to Collierville in Wednesday night's semifinal match.
The Dragons wasted little time jumping on Bearden, which finishes the 2012 campaign with a 16-4-6 mark. Collierville scored three goals in the first 29 minutes. Corey Brunz opened the scoring with a goal in the 13th minute.

Omar Castanon extended the Dragons advantage to 2-0 13 minutes later. Chayce Bidstrup closed out the first-half scoring with a marker in the 29th minute.
Michael Roberts tallied the game's final marker in the 70th minute.
The Bulldogs advanced to the semifinals with a 2-0 opening-round victory over Columbia Central Tuesday night.
The two squads slugged through a scoreless first half before Chris Bowman broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute. Senior forward Conner McCarty picked up an assist on the first marker of the match.
Bearden's Raphael Robinson put the game away when he tallied in the 70th minute.

Tennessee Struggles To Do Things The Right Way

Cont. from page 1
New Tennessee athletic director Dave Hart had other ideas. Hart eliminated that position, leaving Ford on the outside of UT athletics for the first time since 1966.
And now, Ford has reportedly filed a claim with the Division of Claims Administration, seeking \$40,000, which would have been his pay for one year as historian.
Would allowing Ford to stay on for even one more year in that role have saved UT from the negative press? Probably so.
The Debby Jennings situation? Ugh.
Jennings, like Ford, was a UT graduate. And like Ford, spent decades working in UT athletics. For the past 35 years, Jennings has been the only media relations director the Lady Vols have ever known. She's been by Pat Summitt's side for those eight national championships and nearly 1100 wins.

But Hart threw down the gauntlet. According to WNML's Jimmy Hyams, Hart told Jennings to retire or she would be fired. Jennings refused to resign, and upon returning to her office, found her computer confiscated.
Jennings has reportedly threatened legal action, prompting this response from Hart.
In a statement released by the University of Tennessee, Hart said, "Although I do not normally comment on personnel decisions, given the nature and volume of inaccurate information that has been disseminated from those around Debby Jennings, I believe it is necessary to set the record straight. I lost confidence that her employment was in the best interests of the Athletics Department. Specifically, I concluded that she was insubordinate, disrespectful and fostered an atmosphere of negativity and division."

Airing your dirty laundry for the world to see is at best naive. At worst? Petty.
Hart has been at UT for less than a year. He has no long time personal connections with the people that he works for, nor the people that work for him. So maybe he is the right person for this job. Making tough decisions and not letting emotions get in the way when cuts are necessary.
But dismissing two employees that gave a combined 80 years of service to the University in such a public and unprofessional manner? It's simply not the right way to do things.
It also isn't the smart way to do business.
Tennessee needs all the positive press it can get. Pat Summitt has stepped down, the one time national title contending track and tennis programs are struggling, the swimming program dealt with their own issues following the firing of John Trembley for "gross misconduct," the baseball team missed the SEC tournament for the fifth straight year...
And perhaps most importantly... ticket sales for the football program, the team that drives the engine of this \$100 million athletic budget, are down considerably.
There was a time not so long ago that Tennessee athletics was a family. But times have changed. Nothing stays the same, in life, and in athletics.
But Tennessee athletics still is a family...
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Down the Lane <i>Rosie's Senior Bowling Review</i> 	
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High Game Scratch--Male 300 Bill Byrge 297 Curtis Tindell 288 Billy Majors	High Game Scratch--Male 261 Betty Phillips 253 Carolyn Courtney 252 Carolyn McGill
High Series Scratch--Male 847 Bill Byrge 817 Billy Majors 760 Curtis Tindell	High Series Scratch--Female 677 Carolyn McGill 675 Carolyn Courtney 626 Betty Phillips
High Game Scratch--Female 156 Wanda Reed Nancy Griffith	
High Series Scratch--Female 393 Wanda Reed 364 Nancy Griffith	



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Arts & Entertainment

From New York To Knoxville Writer Shares His Journey of Self-Discovery

Novelist Bryan Charles has experienced a life-changing journey from a small town in Michigan to the fall of the World Trade Center before landing in Knoxville. Charles will share his experiences and how it affects his creativity at the upcoming Knoxville Writers Guild meeting on Thursday, June 7.

The event, which will be open to the public, will begin at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Theater, at the corner of Laurel Avenue and 16th Street in Fort Sanders. A \$2 donation is requested at the door. The building is handicapped accessible. Additional parking is available at Redeemer Church of Knoxville, 1642 Highland Ave.

Charles grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan and followed a wave of post-collegiate creative energy to New York City. His dreams of being a writer led him to a job at Morgan Stanley in the World Trade Center. But that dream changed on Sept. 11, 2001. After he escaped the attacks and the collapse of the towers, Charles quit his job to devote his time to writing. He got his master's degree in fine arts from Brooklyn College in 2003.

His first novel, "Grab On To Me Tightly As If I Knew the Way" was published by Harper Collins in 2006. Then he set out to publish a definitive memoir about his experiences, including his escape from the twin towers on 9/11. The result of that effort is "There's A Road to Everywhere Except



Where You Came From," released in 2010.

"It's a reluctant memoir," he said. "It's more than just about escaping the tragedy, it's about a young person figuring out how to be a writer."

Charles' most recent journey has brought him to Knoxville, where his girlfriend Karla Wozniak teaches art at the University of Tennessee.

"I wondered how my writing would change outside the pressure cooker of New York City," said Charles. He will share those insights with the audience in the June meeting of the Writers Guild.

But he adds, "It's not a culture shock, and I've found a very creative energy here."

Charles said he has been very impressed with the response to Writers Guild sessions here. "It's very different from New York where you have to beg people to come. People seem genuinely interested here."

More information about Charles' work can be found at <http://theresaroadtoeverywhere.tumblr.com/>.

Additional information about the Knoxville Writers' Guild can be found at www.knoxvillewritersguild.org.



Milly Dunning helps Ken and Cat Clayton with final touches on a fortune teller's theme table at the FCAC Garden Party.

FCAC's 2012 Art Field Trips and More!

By Sylvia Williams

Now that the FCAC Garden Party 2012 is just a happy memory, raising over \$14,000 for this year's operating costs and programs, the Fountain City Art Center is looking forward to a "full palette" of events this spring and summer!

This week, we are hosting a children's art summer camp made possible by grants from the Gene and Florence Monday Foundation, the Tennessee Arts Commission, the Arts and Culture Alliance of Knoxville, and the GFWC Fontinalis Club. Students ages 6 to 14 will

be taking classes in clay and many other artistic media through Friday. The students were chosen by their Knox County art instructors and will be taught by Knox County art instructor Jan Bolus and FCAC instructors Penny Berridge and Roger Bench. The Fountain City Art Center is deeply grateful to these organizations and foundations for making the summer art camp possible for the 8th year in a row!

On June 5, artists are encouraged to bring in their entries for the 7th Annual FCAC Open Show. The reception will be held

on Friday, June 8, when prizes will be awarded. The judges for the show are Rick Whitehead and Wendy Seaward. For more information, call 865.357.2787 or email fcartcenter@knology.net.

This year, the Art Center is offering a series of four art related field trips to museums in Tennessee and North Carolina. The first field trip will be to visit the Hunter Museum of Art and the Houston Museum of Decorative Arts in Chattanooga. Bus fare is \$35 on a chartered bus leaving Knoxville on the 18th

at 8 a.m. and returning at 7 p.m. We have plenty of spots available if you are interested. We are located at 213 Hotel Avenue next to Fountain City Park in the old library building.

Last, but not least, the Art Center wishes to thank the *The Knoxville Focus* for over eight years of printing information about our nonprofit organization and its programs. Without *The Focus*, we would never have been able to get the public recognition that the articles have brought.

Arts & Culture Alliance Presents Recent Works by Sue Messer

The Arts & Culture Alliance is pleased to present a new exhibition of oils and watercolors by local artist Sue Messer, opening Friday, June 1, at 5:00 p.m. on the north side of the Balcony at the Emporium Center in Knoxville.

Sue Messer grew up in a small town in eastern Kentucky with a great love for her family, the mountains, and nature. These influences are gracefully portrayed in many of her works. Messer hones her lifetime of self-taught skills through

workshops and classes in oils, watercolors and acrylics. Recent exhibitions of her paintings included the Dandridge Arts Festival, Fountain City Art Guild exhibitions, and in the Emporium Center. Her paintings are in corporate, public and private collections throughout the U.S. as well as in several galleries in the Knoxville and Dandridge area. For more information on Sue Messer, visit her website at www.suesstudiogallery.com.

"Recent Works by Sue Messer"

will be displayed in the Balcony at the Emporium Center, 100 S. Gay Street, from June 1-29, 2012. An opening reception will take place as part of First Friday activities on June 1 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. with additional hours on Saturday, June 2, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the Arts & Culture Alliance at (865) 523-7543 or visit www.knoxalliance.com.

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Tuesday <i>Sports Night</i> Corn dogs, 32 Foot Rock Wall, Joust, Bounce House	Friday <i>COMMENCEMENT NIGHT!</i> ALL PARENTS AND FAMILY WELCOME! Patriotic Night (Wear your Red, White and Blue) Family Balloon Release, Rita's Italian Ice, Popcorn, 5-in-1 Combo House, 30 Foot Saber tooth Giant Slide
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Ordering up family

Omelet- covered, smothered, chunked, and diced! Hold the yolks! This is my regular order at one of my favorite places to eat, the Waffle House in Powell. It's really not about the food, though I do like it. It is the atmosphere that keeps me going back. Waffle House reminds me of the soda fountain at Woolworth growing up in Middlesboro, a bustling family environment. You know like that song from "Cheers"- "where everybody knows your name/and they're always glad you came."

By Sarah Baker
bakers@knoxfocus.com

First of all, these ladies really hustle. I've been in on very busy Saturday mornings and watched them buzz around with armfuls of dishes in one hand and a coffee pot in the other hand. Not only do they actually keep up with their work and everyone's order, they smile most of the time. Sometimes they laugh. I get the impression sometimes they actually like each other and like their jobs. Imagine that.

One day when I was sitting at the counter I did finally catch on to their secret of keeping up with all these orders. Beware. If you enjoy not knowing how these clever cooks and waitresses remember who ordered what, do not read the rest of this paragraph. Figuring it out is a little bit like figuring out how David Copperfield made the Statue of Liberty disappear. The line cooks

take a plate as each order is called and arrange various condiments or food items on the plate to signify the final content of the order. Each plate is coded for the intended order, from how the hash browns are to be prepared to how the eggs are being prepared. It's actually pretty cool to watch.

Some people reserve Waffle House for late nights and wee early mornings when everything else is closed. Did you know that every time a Waffle House is opened, there is a ceremony of burying a key in the parking lot, because Waffle House never closes? It is even open on Christmas.

The main thing I love about the place is the ladies who work there. My favorites are Trinity, Sally, Nancy, and Marilyn. Marilyn and Sally have each been

there over fifteen years and have watched some customers grow from children into adults. When you walk into Waffle House, you are greeted immediately and if you go regularly at all, you will be called by your name. You may even have your drink before you sit down. I usually hate being called, "honey, sweetie, baby" by anyone who isn't old enough to be my mother. However, these girls can get away with it, because they are just that cool to me.

Customers at Waffle House are treated like family. About a year ago, a regular customer named George Nelson passed away. Employees of Waffle House and other customers remember him driving up in his tough Mustang and bringing his grandkids. There is a plaque on the counter where he sat that says "In

Loving Memory of George" and his obit hangs on the wall. Customer Linda Carberry remembers George fondly and also speaks warmly of his wife Beverly. Carberry's own husband, Donald, passed away four years ago and she says she comes in about twice a day because "it just feels like home."

Despite the sentimental times, Waffle House is a happy place to visit. The one in Powell even has a toy on display called "Mr. Smiley." Customers are as familiar with Mr. Smiley as they are their favorite orders. Next time you're in Powell, stop by and see my buddies at Waffle House, leave one of them a big tip, and try not to sit in my favorite booth.

Smoky Mountain Harmony Show Chorus Holds Interactive Workshop



The women of the Smoky Mountain Harmony Show Chorus love to sing. But they not only sang recently for the Seniors for Creative Learning at the John T. O'Connor Center in Knoxville, but offered an interactive workshop about "barbershop" harmony, its origins and how it has evolved to present day. In addition to the entertainment, the chorus demonstrated the art of four-part harmony by having each audience member actively involved in singing with them.

Smoky Mountain Harmony Show Chorus is part of Sweet Adelines International which began in 1945 in Tulsa, OK, and forms the largest group of women singers from around the world totaling nearly 23,000

members.

Smoky Mountain Harmony Show Chorus and Sweet Adelines International are committed to advancing the musical art form of women's barbershop harmony through education, performances and competition.

Weekly rehearsals are held each Monday evening beginning at 6:45 p.m. at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 6900 Nubbins Ridge Road in Knoxville and any woman of any age who loves to sing is cordially welcome to attend. Knowledge of reading music is not required and proper vocal instruction is given to all who attend. Further information can be found at smokymtnharmony.org or meetup.com/smokymountainharmony.org

The Smoky Mountain Harmony Show Chorus recently performed for seniors at the John T. O'Connor Center.

Tate packs career full of memories into one season

Cont. from page 2

of his 2009 junior varsity team urged him to apply for the Bearden head job when it came open. School administrators, he said, also were behind him.

So, Tate went for it, and after 28 years as an assistant, he became the head coach.

Unfortunately, his time at the helm would last only three seasons. As those who know him would expect, Tate put his all into the head job. But he said the stress was affecting his health and led to his decision.

"Baseball has been the No. 1 sport in my life and

coaching at Bearden High School has been my passion and what I love," said Tate during an interview on the eve of the Bulldogs' 4-1 state sectional win over Jefferson County. "And the No. 1 thing with that that I love are the players on the team. That's what drives me every day and motivates me.

"We have some of the greatest kids at this school that you could ever imagine. This year's team is extremely special. It really is. We have eight seniors I was coaching on the JV team when they were freshmen. They've battled the last three years and have had tremendous success.

They've worked real hard. Mixed in with that group are some sophomores and juniors to make a true team."

Four seniors have signed to play college ball – short-stop Derek Lance (Tennessee), second baseman Trey York (East Tennessee State), RHP/third baseman Ronnie Broyles (Walters State) and LHP Kyle Wentz (Carson-Newman).

Another key member of the team, sophomore CF-P Lane Thomas, finished second behind Farragut's A.J. Simcox, a UT signee, for District 4-AAA MVP.

With the decision made to step aside, Tate wanted his last season to

be special. He planned a once-in-a-lifetime spring trip for his players, many of whom he directly coached all the way through high school. In addition to playing in a top-notch tourney in Florida, Tate and the Bulldogs took in a Miami Heat NBA game and saw a Miami Marlins spring exhibition game.

Bearden's post-season run also included some memorable moments, starting with the come-from-behind 10-7 win over Maryville in the do-or-die District 4-AAA losers' bracket finals, one of eight elimination games the Bulldogs would survive. The game had a "storybook

ending" said Tate, recalling the foul ball down the right field line that popped out of the Maryville second baseman's glove. A catch there would have ended Bearden's season. With new life, York belted a walk-off grand slam.

Another keeper was the victory at Farragut which gave Bearden its first region title since 1995 and Tate his first win over the Admirals. The Bulldogs belted five home runs in the game.

What did Buckner have to say to Tate when the two hugged after the game?

"He said, 'Coach, you finally got me,'" said Tate. "I think I was too overcome

with emotion (to reply).

"There's a lot of respect between the two teams," added Tate. "As we were shaking hands after the game, I could hear being called out by name: 'Coach Tate, good luck in Sub-State.'"

After falling into the losers' bracket at the state, Tate's Bulldogs won three games to reach Friday night's finals against Arlington.

As for next season, Tate said he would consider returning as an assistant, if needed. It will be news if we don't see him back on the Bearden diamond.

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Sensory Perceptions

I am constantly amazed by what women carry in their pocketbooks. In fact, I think the descriptive phrase for this accessory is a misnomer because there is no way you could get all that junk in a pocket. We should be referring to them as handbags, even though they sometimes are so large and heavy that they remind me of saddlebags. Some of my frailest patients carry the largest bags containing enough gear for a camping trip. It's surprising that the geriatric literature has not described an increased risk of falls occasioned by tripping over handbags beside chairs or by hoisting heavy bags to the shoulder. Obviously, a twenty

pound satchel hung over the shoulder by a strap will shift one's center of gravity and further stress an already precarious balance problem. Men don't understand all the things that a woman might need at a moment's notice – like the sunglasses my wife suddenly needed as we drove west one afternoon. As I rustled through her "pocketbook" looking and feeling around for her elusive sunglasses, I came upon a hammer. Becky is the Handy Mam in our household and enables me to practice medicine and be contemplative; but this was ridiculous. And so was the twenty foot metal tape measure I also found at the bottom of her

bag that no girl should leave home without. However, the prize goes to my ninety-five year old mother-in-law. About six months ago we were riding in a car and the topic of Obama's missing birth certificate came up. Joanna was puzzled by the president's difficulty finding his birth certificate because she had hers right there in her pocketbook! You can't make this kind of stuff up, folks. After handing Becky her sunglasses with a chuckle, I thought about how I had used sight, touch, and my ears to penetrate the deep and cluttered environs of her clutch bag, aka purse. I was even treated to the familiar smell of her perfume as I prowled among her effects. Fortunately, all my senses remain intact though the latter pales in comparison to Becky's. In general, a man's sense of smell is less than a woman's, and everyone's sense of smell declines as we age. Taste is another of our senses and is highly dependent upon smell; and both suffer with a cold. Hearing also declines as we age and can make older persons seem less

sharp than they actually are. The ear also is a sensory organ for balance and dysfunction of the inner ear causes vertigo, a spinning sensation. Most people have experienced the unsteadiness of vertigo that some describe as a sense of movement. While it may occur from excessive celebration on New Year's Eve or brain diseases, vertigo usually occurs from stones in the middle ear (you read this correctly) or irritation of the sensory cells within the inner ear. Vertigo is treatable and often resolves, hopefully before it throws you to the floor and breaks your hip. Another sensory problem of aging is neuropathy—nerve damage—associated with a loss of sensation in the toes and feet. As I sit here I can feel my toes and sense where and how they touch the ground. Specialized sensory organelles in the skin send signals to the brain and spinal cord which we take for granted until they are damaged and then we try to compensate by watching our feet as we walk. You may have watched your grandfather with

diabetes shorten his step, lift his feet higher and gaze downward at his feet to make sure of his step. Unfortunately, compensation can only go so far, especially because our vision changes as we age. One eye is often stronger than the other and older eyes are often corrected with bifocals and trifocals. Together these can alter depth perception especially with downward gazing. I'll never forget the first time I descended the hospital stairway with my first set of bifocals and almost traded my stethoscope for a cast on my leg. They say that the eye is the window of the soul and I imagine that the loss of sight would be most devastating. Scientists can elegantly describe how light stimulates the photoreceptors of the retina and then explain how electrochemical signals are sent to the brain for interpretation. Picture a tennis ball with a hole cut out of the front. If you were to look through the hole you'd see the back of the tennis ball just as you would the back of the eye and the retina if you looked through the

pupil—so much for anatomy and physiology. The Romantic era of the 1800s replaced the Classical era with a new perspective. Observational facts were trumped by a sense of the sublime. The Classical Enlightenment age thinkers emphasized the science of light and observational truth. The Romantics said they preferred to marvel at the beauty of a sunset. As a post-modern 21st century philosopher, I ask, why must I choose between the beauty of scientific understanding and the wonder that it produces in my soul?

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

For appointments call Keesha at 865-522-0326.

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

Rosacea and a Princess

A few weeks ago, a nurse at work was experiencing a flare-up of rosacea. For the first time I saw firsthand not only the physical pain—but the mental anguish and frustration she was experiencing from the lack of an effective and coherent plan of care to treat this common skin disease. My friend had been treated by several dermatologists using several treatment options all with varied success. She tried prescription medications, and changes in diet both with dismal results. Rosacea is a common skin disease often beginning with

a tendency to blush or flush more easily than others. Rosacea can cause more than redness and because of the number of signs and symptoms of rosacea they have broken it into four subtypes. 1.) Erythematotelangiectatic rosacea: Redness, flushing, and visible broken blood vessels (spider veins), swollen skin, skin may be very sensitive and may sting and burn, dry skin with roughness or scaling 2.) Papulopustular rosacea: Redness, swelling, and acne-like breakouts usually where the skin is very red and they tend to come and go, oily skin, spider veins, skin may be very sensitive and may sting and burn, raised patches of skin called plaques 3.) Phymatous rosacea: Skin thickening with a bumpy texture especially

common on the nose but can also thicken on the forehead, ears, cheeks, and chin, pores look large, and oily skin 4.) Ocular rosacea: Irritated and red eyes often looking watery or bloodshot, gritty feeling like sand in the eyes, eyes burn and sting with itching and dryness, can be sensitive to light, blurry vision, eyelids can become swollen and may look like they have a sty Beyond the physical symptoms there are mental aspects of the disease also affecting a person's quality of life. In a survey conducted by the National Rosacea Society, 41% said their rosacea caused them to avoid public contact or cancel social engagements. Many worry their rosacea will get worse and about possible side effects of the medicine they use to treat the

disease. Obviously, the feelings of frustration and embarrassment can lead to low self-esteem, anxiety and depression, which can lead to missed days of work. In the same survey nearly 30% said rosacea had caused them to miss work. However, there are treatment options and those who seek treatment are more likely to experience an improved quality of life than those who don't. Treatment includes: Medicine applied to the rosacea, sunscreen (applied daily may help prevent flare-ups), an emollient to help repair the skin, lasers and other light treatments, and antibiotics (topical or oral). The most important thing to remember you have treatment options and seeking treatment will empower you with knowledge. This power alone will improve your

self-esteem and your life. If you are suffering with rosacea you are not alone as Diana, Princess of Wales also suffered with the disease. Prince Charles suffers and Princess Diana suffered with rosacea as well as their son Prince Harry. Highlighting the risk factor of a family history and having light-colored skin. Remember to reduce your risk by not smoking, applying sunscreen daily, keeping stress in balance, and avoiding alcohol. And if you suffer with rosacea, remember—you are in the company of a princess. For questions, comments, or suggestions on topics you want to read about please email me at: howard@howardsbaker.com.

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Faith

Loving God

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength"

(Mark 12:30).



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

It's one thing to say you love God, but try loving God all day long. This can be challenging when the struggles of life hit. But God wants us to love Him even in the difficult moments. To love God with all of one's being (heart, soul, mind, and strength) means to give God all that we are and to bask

in His loving presence. We love because we have been loved.

Jesus first says to love God with all of your "heart." The "heart" is the center of one's affections. What is it in life that motivates you? What is it that gives you a reason for getting up in the morning? It might be your friend, child, a job, or your spouse. Whatever it is, offer these to God. Don't allow these affections to dominate over God, for in so doing, they become idols of your heart. Rather, surrender these to the loving care of God so you can better love others and serve them.

Jesus then says to love God with all your "soul." The "soul" is the center of

your spirituality. God wants the core of your life. What kind of time are you communing with God in prayer, Bible study, quiet time of reflection, or serving others? Offer your soul to God.

Next, Jesus says to love God with all your "mind." The "mind" is the center of our rationality. Most of us need things to make sense. Logic and understanding are important. Consider all the different functions of the brain, both the voluntary and involuntary functions that keep us alive (various systems of the body) and growing (intelligence and wisdom). Give all that you will think about today to God.

Finally, Jesus says to love God with all your "strength." Scot McKnight says that "the word strength refers to our whole being, our strength and our might and our wealth and all our resources" (40 Days Living

the Jesus Creed, 10). This means to love God with everything! Loving God is offering the gift of us. We truly already belong to God, for He made us. But we get to offer ourselves back to Him in order to give Him all the glory He deserves.

As a young child, I obeyed my parents due to my fear and respect of them as being in authority over my life. I knew they loved me by their actions. If I disobeyed, I suffered the consequences. As I got older, my obedience was motivated by freedoms. As I handled more responsibility, I was given more freedom. But now as a grown man, my love for my parents is not based out of fear or reward, but out of sheer appreciation and gratefulness for what they have done for me. The same should be for God. We love because He first loved.

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Church Happenings

Clapps Chapel United Methodist

The Clapps Chapel United Methodist Men's club will host a food drive to benefit the Corryton Hospitality Food Pantry from Thursday 5/31 to Saturday 6/2 at the Midway IGA in Gibbs. This event is in conjunction with National Hunger Awareness Week. Last year over 3000 lbs of food and \$1300.00 in donations were raised for this very needed charity.

Community Carnival

Five South Knoxville churches are combining their efforts on Sunday, June 3, to host a Carnival. The two-hour event, to be held at Colonial Heights United Methodist Church (6321 Chapman Highway), will begin at 4 p.m. Activities of the Carnival will include face painting, inflatables, popcorn and popsicles, and "soak the pastor" to name a few. Every aspect of the event is free to the public.

The Kickoff Carnival will be a fun way to introduce the South Knoxville community to members of the various churches as well as providing a one-stop registration place for the summer events.

The group of churches, which includes Lake Forest Presbyterian Church, Colonial Heights United Methodist Church, Graystone Presbyterian Church and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and

New Prospect Presbyterian Church, hopes that this will be the first of many collaborative efforts in the community. "There's no point in reinventing the wheel or doubling our efforts when our resources are limited," says Marilyn Hutchinson, a member at Lake Forest Presbyterian Church and volunteer at the F.I.S.H. Food Pantry in Vestal. "When we work together we get to know our neighbors and better help one another."

"Vacation Bible School is a part of my history growing up in South Knoxville," said 87-year-old Wayne Byers, member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. "We used to go from church to church all summer long, it didn't matter what church was hosting. Lutheran, Baptist, United Methodist, we went to them all." When I talk to members of my congregation about this effort," reports Pastor Eric Luedtke of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, "what excites them most is the idea of working across denominational lines to work together in the community."

KFL Outreach Ministry Presents

The Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon (KFL) will meet May 29, 2012 at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway, at noon. Amy Belew will be the guest speaker. Bio at <http://kfl-luncheon.com>.

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UT Gardens June 2012 Plant of the Month

Oakleaf Hydrangea

Submitted by Carol Reese, UT Extension horticulture specialist, Western Region

People are drawn to hydrangeas for their showy flowers. While oakleaf hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia) produces those abundantly, it doesn't stop there. This native shrub goes on to warm the autumn landscape when the foliage turns shades of wine red, orange and deep burgundy. Once the leaves fall, the bark on mature specimens is showy, peeling in papery layers of tawny browns and cinnamon.

Flowers appear late spring or early summer depending on region or variations in weather and the onset of spring. The creamy white flowers are born in showy cone shaped panicles, some fading to respectable pinks as they age. 'Alice', 'Snowflake', and 'Snow Queen' are a few of the selections known

for their especially spectacular floral displays.

Oakleaf hydrangea can be grown in full sun in cooler parts of the state, but in most areas it is happier in partial shade. Too much deep shade may reduce the number of blooms, though. Good drainage is essential. While some cultivars may reach 10 to 12 feet with age, a good average is 6 to 8 feet tall and wide. Dwarf cultivars about half that size are available, such as 'Pee Wee' and 'Sikes Dwarf', but the most exciting compact forms are 'Munchkin' and 'Ruby Slippers'. These are noted for their white flowers drying to a rosy pink, providing color for several months.

If you find yourself drawn to plants with golden foliage, 'Little Honey' will be your tastiest cup of tea. This dwarf form's brilliant leaves will stay golden throughout the summer if placed in

at least half a day of sun. In deeper shade, you will have to content yourself with a few weeks of golden glow through the spring months. Flowers and fall color are dependable as well.

A display of 'Little Honey' can be seen at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson. They are located under a couple of oaks north of the big planting of hardy bananas behind the center. Walk east from it to see a group of mature oakleaf hydrangeas linking two large oaks.

Make plans to see this display and other beautiful ornamental plantings July 12 during the center's annual Summer Celebration. Nearly 3,000 gardening enthusiasts are expected to attend this combination indoor/outdoor program. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 17 and under. For more



Oakleaf hydrangea is a native shrub with creamy white blooms that often fade to pink as they age. It can be grown in full sun in cooler parts of the state, but in most areas it is happier in partial shade. Photo of a specimen in a private garden by C. Reese, UT Extension horticulture specialist.

information, visit the website: <http://west.tennessee.edu/events/> and

click on the link for the Summer Celebration.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Getting internet auctions to work for you

We have already discussed the aspects of buying and selling on internet sites such as Ebay and Craigslist so this week let's look at another way that is changing many major auction houses' methods of selling.

While using sites like eBay is not a bad

idea, the downside is that you are still an individual with little to no recourse when things go wrong. I can tell you with confidence that if you are the seller and the buyer has a dispute such as "not as described" you are probably going to be giving them a refund. Many times the purchaser will ask for a discount to forget the whole thing or threaten a bad feedback if you don't comply as they know buyers tend to have more rights than sellers.

I'm not trying to scare you from selling on your own. In fact, I encourage you to wade into the scene with some items and learn to sell. Over 80,000 Americans list "internet sales" on tax returns as their full time jobs.



By Carl Sloan

I do what is called "live" auctions. This format is what many smart auction houses use today to augment the potential of items on a global scale.

My job at Fountain City Auction is to seek higher end small items that have good market potential from estates or collections and are reasonable to ship. Then I professionally photograph, edit and write a detailed description for the item to prepare for the sale. The auction house sends out over 25,000 emails a week to preferred buyers through the hosting company to promote registrations of individuals and pre bidding before the live event. The auction begins at the prescribed time online and the public can present bids in real time for the sale worldwide.

You may stay home on Saturday and watch the auction progress live on your computer. If you have the winning bid, you can simply come by and pick up your item or Fountain City Auction will ship it to you quickly, professionally

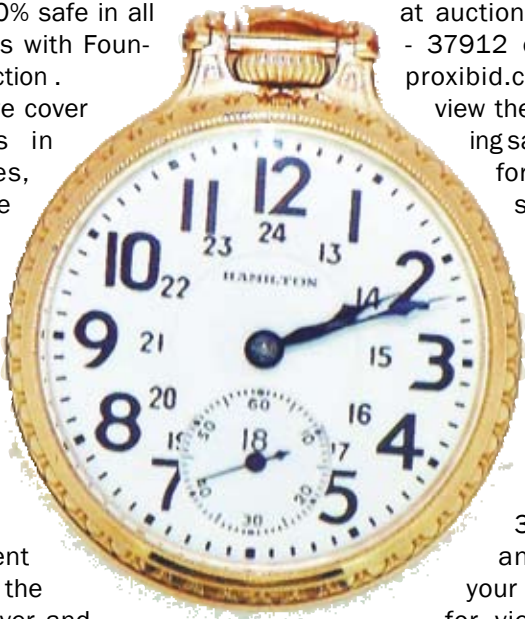
packed and insured for the value. Credit or debit cards on file are securely handled by law and you are 100% safe in all transactions with Fountain City Auction.

Usually we cover 350 items in these sales, with the onsite crowd winning half and internet buyers the other half on an average. This method is convenient and fun for the internet buyer and raises the excitement level at the auction house.

The Live Auction process takes a lot of technical training along with a trained staff to make everything go smoothly. Details involve checking items in, shipping then promptly and paying out to consignors. It takes a team pulling together in every aspect

to succeed.

If this sounds like it may be for you, please visit us online at auction.zip.com - 37912 or go to proxibid.com and view the upcoming sale online for June 2 starting at noon. Or just walk into the gallery 4109 Central Ave. Pk 37912 and bring your items in for viewing by our trained staff.



This week's item is an antique Hamilton Railroad watch 21 jewels, lever set in great condition to be sold at the June 2nd 12 p.m. live auction. Be there or be online for this major event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City People Downtown DASH

City People's 1 Mile Certified Run Downtown will begin on Union Avenue on Friday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please visit www.citypeople.org.

Homeownership workshop

The Knoxville Area Urban League is hosting an all-day Homeownership Workshop on Saturday, June 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The workshop, which is open to anyone preparing to purchase their first home, covers the details involved in selecting, purchasing, financing and maintaining a home and meets all requirements for FHA loans. \$20 training fee. Info: 865-524-5511; www.thekaul.org

Job Workshop

The Knoxville Area Urban League is holding a workshop: "It's Tough Out There: How to Get a Job in Today's Market" on Thursday, May 31, 2012, 9-11 a.m., 1514 East Fifth Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917. Instruction provided by Kelly Services. There is no cost to attend but space is limited. To register or for more information, call 865-524-5511.

Knoxville Hosts First Tennessee Brewer's Summit

On Friday, July 13, Knoxville will host the First Annual Brewer's Summit at the Bearden Banquet Hall at 6:30 p.m. A panel of Tennessee brewers and other's in the industry will discuss the future of craft beer and how it relates to Tennessee. This is the first fundraiser for the Tennessee Craft Brewer's Guild to help get the Guild off the ground and help promote legislation for craft beer in Tennessee.

Proceeds from the event benefit the new Tennessee Craft Brewer's Guild that is currently under development. The Brewer's Summit will be the first chance for the public to learn more about the Guild and what it will do for the beer industry in the state.

Tickets are \$45 and include a souvenir t-shirt and tasting glass. There are only 150 tickets available for the event. The Brewer's Summit is sponsored by the Kingsport Oktoberfest (Tennessee's Oktoberfest), the Thirsty Orange Brew Extravaganza and the Jonesborough Chill Out.

Self-help bereavement support group

Listening Hearts, A Gathering of Bereaved Moms - will meet 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, in the conference room at

Cont. on page 4

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cont. from page 3

the Eye Institute (formerly the Baptist Eye Institute), 2020 Kay Street, Knoxville.

Website is <http://listening-hearts.memory-of.com> or email listeninghearts@live.com.



Charles "Bud" Shumate has retired from Gibbs High School after 32 years of serving as a custodian there. He has been a part of many students' lives over the years, including Tracy Miller-Davis' children: "While my kids were at Gibbs High School, Bud would come to every baseball game and support the team. We called ourselves 'Bud's Angels.'" Pictured are (from left to right in the picture) Tracy Miller-Davis, Dianne Caldwell, Amy Davis and "Bud" behind his Angels.

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2 stalks celery, chopped
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2/3 cup hot water
2 1/2 cups cornbread stuffing, divided
1/4 cup fresh parsley
2 lbs ground beef
1/2 cup barbeque sauce, divided
1/4 cup milk
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp black pepper

In a large skillet, cook bacon over medium heat for about 5 minutes. Stir in celery and cook until celery is tender and bacon is crisp (about 5 more minutes). Add corn and water to the skillet and cook until water boils. Remove skillet from heat and stir in 1 3/4 cups cornbread stuffing mix, and parsley. Set mixture aside. Preheat oven to 350° and spray a large rectangular baking dish with vegetable oil cooking spray. In a large bowl, thoroughly combine remaining stuffing mix, ground beef, eggs, 1/4 cup barbeque sauce, milk, dried onion, salt and pepper. On a large sheet of waxed paper or aluminum foil, shape meat mixture into a 10x12' rectangle. Spread stuffing mixture evenly over meat loaf to within about 1 inch of edges. Starting at one short end and using the waxed paper to lift the edges, roll up the meat loaf, jelly-roll style. Pinch the seams and edges to seal. With your hands, press the loaf firmly to hold its shape. Transfer to prepared dish. Bake loaf for 45 minutes. Brush top with remaining barbeque sauce. Continue baking loaf until it registers 160° on a meat thermometer (about 5 minutes longer). Let meat loaf stand for 5 minutes before slicing.

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