



FOCUS Weekly Poll*

Knox County government has projected a surplus at the end of this fiscal year of \$24.2 million dollars. In your opinion, how should the money be allocated?

Spend it on capital projects: 8.19%

Put it in the rainy day fund: 14.50%

Pay down the debt: 40.76%

Give taxpayers a refund: 36.55%

Survey conducted September 13, 2012.

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

Voters tell what they would do with surplus

By Focus Staff

Likely voters were asked the question, "Knox County government has projected a surplus at the end of this fiscal year \$24.2 million dollars. In your opinion how should the money be allocated?" Voters were given the choice of "Spend it on

capital projects," "Put it in the rainy day fund," "Pay down the debt," and "Give taxpayers a refund."

By a narrow margin, voters favored paying down the debt. Knox County currently has a debt in excess of \$1 billion. If Knox County were to raise the property

tax a dollar dedicated to paying off the debt, it would take at least ten years to pay off the county's debt if Knox County doesn't accrue additional debt in the meantime.

Residents of the First District were overwhelming in their support of

refunding the taxpayers' money with over 61% of voters favoring a refund. No other district in the city or county had as much as 40% in favor of a refund to taxpayers.

The highest number of residents favoring paying down the county debt was

in the Sixth District where 50% of voters were concerned about the debt problem. More than 45% of Third District voters favored paying the debt, with over 43% of voters inside the Fifth District favoring paying down the debt.

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REMEMBERING SARAH MOORE GREENE



Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Technology Academy celebrated the life of Ms. Sarah Moore Greene with a special program on Friday, September 14. Ms. Greene passed away last month at the age of 102. She was an educator, civil rights activist and community leader. The ceremony was led by Dr. Reverend Harold Middlebrook, and students sang songs such as "The Greatest Love" and "America" as a special tribute to her legacy. At the conclusion of the program, the school mascot (eagle) flew through the gym and students released balloons outside the school's main entrance in memory of Ms. Greene.

'Gratitude' the theme of Imagination Library Week

Max Meador may only be 4 years old, but he already understands the importance of showing appreciation. Each month Max thanks his 'mail person' for his Imagination Library book with a big smile. The 4-year-old is enrolled in Knox County Imagination Library, a program that mails one new, age-appropriate book each month to any Knox County child from birth until age five at no cost to the family.

"There are thousands of children in Knox County, just like Max, who look forward to getting a book each month, thanks to the Imagination Library," said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. "I am proud of the work the Knox County Public Library does with Imagination Library to encourage early childhood literacy in our community."

In honor of Imagination Library Week, September 17 - 21, and inspired by Max, the charity is encouraging participants to recognize their postal worker with a special thank you card available at knoxlib.org/imaginationlibrary. Children may add a message or drawing to the downloadable card and present it to their carrier. Postal workers play a crucial role

for Imagination Library by delivering more than 17,000 books each month to Knox County children.

"Imagination Library Week is a special time to bring awareness to the organization and its role in developing essential pre-literacy skills," said Bonny Naugher, chairperson of the Knox County Imagination Library Board. "And what better way to celebrate than by thanking the postal workers who make this program possible."

Currently, more than 67% of the eligible children in Knox County are enrolled in the program, which is administered by the Knox County Public Library. For more information or to enroll your child, please visit knoxlib.org/imaginationlibrary or call (865) 215-8743.

Research shows that children who are registered in Imagination Library are better prepared for kindergarten. Impact studies conducted by the Knox County School system and the State of Tennessee show a high correlation between participation in the program and proficiency of pre-literacy skills as well as an overall excitement about reading. Experts recommend children be read to for 20 minutes every day.



Four-year-old Max Meador shows his excitement as City Letter Carrier Tom Rogers delivers Max's Imagination Library book on September 12. Rogers holds thank you cards the boys made for him. Max's two-year-old brother, Charlie, is seen in the background.

Mayor Rogero to host North Knoxville neighborhood meeting

Mayor Madeline Rogero and other City of Knoxville officials will host a neighborhood meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 17th, in the gymnasium of Belle Morris Elementary School. The meeting is part of a series called Mayor's Neighborhood Connections, which will bring together local neighborhood groups in areas across Knoxville to talk about goals, concerns and ideas for neighborhood improvement.

Five adjacent North Knoxville neighborhood groups have been invited to the meeting at Belle Morris: Belle Morris Community Action Group, Brown Avenue Neighborhood Watch, Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association, Fairmont-Emoriland Neighborhood Association, and Tecoma Watchdogs. Residents of those areas are particularly encouraged to attend, although the meeting is open to anyone.

"Neighborhoods are the centers of community life in Knoxville, and it is important for me and my staff to get out and listen to the most pressing concerns of our citizens," Mayor Rogero said. "Different parts of the City have different priorities and problems. These Neighborhood Connections will allow us to really focus on one area at a time."

Any neighborhood groups interested in a Neighborhood Connections meeting can fill out a form at www.cityofknoxville.org/neighborhoods.

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The 1972 Gibbs Eagles

"Ken Sparks will always be an inspiration for me. His high expectations for me were no less than those of my parents, in regards to my work ethic and achievement of personal goals." These glowing remarks about Coach Sparks were made by John Anderson. As a freshman, John played safety on defense and wingback on offense during his days at Gibbs High. His brothers, William and Sam, were also on Sparks' first team.

By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

With the late Johnny Bean at quarterback, the 1968-69 Gibbs High football team combined effort and talent to give young Coach Sparks his very first win. Some of those players on Sparks' first team gathered for a photo earlier this year at the Gibbs Class of '72 reunion. Though he could not attend, the class-act coach called in his regrets. His absence did not stop former players from remembering the coach whose career they helped launch. "I feel that being part of the football team helped me in developing skills related to working with others for a common goal. It, along with encouragement from my parents, taught me the values gained by commitment to a cause and not quitting when times are hard," Anderson added. After all these years, the impact of Coach Sparks has never been forgotten. John recalls more about the Coach: "His personal commitment to Christ has always been an excellent example for all of his players to follow. I still consider him more than a friend. Ken Sparks is family, and I am grateful for the contribution that he has made in my life."

Memories abound for this coach who walked into a school that had no football program at all and started one. "During my freshman year, I was the back-up kicker for the senior kicker," said Ernie DeZearn. "They called me 'the Toe.' Looking back, I realize the older we got, the better we were! It was an honor to be on the first team the first year Coach Sparks began his successful coaching career."

Mike Fielden was a freshman tailback who played on the team. After reading about "Ken Sparks, More Than a Coach" (Focus 4-9-12), Mike said, "it brought back some good memories of playing for him as a freshman." Mike's older brother, Tom, was a senior and co-captain of the team. I am amazed at the influence this young, inexperienced coach had on his players. Mike shares more of his memories about the coach who has inspired thousands of student athletes on and off the field: "I remember Coach Sparks as intense, a great mentor, and not afraid to show you physically and mentally how you needed to do your job. In practice one day, he got in the 'hole' to demonstrate how to fight off a blocker to make a tackle on the ball carrier. We had on pads, he did not. He did that because one of his linemen was slacking on a Monday practice after a game the Friday night before. What he was really teaching us was life. You win or lose by what you do every day in each practice, in each game, or on each play. If you want to win in life, you have to work at it and earn it. Coach Sparks walked the talk. You knew you could trust him and worked to give him everything you had."

I had forgotten that Dan Luttrell was even on the football team. But, in his senior year, Dan traded in his French horn in the marching band for a football. When asked about Coach Sparks, Dan said, "it took a special coach to take on his task." Indeed, it did!

Doyle Satterfield was, also, one of the forty-plus players on Coach Sparks' first team. Although students from Ritta, Corryton, and Gibbs Elementary Schools made up the student body at Gibbs High, it was still the smallest school in the county. As



Mr. J. Kenneth Sparks
Typing, Economics
Carson-Newman College
B.S. Degree

Coach Ken Sparks in his first year as head coach at Gibbs High School

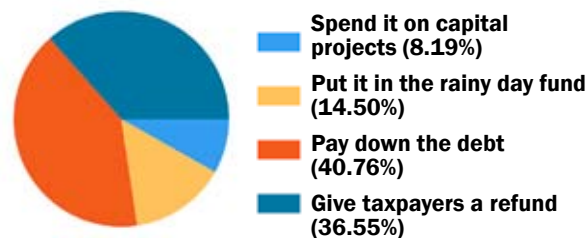
one player reminded me, it had to take a lot of courage to suit-up and play against guys who had been playing for years at other schools.

Since his first coaching job at Gibbs, Ken Sparks has become a Hall of Fame Coach. The Carson-Newman Eagles recently rewarded him with an awesome accomplishment--win number 300! It is no secret that this legendary coach is known as much for his faith as football. In the face of his recent adversity dealing with cancer, Coach Sparks will surely be coaching as much about the game of life as the game of football in the days ahead; and, he will continue making a difference in the lives of young athletes.

As the jerseys go on and footballs are snapped, thrown, and kicked, there is much more at stake in Sparks' games than adding to the "win" column. There are lessons in courage and character, friendships and faith, and respect and responsibility. The sports complex at the college now bears the coach's name; former players still praise him; and, it all started one Friday night on a high school football field in the fall.

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By Age					Total
18-29	[None]	[None]	33.33%	66.67%	3
30-49	7.27%	21.82%	32.73%	38.18%	55
50-65	11.98%	11.38%	43.11%	33.53%	167
65+	5.98%	15.14%	41.04%	37.85%	251
Total	8.19% (39)	14.50% (69)	40.76% (194)	36.55% (174)	476

By Commission District

1	3.85%	7.69%	26.92%	61.54%	26
2	11.11%	14.81%	40.74%	33.33%	54
3	9.09%	9.09%	45.45%	36.36%	55
4	9.72%	16.67%	38.89%	34.72%	72
5	7.55%	18.87%	43.40%	30.19%	53
6	7.69%	9.62%	50.00%	32.69%	52
7	6.90%	17.24%	36.21%	39.66%	58
8	10.17%	13.56%	40.68%	35.59%	59
9	4.26%	19.15%	38.30%	38.30%	47
Total	8.19% (39)	14.50% (69)	40.76% (194)	36.55% (174)	476

By Gender

Unknown	[None]	26.32%	42.11%	31.58%	19
Female	11.50%	12.39%	37.61%	38.50%	226
Male	5.63%	15.58%	43.72%	35.06%	231
Total	8.19% (39)	14.50% (69)	40.76% (194)	36.55% (174)	476

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Voters tell what they would do with surplus

Cont. from page 1

More men than women favored paying down the debt with a final number of just over 40% favoring

paying down the debt. That number was narrowly ahead of the just over 36% who favored a rebate to taxpayers.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Status of the Knox County School System

Through the eyes of a recently retired teacher

The status of the Knox County School system continues to slide downhill. The only positive that I can see is some test score improvement which can be attributed to classroom teachers.

One of the big questions nowadays is how can the schools and community trust a school leader who is supposed to be an educational guru and manager when he did not seem to know that there would be several million dollars left in the budget at the end of the year? It seems that the School Board doesn't realize that Knox County has capable people who could have filled the position without going across the country. Look at where all the latest new principal and assistant assignees are from. Half were from somewhere else. Knox County has plenty of capable and certified people in its system. Maybe it is time for most of the School Board members to be replaced too.

The school system is not serving many students. There are students every year that the system knows will not be able to go to college. What happened to the vocational programs

that would make a pathway for these students to have a good job later in life? Research the wages of auto mechanics and welders, for instance. How far did VW have to go to recruit welders for the plant in Chattanooga? Some from California and the Northwest. There were very few in Tennessee. If students are not deemed "college material," they still need some path that will help them in the future.

Another disgraceful thing that Knox County does is to pass students to the next grade when they do not have the skills to move on. Can you imagine going to a new grade and not being able to read? There are students in middle grades who read on a 1st to 3rd grade level. Administrators would probably deny that, but it is very true. Students should possess the necessary skills to achieve at the next level. Many of the administrators say that it hurts the students' self esteem to hold them back. Better now than later!! There needs to be intensive reading programs for primary and elementary students. They should be able to read on level before being moved

to the middle grades. By the time they get to middle grades, their reading habits are well formed. There could be a much better use of money than having a group of "Reading Coaches" for middle school. Teach the students earlier!

Thinking that classroom size has nothing to do with teaching is ridiculous. If a teacher has 28-35 students with three misbehaving students, the entire class's time can be ruined. Most administrators push teachers to handle their own discipline problems. Sometimes a teacher can't do that. If all students were well behaved, there would be no problem with that number except when it comes to grading papers.

Some, not many, students need to be placed in an alternative situation. If a student constantly disrupts, other students become frustrated and cannot learn well. Teachers also get frustrated and cannot do their best. Administrators should get over being afraid of getting sued and do the right thing by placing the chronic misbehaviors where they belong. All a parent has to say is "I'll sue," and the system bows down to the

parent.

One way Knox County schools could obtain money is to sell some or all of the unused property. There are several parcels of property owned by the school system that will never be used. What a waste! Another way to save would be to move the main offices out of the "Ivory Tower" downtown that costs millions yearly. Millions could be saved if the system would renovate an old school or perhaps purchase an unused shopping center and renovate it. Money is being wasted by renting. The school system is not supposed to be trying to impress anyone by being at their current location. Mayor Burchett got this one 100% correct.

Why can't some of the "extra money" be used for teacher raises? Why not show some true appreciation to the people responsible for helping students have better test scores? Who helped you learn the skills you have to perform your job? Who taught your doctor the skills he needs? Who helped pilots get their skills? Teachers are underpaid. Tell that to your school board. Teachers would be thrilled to be

paid baby sitting wages. If a teacher has 30 students in each class all day and gets paid, say, \$150 per week per child, the pay would be \$4,500 per week. Teachers take a variety of roles from day to day.... teacher, Mom, Dad, brother, sister, counselor, and role model among others. What should a good teacher earn? Perhaps the value of teachers is much more than they earn.

Teachers should be given a questionnaire that scrutinizes the entire school system. Custodians and office workers should be included. The questions should not be made by the school administrators. They would ask loaded questions in order to get a certain reply. The questions should be independent of any school board member or school administrator. The survey should be totally anonymous. Sometimes the truth revealed can be eye opening. Why do the school officials fear such a survey? The teachers, custodians and office workers are the backbones of our system. Their thoughts, ideas and suggestions have been ignored too long. Many teachers are afraid

to be open with administrators because of fear of retribution. Retribution is alive in the system.

Teachers evaluating teachers is a contentious matter. If a teacher evaluates a teacher they do not like, can they be totally objective? The same with an administrator, can an administrator be fully objective in evaluating a teacher they dislike? Evaluators should travel from one school to another for maximum objectivity for each evaluation.

Do your research on the entire Knox County school system. Send suggestions to the School Board. If the people in the "Ivory Tower" do not listen and act, replace them, perhaps all of them.

Name withheld because of ties with Knox County School System

Note from the editor: It is Focus policy to require a name for each Letter to the Editor submitter. Due to the subject matter of this letter, I waived this requirement in order to share these thoughts with our readers.
MD

Just pick a side already



By Richie Beeler

I recently read a blog by a well-known pastor imploring President Obama and Mitt Romney to stop attacking each other. His assertion was that the two candidates appear more interested in tearing one another down than in talking about the issues. I'll bet he hates football too.

While I understand the point this fine gentleman is trying to make (he is one of the best communicators of spiritual truth in our culture today), I am also reminded of the reality that "mudslinging" will always be engrained within our American political process. After all, it always has been.

Political differences,

perhaps more so than anything else, can turn personal rather quickly. The first truly contested presidential election in our nation's history was a bitter fight between two founding fathers. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were anything but allies in the early days of American politics. After the election of 1800 was over, and Jefferson had defeated Adams to become our third Chief Executive, Adams left the White House in the middle of the night to avoid welcoming his successor to office.

But even the deep personal differences between Adams and Jefferson paled in comparison to the blatant hatred that would surface three decades later between a popular war hero and Adams' very own son.

Most historians agree that the election of 1828 was the dirtiest campaign in American political history. Four years earlier, John Quincy Adams, the often

cantankerous lawyer from Massachusetts, had defeated the immensely popular General Andrew Jackson. So popular was Jackson with the people in fact, that he won the popular vote. Neither candidate, however, was able to garner a majority in the Electoral College, largely due to the presence of third party candidate and Speaker of the House, Henry Clay of Kentucky.

Without a clear majority of electoral votes the election was handed over to the House of Representatives. Thanks to his family's well-entrenched political influence, Adams was able to defeat Jackson in the House and win the election of 1824 (any similarities to actual 21st century persons or events is purely accidental, of course). But the fight between Jackson and Adams was far from over. In 1828, the two candidates would face off again.

Jackson never forgave Adams and Clay for what

became known as the Corrupt Bargain, in which Clay had used his influence as Speaker to help elect Adams. The election of 1828 would be shaped by the hatred that continued to grow between the two factions.

Personal accusations flew like bullets on a battlefield between the two candidates. Some were true. Some were blatant lies. The Adams campaign accused Jackson of marrying his beloved wife, Rachel before her divorce from a previous marriage was final. The Jackson campaign accused Adams of providing a young virgin girl for the pleasure of the Russian Czar. The attack on Rachel was the last straw for Jackson. He said he could forgive those who had assaulted his character, but he would never forgive those who had smeared his wife's name.

Jackson defeated Adams in a populist landslide. Just as his father before him

had done, Adams slipped out of Washington under cover of darkness to avoid congratulating Jackson. Perhaps as a result of the intense pressures of the campaign, Rachel Jackson died suddenly of a heart attack before her husband could be inaugurated. Jackson was devastated, and the bitterness of the campaign of 1828 would remain with him throughout his two terms of office.

About the only thing that has changed with the dynamic of presidential politics in the ensuing 184 years is the profound influence of media. Now the candidates have to do their campaigning in front of everyone. Every word they speak is recorded, played and replayed to the entire nation. Empty accusations must undergo the scrutiny of a society that is saturated with information. Indiscretions cannot be kept secret.

But one thing still remains.

The two sides often do not like each other. Oh, that doesn't mean the candidates might never play a friendly round of golf one day after both have ridden off into the political sunset. But it does mean that while the heat of competition is on, it's gonna get real hot in the kitchen.

I'm a pretty non-combative guy. But I am also passionate about my desire for right to prevail. And in this election, what is right and wrong for America seems pretty clear cut to me. The future of this great nation depends on the outcome of this presidential campaign, perhaps as much as any election in our history. I couldn't care less about hearing this President discuss the issues. We should already know by now where he stands. I've definitely picked my side.

And I'm not overly concerned about how friendly the process is.

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FOCUS MORE ON Seymour & South Knox

S-SK Chamber welcomes back teachers

Members of the Seymour-South Knox Chamber of Commerce surprised area school teachers recently with the delivery of nearly 500 goody bags.

Bags were filled with donated items from business owners including pens, nail files, note pads, lip balms, coupons and special offers exclusively for teachers.

"We were very pleased to participate and love showing our support for all they do for our children and community," said Chamber member and business owner Shirley Clepper.

Many teachers expressed how even the smallest of gestures can be encouraging at times. The Chamber is

committed to supporting local businesses and promoting a stronger sense of community through education, networking, leadership initiatives, and various projects throughout the year.

The Back to School Project that helps connect businesses and schools is an example of how the Chamber strives to be instrumental in the growth of the community.

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



Rebekah Hill (right) of Computer Depot and Autumn Galyon of Network Technologies (not pictured) gave goody bags to Seymour Primary's Angela Lindsey.

For more information or upcoming community events visit www.SeymourTn.org.

Roads and Rivers Day

Seymour's fall "Roads and Rivers Day" will be held on Saturday, September 22, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Sevier County's Keep Sevier Beautiful organization sponsors this twice-a-year effort to remove unsightly litter from the county's roadways and river banks.

Registration will take place at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Seymour First Baptist Church, 11621 Chapman Highway. Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to participate. Those under age 12 will be paired with an adult. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and gloves. Safety vests, litter pickers, and water will be provided.

Increased summer traffic and activity have left Seymour roads and streets with much ugly litter that detracts from the beauty of the Seymour community. A good turn out of volunteers on September 22 can help alleviate this eyesore.

Scout packs, 4-H clubs, church Sunday School classes and youth groups, civic clubs, families—all are encouraged to take part. For more information, please call Seymour's clean up coordinator, Merwyn Borders, at 579-3181.

Seymour United Methodist News & Praises

By Dave Manners

Soon autumn will be officially here,

Though still some great weather we'll see;

Keep your love for the Lord ever strong!

That's the way things forever should be!

There is NO seasonality for being a good disciple of Jesus Christ! Do so, ALWAYS and ALL WAYS!

Pastor Jason Gattis, our church staff, and all attendees, encourage you to worship with us every Sunday. You are most welcome for either our Traditional

Worship Service at 8:45 a.m., or our more modern Contemporary Praise Worship Service beginning at 11 a.m.

Pastor Jason is currently presenting a series of sermons about the topic of "Healthy Hearts."

Sunday school classes of all age groups meet at 10 a.m. for various Biblically based studies. Come and be a part of one of these many small fellowship and prayer groups!

Our active Youth Program meets most Sundays with following schedule: 5:30

p.m. snack supper; 6 p.m. youth activities and 6:15 p.m. youth parents Bible studies.

This Tuesday, Sept. 18th, the Cub Scouts Pack 585 will hold their monthly meeting at the church beginning at 6 p.m.

Every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m., the fairly new ministry called "Grief Support" will meet and is open to anyone needing such support. Contact Buddy Greene.

The Wednesday evening "Fellowship Meals" are held each week at 5:30 p.m.,

followed by small group study groups beginning at 6:30 p.m. Make dinner reservations Sunday or before noon on Tuesday.

In Friday, September 21, the Youth, depart at 6 p.m. for their annual "Fall Retreat" for three days to Lake Junaluska, NC.

On Saturday, September 22, the Older Adult Council will host a "Fall-Fun-Fest" luncheon and "Wheel of Fortune" game beginning at noon. Contact Harry Switzer for tickets and details.

Next Sunday, September 23, there will be no Youth

Activities due to their Fall Retreat.

Further general information on any further details on any of the above available by calling our church office at 573-9711, or on our website at: www.seymourumc.com.

We are conveniently located at corner of Chapman Hwy and Simmons Road, one block north of the Boyd's Creek/Rt. 411 intersection with Chapman Hwy. Paved parking and main entrance located behind building off Simmons Road.

South Knoxville forum scheduled for September 25

A Community Forum sponsored by the South Knoxville Resident's Advisory Board will be held at the South Knoxville Community Center (522 Maryville Pike) on Tuesday, September 25 from 7-9 p.m.

The forum panel will be members of the city council and county commission and members of the engineering groups for both the city and the county, MPC and KUB, including:

- Nick Pavlis – Vice Mayor/City Council
- Mike Brown – County Commission
- Jim Hagerman – Director of City Engineering

- Jim Snowden – County Engineering
- Mark Donaldson – Executive Director - MPC
- Julie Childers – VP Engineering KUB

The discussion will be on the development, transportation and highway issues in South Knoxville. There will be questions of general public concern by the moderator to the panelists and members of the audience will also be asked to submit questions for the panel.

The replacement of water and gas mains in neighborhoods will be addressed. The issues associated with

paving replacement and repair will be discussed. The plans for development of new business and housing along John Sevier Highway and Chapman Highway will be on the agenda as well. The future for Chapman Highway after the reopening of the Henley Street bridge is expected to be a subject of interest also.

All South Knoxville residents are welcome.

Questions about the forum should be addressed to: jsharr2@bellsouth.net.

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Powell Middle Welcomes New Assistant Principal

By Sarah Baker
bakers@knoxfocus.com

Powell Middle School welcomed a new assistant principal this year, Mrs. Kimberly Hamlett. She began

her educational career in 1998 and is excited to start her fourteenth year at Powell Middle School. She has served as a teacher, an instructional coach, and now as an administrator.

“Based on her skills in instruction, coaching, and professional development, she was the right person at the right time to help us meet some of our new academic and professional goals,” said principal Gary Critselous.

Powell Middle School has grown in leaps and bounds over the last year enrolling over 100 more students and 12 new positions. New teachers this year include Aundrea Mitchell in technology, Paige Lind in language arts, Jessica Laws in reading, Michelle Ranvek in math, Chris Thorson in Math, Adam Wright in music, and Nick Sirek is covering a maternity leave in science. Critselous is very optimistic about all of his new staff members and changes in staff positions. “We’re very fortunate to have lots of good, solid support in the classrooms and in the office, such as Ginny Smith who heads up our intervention program.”

Hamlett received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Freed-Hardeman University, a Masters Degree in Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University, and an Educational Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Lincoln Memorial University. “I believe that education is

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Kimberly Hamlett

Ground Broken at Oakwood



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett; Knox Heritage; Family Pride Corporation, InSite Development Corporation; Elected officials; Neighbors and the public broke ground on the Oakwood Elementary School project last Thursday. The building, located at 232 E. Churchwell Ave., has been a concern for residents in the Oakwood community and others in North Knoxville for quite some time. It will be a private senior living facility.



Rosie's World

God Is In The Details

Just a few more paragraphs from a favorite book that I received as a gift. I feel as if I should pass these beautiful thoughts along to my readers, hoping that they will be encouraged by them.

“Isn’t it marvelous? Just when you need Him most, God surrounds you with reminders of His presence.

“He is evident in a tear or in a far-off whistle. He is in the twinkle of a stranger’s eye and in a certain shade of blue. He is in the warmth of a handshake and in the missing front teeth of a five-year-old. He is in the hum of the washing machine and in the glow of the Christmas lights.

“He is between the lines of handwritten letters and in the nervous laughter of teenage girls. He rises up in the aroma of freshly cut grass. He is in the invisible arc made by a hawk on a fine summer day. I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done.

“I will be filled with joy because of you. I will sing praises to your name, O Most High. Psalms 9:1-2. NLT”.

As I wrote these words I felt so sad for people who do not have a place to go to when they are troubled; who do not want to partake in the pure joy of being loved and cared for by a caring God. Who do they turn to when they need help? How terrible to go through life without His wonderful presence, without any hope or guarantee of a glorious future.

Next week I will have another one of Joe Burchfield’s tales. I told him he should be sending his stories to *The Focus*. He laughed and said, “No, that’s your job.”

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



The Young Marine

By Sarah Baker
bakers@knoxfocus.com

Kyle Reeves, an eighth grader at Powell Middle School, was given the award of unit Young Marine of the Year (North Knoxville Young Marines). Reeves was a recruit from March to May of 2011 and graduated in May 2011 with the title of Young Marine. He was platoon and overall honor graduate.

Reeves especially enjoys the teaching of discipline and leadership to the younger Young Marines

of his unit. “I have learned many leadership characteristics to be a success in life,” Reeves said. “I went to a Junior Leadership Academy this past summer that taught me how to be a leader among my Young Marines, as well as my peers in civilian life.” He added that the program has also taught him to be really disciplined.

The ceremony took place on September 8 in Smyrna, Tennessee at the Reserve Center’s Volunteer Training Site. In front of the nine

platoons were the Regimental Commander, Paymaster, and Assistant Division Commander. According to Reeves, it was very exciting because every Young Marine knew that he had performed their best. “All of the uniforms were ironed with creases as thin as a piece of paper,” he explained. Described by teachers as dependable, respectful and uncommonly conscientious, Reeves has made his school, his community, and his family very proud.

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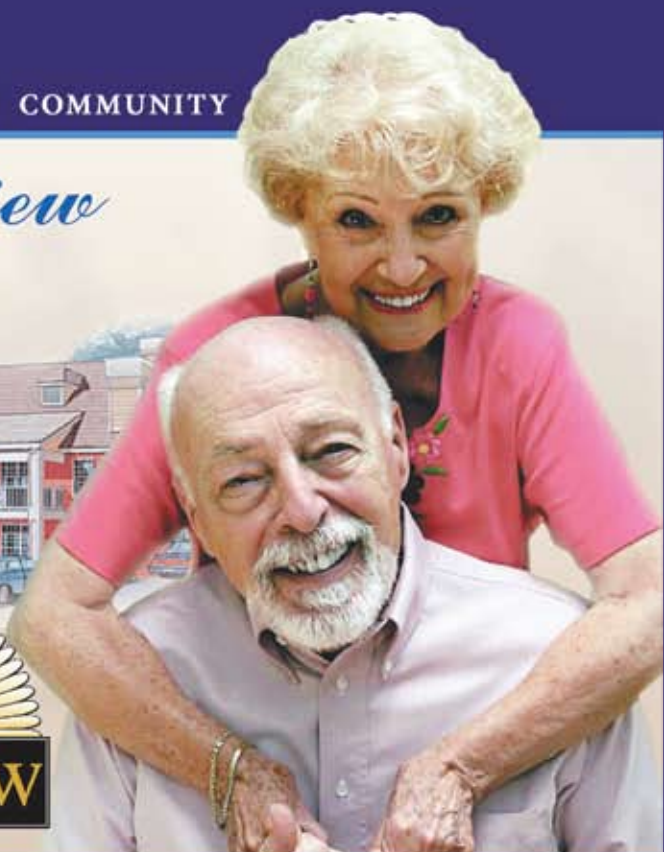
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Teacher goes to Traffic School

About midnight one night last spring, I was driving home to Powell from Middlesboro through Maynardville. I was extremely weary from laughing and crying with old classmates. With my daughter in the car, I rolled down all the windows and the two of us sang 80's music at the top of our lungs to keep me awake. I was so wrapped in cold air, weariness, and nostalgia that I didn't pay close enough attention to my speed. At least I didn't really notice it until I saw those swirling blue and red lights in my rear view mirror.

Now, back when I was in my 20s, I could get out of a ticket. I used to think it was because I always have my license, registration, and proof of insurance hanging out the window before the officer even gets to

my car. I always say, "yes, sir," "no, sir," "I apologize, sir" and I never try to deny whatever it is I'm guilty of. Well let me tell you, I still do all those things but I got a ticket. The rest of the way home and for several weeks after, I grumbled and groaned about how if I were still 20, still blonde, still 125 lbs, I wouldn't have gotten the ticket. So much for that! This past Saturday at traffic school, I sat among folks of all ages and every walk of life. Some of them were pretty, slender, blonde twenty-something's who looked to me like they sure had the good sense to say, "yes, sir," and have their info ready as well as I could. No more grumbling about that.

You know how sometimes you get yourself in a fix and then in the middle of working it out you kind of figure out that there may be "a great lesson in all of this?" That's what traffic school was for me. Before I got there, I expected some domineering, angry police officers to be teaching the class. Not so. It was a very nice married couple who were quite friendly and understanding, not condescending at all. FYI: the officers who pulled

me over were much nicer than expected too (except you know for that whole giving me a ticket thing).

The first lesson I learned was not to drive when I'm sleepy. It is almost as dangerous as driving intoxicated. Not only did I put myself in danger, but also my daughter, and that is unacceptable. Secondly, I need to turn my cell phone OFF when I am in the car. The number of fatal car crashes related to texting has exceeded the amount caused by drunk driving. I can think of three teenagers in my community who have been killed this way right off the top of my head. Now, I'm not big on texting period, let alone texting while I'm driving, but if my phone goes off, I have been known to reach over in my purse and fish for it while driving. No more. Not after the videos I saw. Thirdly, I have got to stop driving with my dog in my lap. This one will be the hardest for me to give up, but it isn't worth risking my safety, my family and friend's safety, or my dog's safety.

Do me a favor, folks. I know most of us

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Powell Middle Welcomes New Assistant Principal

Cont. from page 1
valuable, should be viewed as a privilege, and is one of the most important investments a person can make," said Hamlett, who married her best friend, Bobby, in March of this year. The two have two "fur-babies," an Alaskan malamute, Baloo, and a two year old blue pit bull, Kiyah.

"Powell Middle School holds its students to high expectations, promotes good character traits, and provides students with the knowledge and skills that lay the foundation to becoming productive, successful community members who care about others," said Hamlett. "We at Powell Middle 'Expect Success' and do everything within our means to ensure that ALL students are given the opportunity to succeed. A child's first and most important teacher IS the parent, and we believe maintaining a partnership between the school and parents will help 'our' children achieve success to their fullest potential.



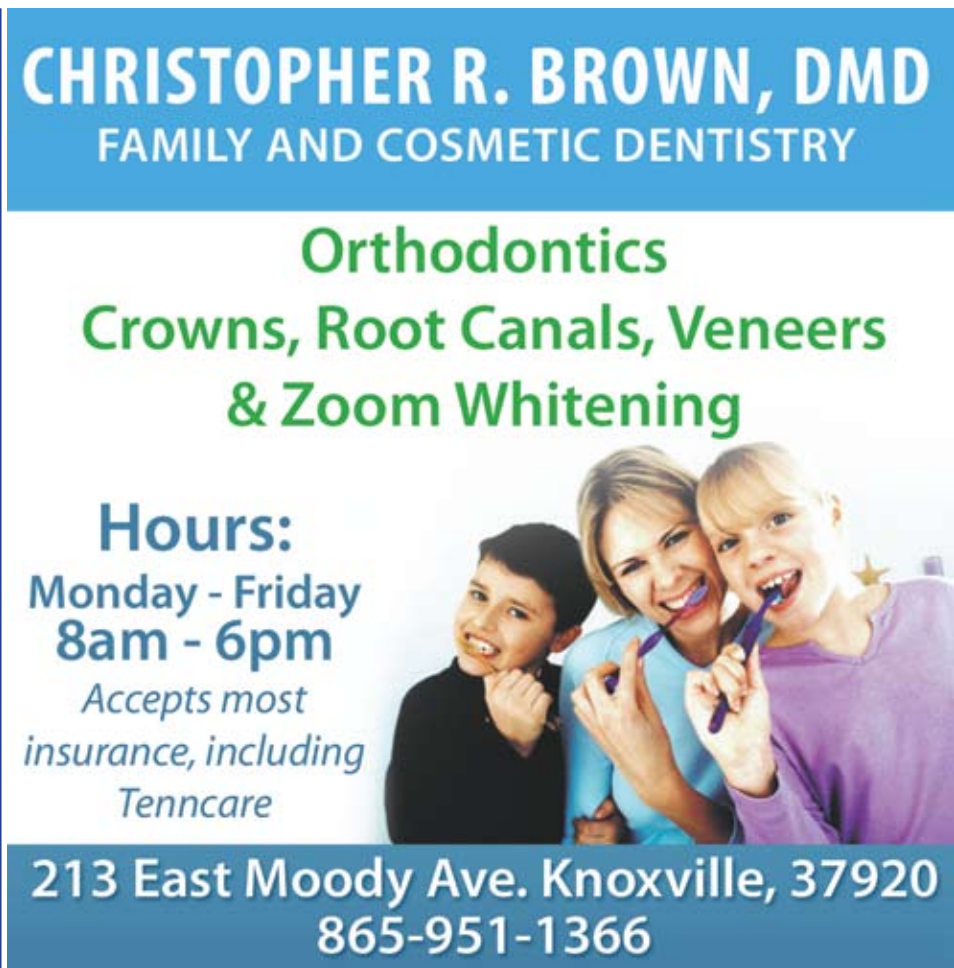
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A Feudin' Son of Tennessee: Kenneth McKellar

Chapter Seventeen

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Many have long misunderstood U. S. Senator Kenneth McKellar and his complex relations with the Tennessee Valley Authority; in fact, some still perceive McKellar to have been an opponent of the TVA. The fact is the TVA proved to be so popular in Tennessee no elected official could have been legitimately hostile to the Tennessee Valley Authority and survived long. It had been McKellar, while a Congressman, who had introduced the bill to allow the government to build a dam and nitrate facility at Muscle Shoals, Alabama. This particular project was under the auspices of the military and while McKellar's legislation did not specify a location, he did urge President Woodrow Wilson to build the nitrate plant at Muscle Shoals. McKellar wanted a location in or near Tennessee, as he believed farmers would benefit by being able to purchase any surplus nitrogen for fertilizer.

What to do with the Muscle Shoals facility became the subject of intense debate between the proponents of public and private power interests following World War I. Senator McKellar supported legislation endorsed by various farm organizations, but the bill approved by the Senate never made it out of a House committee. Industrialist Henry Ford, father of the Ford Motor Company, expressed an interest in bidding on the Muscle Shoals plant; Nebraska U. S. Senator George W. Norris introduced a bill to have the facility operated by the government and the two competing interests fought for much of the 1920s.

Senator McKellar preferred the Ford proposal, as it would continue to produce fertilizer for farmers, while the Norris bill did not have a fertilizer component. McKellar changed his mind and announced he would support the Nebraskan's bill in late 1924, a position unpopular with many of his Southern colleagues. McKellar bitterly denounced a bill sponsored by Alabama U. S. Senator Oscar W. Underwood that would have allowed the private power companies to operate the Muscle Shoals facility and the newly constructed dam for fifty years. Senator McKellar had come to believe the Ford proposal and Underwood's bill would deny consumers a source of cheap public power. Senator Norris had also won McKellar's support for his legislation after including a provision, which allowed for the production of fertilizer, which helped farmers, one of the Tennessean's chief concerns. Unlike many of his colleagues, K. D. McKellar was less concerned about



PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Tennessee Governor Prentice Cooper pins a button on the lapel of Senator K. D. McKellar as Senator Tom Stewart watches.

private power versus public power; McKellar's primary interest was which proposal did the most for the people of Tennessee. Even though George W. Norris had addressed the production of fertilizer in his bill, the Nebraskan remained far less concerned about producing fertilizer than many Southerners.

Before being elected to Congress, McKellar had been a prosperous attorney in Memphis and had represented a private power company. McKellar helped the company to organize and was given, as his fee, \$30,000 of stock in the company. For the time, it was a princely sum, yet the company changed hands several times and eventually the stock owned by McKellar was worthless. Senator McKellar, with his long memory, never forgot the experience and was surprisingly not especially friendly to the private power concerns while in Congress.

McKellar's long-time political partner and ally, E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political organization, was even more hostile to private power interests. Crump blamed the private power companies for helping to remove him from office as Mayor of Memphis.

Naturally, both McKellar and Crump believed with the advent of public power companies, farmers could purchase needed fertilizer cheaply while consumers would get electricity for far less than what the private power companies were charging. Still, McKellar was not willing to accept any legislation that brought about public power if any bill did not serve the best interests of the people of Tennessee. Senator McKellar fought a bill sponsored again by George W. Norris for the Tennessee Valley development as Norris again did not consider the production of fertilizer and worse, from McKellar's point of view, the bill did not compensate Tennessee for any loss of tax revenue or water power. McKellar filibustered against the bill and it died in the Senate.

A bill finally emerged from Congress in 1928, which was promptly vetoed by

President Calvin Coolidge. Senator Norris decided if he were to be successful again, he would have to satisfy McKellar's concerns about compensating states for lost tax revenue. For his part, McKellar agreed to compromise with the Nebraskan in supporting a bill which did not stress production of fertilizer, but encouraged research for fertilizer production.

Conservative Republicans were all for selling the Muscle Shoals plant to the private power companies and were steadfastly opposed by a coalition of Southern Democrats and Progressive Republicans. Presidents Coolidge and Herbert Hoover both vetoed efforts by the coalition to pass legislation for public power. McKellar disliked Hoover intensely and Hoover's veto did nothing to endear the icy chief executive to the disappointed Tennessean.

Hoover's opponent in the 1932 election was New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt and the wily Roosevelt made public power a potent political issue. FDR handily defeated Hoover and soon the Tennessee Valley Authority became a reality.

Senator McKellar was deeply disappointed when President Roosevelt selected George W. Norris to introduce the TVA legislation in Congress, but McKellar publicly praised his colleague's long fight for public power. McKellar fought hard for the construction of the Cove Creek Dam in Tennessee, as well as the Wheeler Dam built in Alabama as part of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The three member Board of Directors of the TVA were more conservative in their projections for the agency as they hesitated in building more dams, while Senator McKellar insisted upon the construction of at least five additional dams

along the Tennessee River. The Chairman of the TVA, Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, seemed perfectly content not to directly compete with the private power companies, but McKellar pushed through the appropriations needed for the construction of the additional dams.

It was during one of the many legislative battles on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority that someone introduced the term "McKellarism", which was used to describe large appropriations and the many jobs and public projects created by the vast sums of money expended. Senator McKellar was not horrified by the gibe and replied in what was, in essence, his political credo in serving the people of Tennessee in the United States Senate.

"If loyalty to my friends," McKellar said, "and showing appreciation of their friendship, if seeing that my state receives its portion of public favors so that our people may progress and advance with other sections is "McKellarism", as has been charged, I gladly meet the issue.

"If what I have done is McKellarism, I stand for McKellarism."

And so he did.

Many Republican members of Congress remained hostile to the Tennessee Valley Authority and two powerful GOP legislators made a determined effort to pare TVA's appropriations from \$40 million to \$30 million in 1940. Senator McKellar quickly crushed the Republican rebellion in the Senate. Not only did McKellar beat the Republicans back, but also he successfully obtained even more money for the TVA to build a dam and steam plant on the Holston River.

Throughout his entire career in the United States Senate, Kenneth McKellar

continuously fought for the Tennessee Valley Authority. It was the seventy-nine year old McKellar who led other senators in moving to appropriate \$4 million to begin construction of yet another steam plant in 1948 when the Senate was controlled by a Republican majority. In his last year in the Senate and then eighty-three years old, McKellar remained on the Senate floor until the wee hours of the morning to restore more than \$14 million in funds that had been slashed from the Tennessee Valley Authority's appropriations.

Despite McKellar's indefatigable and constant efforts on behalf of the TVA, his opposition to Douglas Dam is frequently better remembered, as is his continuing feud with David Lilienthal. McKellar's opposition to the Douglas Dam was largely due to the fact thousands of East Tennesseans were opposed to the dam. Citizens and business interests were concerned about 30,000 acres of prime farm land being flooded, lost tax revenue and possibly the extinction of the city of Dandridge, while workers were concerned about being unemployed. President Roosevelt supported the dam as necessary to the war effort, but Senator McKellar doubted the dam would be completed in time to do much of anything to promote America's interests during World War II. Still, McKellar

dropped his opposition after a public plea from FDR and sought the money necessary to build the dam.

Besides regularly getting the dollars to build dams throughout the Tennessee Valley, McKellar helped TVA purchase property owned by private power companies. Dr. Morgan, then Chairman of the TVA, was content to allow private power companies their monopolies in more heavily populated urban areas, leaving the TVA to furnish public power to residents in more rural areas. McKellar strongly objected to Dr. Morgan's notion and insisted TVA have the right to furnish cheaper public power all across Tennessee. McKellar considered Dr. Morgan's vision to be nothing less than a failure of the entire concept of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Senator McKellar also led the fight against moving the headquarters of the Tennessee Valley Authority elsewhere. There were persistent efforts to relocate the TVA headquarters, especially by Alabama's U. S. senators. McKellar remained absolutely opposed to relocating the TVA or any other Federal installation from Tennessee and his power inside the United States Senate helped to protect the Volunteer State.

The private power companies fought back, challenging the legality of the TVA in the courts, including the Tennessee State Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United States. Both high courts upheld the legality of the TVA.

When Senator McKellar's record regarding the Tennessee Valley came under attack, McKellar produced a letter signed by every member of the Senate Appropriations Committee attesting to his effectiveness in keeping the agency alive and fully funded. Without Kenneth McKellar, his power inside the Senate, the Tennessee Valley Authority would certainly not have prospered as it did. McKellar was instrumental in making the TVA successful, as well as bringing the atomic energy project to Oak Ridge. Knoxville would be a very different place to live today without both of those entities.

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I don't care what they think

You know those signs that you're getting old? It seems like they come around more frequently these days. In particular, comments, stares, and sneering laughter come my way all too often. The question with which I struggle is how to react to them.



By Joe Rector

On vacation this summer, I was the butt of smirks and laughs. They came because of my attire. Amy bought me a pair of canvas slip-ons last year. While they are comfortable and make the chore of removing shoes in the airport much easier, the things rub blisters on my heels and toes. For that reason, I wear short white socks with them, the kind that come right to the top of the shoe. In the airport in Mexico, a couple passed me. The man didn't think I was paying

attention, and he tapped his female companion's arm and pointed at my feet. Then he muttered something, and they both laughed. Hey, at least I wasn't wearing calf-high back socks!

My hair line is racing to reach the crown of my head in world record time. Folks politely tell

me that I still have lots of hair, but the truth to that statement is that most of it is in a rim. At any rate, the sun burns my exposed scalp to the point that I wear hats whenever I go outside. Comments and jokes abound about my goofy looking lids. Of course, asides about my ever-advancing baldness flavor the quips.

Worst of all, family and friends cut off some of my stories. They are little pearls of wisdom or snippets

of humor that I want to share with those who are important in my life. Sometimes folks are polite and allow me to finish the tale; at other times they silence me in mid-story with "we've heard that a hundred times" or "yeah, you told us." Hey, I know (most of the time) that I've related one of these gems, but sometimes they are valuable enough to bear repeating.

How's an aging individual to respond to such slights and insults? Righteous indignation doesn't do much to change things. In fact,

most young people accept that such expressions of displeasure are just a part of an oldster's life. Depression is another reaction to comments made by those young whippersnappers, but I'll never let them determine my mood in life. Sometimes, my middle finger itches to stand at attention in a salute to a youth's disrespect, but Mama always told me doing so wasn't nice.

The truth is that the older I grow, the less I care what others think of or about me. At this point, life

is much too short to waste time or energy on folks who ridicule or make fun. Before they can blink their eyes, the years will catch up with them, and then they will be the ones who are being pointed at. You know what they say about karma!

I'll cover my head with any hat I choose. I'll continue to speak my truth, regardless of how boring it might be to others. Last of all, I'll wear sock with my beach shoes any time I want to. Anyone who doesn't like it can pucker up.

The Hillbilly Hero

By Sarah Baker
bakers@knoxfocus.com

Author Tom Jester and photographer Don Dudenbostel were on hand at Union Avenue books on Saturday, September 8 to discuss their book "Popcorn Sutton: The Making and Marketing of a Hillbilly Hero." For three years before the suicide of Popcorn Sutton, writer Tom Wilson Jester and photographer Don Dudenbostel recorded the complex life of Popcorn through photographs, digital soundtracks, and writings.

The text and 70 black and white photographs give an up close look taking you beyond the myth of this legendary moonshiner. In this book, you will find Popcorn's handwritten recipe for making moonshine and detailed photographs of his moon shining operation taken one and a half hours prior to the still burning to the ground and his arrest. Popcorn Sutton is probably the most famous Appalachian moonshiner of all time. Still Jester and Dudenbostel provide the reader with a side of Popcorn Sutton we don't know.

With a smile on his face, Jester

describes Sutton as a "narcissistic sociopath you wouldn't want your wife to meet on the street." When asked why he thinks people are so enamored with Sutton, he suggests that people are just drawn to bad boys even old hillbilly ones. He explains that he didn't set out to romanticize Sutton or to defend him, but "just to tell the story."

Indeed, Jester and Dudenbostel are full of interesting stories. As part of an educational program called "Vanishing Appalachia," they have become experts and educated the public on Popcorn Sutton, cock fighting, cross burning, and snake handling. They've met some very interesting characters and they don't judge any of them. Sutton even once asked Dudenbostel to bail him out of jail and loan him money for a new still. "I just couldn't do it," he explained. "I wanted to keep my house and my wife." "Popcorn Sutton: The Making and Marketing of a Hillbilly Hero" is available at Union Avenue Books, East Tennessee Historical Society, Earth to Old City and Amazon.com.

Teacher goes to Traffic School

Cont. from page 1

believe that we have an appointed time to die. I get that. I really do. But we've got to make it clear to our kids that every day people die BEFORE their time because of their own poor choices or because of someone else's poor choices. We've got to suffer the consequences of our sin. It is not okay to get behind the wheel of a car, behave irresponsibly, and spout off about how "we all go when it's our time." I've known a lot of beautiful souls who were taken before their time and if

someone said to me that "it was just her time," it would probably be the last words they ever said to me. We have to teach our kids to love their own lives and respect all life and to protect and honor life by being safe. "He who gains Wisdom loves his own life; he who keeps understanding shall prosper and find good." Proverbs 19: 8 I wish wisdom could have come from something other than traffic school, but - you do the crime, you pay the time. Drive safe, everybody.

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West ends long drought against Admirals

By Ken Lay

West High School had plenty to celebrate Friday night. For starters the Rebels spoiled Farragut's homecoming and in doing so, the Rebels snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Admirals.

West may have nabbed a crucial 21-14 District 4-AAA victory over Farragut at Bill Clabo

Field but early it looked like Farragut was going to continue to be a house of nightmares for the Rebels.

But West and senior quarterback Ryan Francis managed to overcome three first-half turnovers and a 7-0 deficit to win a pivotal district game.

Things started miserably for the Rebels (3-1 overall, 1-1 in

the district). Francis, who was a one-man wrecking crew for the Rebels, threw an interception on the second play from scrimmage.

Farragut defensive back Jake Bruce picked off Francis' pass and gave the Admirals the ball on the Rebels' 40-yard line. From there, the Admirals marched six plays and scored

the game's first touchdown when Bryan Phillips connected with Christian Jetton from 22 yards out. Jonathan King's extra point gave the home team a 7-0 lead less than three minutes into the contest.

"It's human nature to think, 'here we go again,' "Rebels coach Scott Cummings said. "Every time we play Farragut,

they always play us tough and it seems like everything that could go wrong does go wrong."

Luckily, for West, Murphy's Law didn't stay in effect long as the Rebels answered on their next drive and knotted the game on Francis' 2-yard scoring plunge with 3:26 left in the opening quarter.

That would prove to be the last score of a first half in which Bruce recovered a Francis fumble before leaving the game with a leg injury.

In the second half, West took control. The Rebels took a 14-7 lead as they cashed in an Admirals' turnover. An interception by Nathan Cottrell gave

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Eagles Grounded in the Highlands



PHOTO BY JAMES SPEARS.

Caleb Wood of Gibbs makes the tackle on a Gibbs Pittman runner.

By Curtis Trotter

If the first nine plays from scrimmage that Gatlinburg-Pittman displayed Friday night against Gibbs was anything at all, it was a foreshadowing of things to come all night long in the District 3-AA match up. GP, who had dropped two non-district games to out of state powerhouse teams in Swain County N.C. and Knox Central KY., bounced back in a big way when they turned sophomore tailback Michael Muszik loose to carry the load for the Highlanders. Muszik, who seemed to explode out of the gates from the opening whistle, didn't stop all night in the 42-7 victory over the state's 6th ranked team.

Scoring started first for the the Highlanders when Muszik carried his team to a 7-0 lead at the 8:33 mark in the first frame of play. Gibbs countered

with a blazing run and score moments later on a Ty Brewton 57-yard dash to knot the contest at 7-7. That's when GP turned up its defense and decided that would be the only time the visiting Eagles would even see pay-dirt for the rest of the game. Muszik, who would later see the end zone on two more runs of 8 and 46 yards, was assisted by quarterback Tanner Cox who tossed for a score and ran for one as well. Clay England scooped up a loose ball on a defensive play and sealed the win on GP's final dagger and score that sent the Highlander faithful into chaotic cheer.

GP's legendary Head Coach of 40 years Benny Hammonds was all smiles after the 1-0 district start. "I can't tell you how proud I am of these young men. We came into this game all banged up. These kids

stepped up tonight and played GP football."

Hammonds continued, "Coach Brad Conley brought an outstanding football team over here tonight. Gibbs had plenty of offensive weapons that we knew we had to shut down defensively. Coach (Neil) Estes had a good game plan tonight that our defensive unit played into. I'm proud of the kids."

Conley, who took his team to the play-offs last season, had the services of all-star quarterback Jay Cade available all evening long. The GP defense just contained him in almost a 'textbook-like form' from the opening kickoff.

Conley praised the effort of Hammonds and his staff: "Coach Hammonds has done this a long time. I knew with this being their home opener they would come to play

tonight. Honestly, we just got 'out toughed' and 'out played' overall. We were somewhat banged up coming in here and knew it would be tough."

According to the Gibbs mentor, the team was expected to pick back up Saturday to look at film and prepare for yet another huge battle next week when they host the state's #1 ranked team, CAK. Conley acknowledged the importance of his team's resilience. "We have to bounce back. We have to become a tougher football team. We haven't faced a lot of adversity this year. Tonight we faced our fair share. We've got to learn and grow from this. We just have to," Conley concluded.

Muszik, who carried the ball 35 times for the Highlanders, racked up nearly 300 yards on the ground. Hammonds told

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Fulton Comes Out Fast, Wins 55-0

By David Klein

The Fulton Falcons rode the athleticism of their star play-makers on offense Friday night on their way to a 55-0 win over the visiting Pigeon Forge Tigers. The Falcons averaged nearly 17 yards per play, and quarterback Penny Smith was perfect on the night, recording a pass efficiency rating of 794.

It was the Penny Smith show in the first half for the Fulton Falcons as he threw for 131 yards and three touchdowns. All of his three

completions went for touchdowns. Fulton had four one-play touchdowns, including their first three touchdowns. Xavier Hawkins had one rushing touchdown and two receiving touchdowns. Running back Daryl Rollins scored three touchdowns on 98 yards rushing. Domonique Williams had one touchdown for Fulton in the first half, a 50-yard touchdown catch from Smith. Jolante Castle had the eighth Falcon touchdown. Fulton led Pigeon Forge 55-0 at the end

Continue on page 2

Central takes out Karns 34-14

By Alex Norman

The Central Bobcats and the Karns Beavers have each had their struggles so far this season.

Last Thursday night, the struggles continued for Karns.

Led by a monster effort from the Central offensive line and running back Jajuan Stinson, the Bobcats knocked off the Beavers 34-14.

The Bobcats got the first break of the game in the first quarter. Karns quarterback Matt Nauman threw a pass that receiver Monte Munsey couldn't handle. The football ricocheted off Munsey's helmet, right into the hands of Central defensive back Cedric Washington, who returned it 17 yards to the Karns 18 yard line.

On the very next play, Central quarterback Xavier Johnson threw deep for Markieus Campbell, who appeared to drop the football when he

made contact with the ground in the end zone. The officials gave him credit for the reception, and the Bobcats were up 7-0.

But the Beavers weren't flustered. Nauman led the Beavers on a 10 play, 80 yard drive, culminating with a 10 yard Nauman to Nathan Rivera touchdown pass, and with 3:00 to go in the first quarter, the game was tied at 7, and it looked like this would be a very competitive contest.

Instead, the Bobcats took control. On the final play of the first quarter, Stinson broke a tackle at the line of scrimmage, got the sideline, and run 56 yards for the go-ahead score, putting Central up 14-7.

Midway through the second quarter, Central was putting the football back to Karns at midfield. Bobcats punter Corey Plont was bumped by

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West overcomes Powell on soccer field

By Ken Lay

Keeghan Francis provided just the right offensive punch for the West High girls soccer team early last week.

Francis, the Lady Rebels' sophomore forward, scored two goals in the first 17 minutes to lead West to a 5-0 victory over Powell on Monday, Sept. 10 at Bill Wilson Field. "She did some great things," Lady Rebels coach Sonny Trotter said of Francis. "I thought we played really well. "I knew that this would be a tough game for us because Powell always plays us tough and they've been playing pretty well."

The Lady Panthers had the first scoring opportunity but Lady Rebels' goalkeeper Keegan McCoy made a big save. From there, Francis enabled West to take control. Francis scored an unassisted goal in the fifth minute to give the Lady Rebels a 1-0 lead. She extended the Lady Rebels' advantage 12 minutes later when she took a pass from Rachel Ryan and promptly banged the ball past Powell net-minder Carlee Rose.

That was all the scoring in the first half but West controlled the tempo and held possession throughout the first 40 minutes. The Lady Rebels outshot the Lady Panthers 9-3 in the first

half. West could've really made things miserable for the Lady Panthers but the Lady Rebels couldn't find their shooting touch.

The Lady Panthers missed a golden opportunity early in the second half when McCoy stopped a point-blank shot by Sara Groos.

The Lady Rebels finally found their shooter's touch in the second half. Allie Marret, West High's freshman midfielder, gave the home team a 3-0 lead in the 63rd minute. Francis picked up an assist on West's third marker.

Raina Fitzpatrick scored in the 64th minute before Megan Wall closed out the scoring in the 67th minute and West would cruise.

Powell coach Mark Smith said his team just wasn't ready for West High's potent attack.

"We had a rough night," Smith said. "That's all I can say."

"We just weren't prepared for this game."

West got its week off to a fast start but the good times didn't last long as the Lady Rebels dropped a 3-0 District 4-AAA decision to Catholic Wednesday night at Blaine Stadium.

The Lady Irish (3-3-2) got goals from Camille Mancini, Melissa Vargas and Molly Dwyer.

West, which fell to 4-2-1, was outshot 15-5 in Wednesday's match.

Central takes out Karns 34-14

Cont. from page 1

Karns senior Trevor Towe. The officials felt it was worthy of a personal foul flag, giving the Bobcats 15 yards and a key first down to extend their drive.

And Central took full advantage. Johnson avoided pressure and ran it in from 14 yards away, giving Central a 21-7 lead, and that was where the game stood at halftime.

The Beavers needed to get something going to start the second half. Instead, it was once again the Bobcats making a key play. Nauman threw down the sideline for Rivera, but the coverage was too good from Central senior Gavin Adams. He made the interception at the Central 45 yard line.

One play later, Central made Karns pay. Stinson broke a tackle, and then ran away from the Karns defense, sprinting 55 yards for the touchdown, and Central was on top 27-7.

And Stinson wasn't finished. With 4:10 to go in the third quarter, Stinson broke

multiple tackle at the line of scrimmage, and once he got some daylight, it was over. 27 yards later, the Bobcats lead was 34-7.

Give Karns credit, because they didn't quit. Nauman and Rivera hooked up once again... this time a 20 yard pass play to the end zone, pulling Karns within 20 points with less than 10 minutes to go.

But the Beavers would get no closer. Central's 34-14 win increased their record to 2-3, and perhaps most importantly, to 2-1 in District 3-AAA. The Beavers fell to 1-4, and 1-2 in District 3-AAA.

Stinson's numbers? Not too shabby for a nights work. He rushed for 221 yards on 14 carries...and three touchdowns.

The Bobcats will try to make it three wins in a row on Friday night when they host Hardin Valley. The Beavers will host Powell in a game that is close to being a must win if the Beavers want to have any chance of advancing to the postseason.



The South High School Rocket eventually landed at Mooreland Heights Elementary School, where it is honored today. "It's old, but it's not forgotten," said Leslie May, secretary/bookkeeper at Mooreland Heights. South High closed in 1975. Reaching its new home in 1994 was quite an adventure for the Rocket, May added.

Gone but not forgotten

Recalling preps of the past in our area



By Steve Williams

Once upon a time, Golden Bears romped atop the ridge above Lonsdale.

Panthers snarled in other areas besides Powell. In fact, some were on the prowl in East Knoxville, not very far from downtown.

A little farther east, there used to be battles between Mountaineers and Warriors, sometimes taking place close to streets named Chilhowee, Indian, Iroquois and Mohawk.

Across the river, South Knoxville has always been like a town of its own. One side of Chapman Highway was long known for swarming Yellowjackets. On the other side, there was a Rocket that attracted attention. And believe it or not, where Pioneers once settled, Cherokees now live.

Have you caught on to my story yet? Maybe so, if you're from an older generation.

For the younger, like CAK quarterback Charlie High and the present day Warriors – their nickname comes from a Biblical reference – what you've been reading are some of the nicknames of high school football teams that once played in this area.

At least 10 high schools have come and gone over the years in Knoxville and Knox County . . . the Rule Golden Bears, the Austin Panthers, the East Mountaineers, the Holston Warriors, the Young Yellowjackets, the South Rockets, the

Doyle Pioneers.

The list of departed also includes the South-Young Trojans, a consolidation of rivals South and Young. South-Young eventually merged with Doyle to form the present day South-Doyle Cherokees.

It appears all the school changes over the years in South Knoxville have strengthened the unity of the people in that area, as South-Doyle High proudly announces on its web site that it "shares a history" with the three former schools.

That's good to see. There are a lot of past players, cheerleaders and band members that shouldn't be left out, even though their school is gone.

In our research, we found that Knoxville High School and Stair Tech were the first local high schools to close, more than two generations ago.

If Hardin Valley Academy is the new kid on the block as far as high school football goes today, Knoxville High was the granddaddy.

With school closings, athletic programs came to an end, including some great football traditions.

The Knoxville High School Trojans were recognized as state champions for three consecutive years (1942 through 1944) as they were No. 1 in the Tennessee Litkenhous Ratings. The Trojans were perennial Top 10 finishers in the state. In 1950, its final season, Knoxville High was 10-1.

Rule High also was often a force to be

reckoned with on the gridiron and was Class AA state runner-up in 1980, losing 21-20 at mighty Brentwood Academy. This was in the days when public schools and private schools competed against each other in the state playoffs.

Brentwood Academy was a private school powerhouse. Coach Bob Polston's boys were just plain tough. I was fortunate to cover the show-down for The Knoxville Journal.

Population growth and decline in different areas created the need for new schools and the closing of others over time.

After Knoxville High closed in the spring of 1950, four high schools – East, South, West and Fulton – opened in the fall of 1951.

Integration brought the end to two schools – Austin and East – and the birth of a new one in 1968 – Austin-East.

South and Young were consolidated in 1976 and South-Young merged with Doyle in 1991. That same year saw Holston and Rule close.

Through the years, many local high schools have had to move into bigger buildings because of overflowing enrollments but didn't lose their names or traditions.

Other schools were dealt a different fate. But those that are gone are not forgotten. There are success stories behind each one worth recalling.

In the weeks ahead, we hope to bring you some of those. Like the story of the South High Rocket that still stands today. Really.

The end.

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“Morning Sickness”

I'm tired of waking up every morning sick at my stomach because of what my country has become. It takes daily devotionals, journaling, and considerable effort to reorient my heart and soul so that I can go to work and care for my patients. It gets tougher every day as the destruction of America continues. And now eleven years after the terrible 9-11 attacks of 2001, the sovereign soil of our country (embassies and consulates) is again violated in Egypt and Libya, and our ambassador and three other Americans are murdered. Obama's foreign policy and his outreach to Islam is a nauseating failure.

We have sent \$70 billion of aid to Egypt over the last 45 years, and now 46

million Americans are on food stamps because they can't feed themselves in our broken economy. Obama tells us we need to continue to send \$2 billion a year to people who hate us. This makes me sick, especially at a time when our own country is broke and our unemployment remains above 8% for the last 40 months. I hesitate to be technical, but the reason the reported 8.1% is lower is because another 375,000 people just gave up looking for a job and left the labor force. Only 58% of our people now work, and if you add the underemployed to those who have given up and no longer show up on Labor Department statistics, the real unemployment approaches 19%. Obama's

\$750 billion Stimulus is a failure and the recovery he and Biden keep touting is a joke.

Yes, our country is broke and is following in the footsteps of Greece even as Bernanke and the Federal Reserve print more money to shore up failed policies. Our national debt under Obama has increased from \$10 to 16 trillion. Presidents are lauded and pilloried for what happens on their watch. The campaigner-in-Chief touts that he got Osama Bin Laden, though it was Seal Team Six and our intelligence community who pulled the trigger. Mr. Obama told us that his \$750 billion shovel-ready Stimulus package would lower unemployment to 5.5%. It didn't, and his televised sheepish chuckles admitting the dearth of shovel-ready projects made me sick. The President said he's cut the deficit in half in his first term. He didn't. Now all he can do is blame Bush; pathetic and not Presidential.

You realize that only half of our citizens pay Federal Income taxes. And if the IRS was to take *all* the money which the top 1% earn in 2013, that money would fund the government's

spending for only 8.5 days. I'm not close to that maligned top 1%, but I don't think I'm entitled to what's in their pockets. Mr. President, I believe those 1% used their talents and their recourses to *build* their fortunes just as I did, and your attack on them is actually an attack on me. Promoting class warfare between rich and poor, black and white, union and non-union, gay and straight may be the modus operandi of Chicago politics, but is unbefitting the Presidency.

Perhaps what makes me most ill is the Democratic Party who removed the mention of God from their 2012 party platform. Platforms are merely statements of principle and directed to the so-called base or party faithful. It took a floor fight and three voice votes, with very questionable results, to put God back into the stated principles of the Democratic Party. Perhaps because I'm a Christian and a student of history that I'm troubled that so many of countrymen see God as irrelevant. Our coinage says "In God we trust." Perhaps the Democrat Party holds, "In Obama we trust."

A friend of mine gave me a secret gift the other day when she confided that she and

her husband awaken every day with the nausea of fear. Her revelation made me feel less alone, and realize that there are good people of conscience still left.

I'm sixty-one years old and I've been blessed by a country that affords me "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." My country and family gave me opportunities of education and taught me to love and share with others less fortunate. In fact, Americans are the most generous people in the world and we do so out of the goodness in our hearts, driven by conscience and "Nature's God." I've said many times that if I died today, it's been a good run. However, like my friend, I'm sickened with worry for my children, grandchildren and my country.

C. S. Lewis once said that "We live in enemy territory." Evil does exist. If you doubt me, recall the Christian/Newsom torture-murders. I no longer believe that our leaders have America's best interests at heart. They are absorbed in the idolatrous pursuit of power and the media are their accomplices. Together they turn a blind eye to radical Islam, choosing to pay lip service to Iran's quest for an atomic

weapon. Obama doesn't even have time to meet with Israel's Netanyahu, though he has time to book another gig this week on the Letterman Show.

I think I've been a conservative all my adult life, though more so in these momentous times. I see clearly now and I won't compromise my principles. I try to be respectful of others, even those I see as duped. However, I'm intolerant of those who are trying to destroy my country and the future of my children. Call me what you want, but I can tell you that I am an American and a Christian, and "the gates of hell shall not prevail against [this]."

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

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

It's Flumist Time

KCHD'S School-Located Flu Vaccination Clinics Start Sept. 17

The eighth year of the school-located influenza vaccination program (also known by the intranasal vaccine's brand name: FluMist) will begin on Sept. 17 and both the online consent site and papers forms are available for parents to enroll their children now.

Parents who want their child vaccinated against influenza at his or her school can go to <https://knox.zippslip.com/>. It only takes a few minutes, and offers the ability to receive scheduled updates and confirmations privately throughout the vaccination campaign if so desired. It also provides important notes and data for in-school clinic staff who will use tablet computers to securely access consent data.

"The online consent is a real time saver," said John Lott, KCHD director of clinical services who oversees the school-located flu vaccination program. "This year

we've added the QR codes to the inschool posters and other signage so parents can enroll their child from their phone when they drop them off at school."

Paper consent forms also are available from the schools and online at knoxcounty.org/health. No child will be vaccinated without a completed, signed and returned consent form. This year's school-located vaccination clinics will be conducted between Sept. 17 and Oct. 12, offering FluMist intranasal vaccine. A detailed schedule is located on the KCHD and the Knox County Schools

websites. Children who miss their school clinics may visit any KCHD location for a free influenza vaccine.

Due to decreased federal and state funding to buy vaccine, KCHD will be billing insurance for children who have insurance and parents are asked to provide

their insurance information on the consent forms.

KCHD will accept assignment and no costs will be passed on to the parents. To help cover vaccine cost for children without insurance, a new donation feature also is available.

Parents can donate during the consent process. The general public can donate vaccine through KCHD's website at knoxcounty.org/health or the Metropolitan Drug Commission's website at <http://www.metrodrug.org/web/flumist>. MDC is partnering with KCHD to make the donations possible. Donations are tax deductible and all funds go directly to an account specified to purchase vaccine.

Knox County's School-located Influenza Vaccination Clinics have successfully reduced the amount of flu in the community over the last seven years. Studies have shown – and this community's experience has borne out – that vaccinating children against influenza keeps them healthy and has a ripple effect through the community that protects

young and old alike. Since the inception of the school flu vaccination program eight years ago, only one Knox County school has closed due to flu, and that was in the early days of the H1N1 pandemic due to CDC protocol which was later changed.

Flu immunization not only prevents the flu, but reduces overall respiratory illness rates, lost work days and doctor visits. Overall, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, having a flu vaccination saves every person \$47, three times the cost of getting your child vaccinated at school. The average person loses \$92 a year in wages from sick days. Every year, the flu causes American workers to miss up to 70 million workdays, or the lifetime work of 6,137 American workers.

Knox County's in-school influenza vaccination program began in 2004 and was underwritten through a grant from MedImmune, the makers of FluMist, an intranasal flu vaccine which requires no needles.

Through careful resource

management, public health officials were able to utilize the MedImmune money for more than one year. After that, KCHD leveraged federal and state vaccination programs which provided free vaccine for children to keep the program viable. Suddenly last spring, the federal and state programs which had provided the free vaccine were greatly reduced, leaving the program's future in jeopardy.

With an organizational vision of "Every Person a Healthy Person," Knox County Health Department is committed to promoting public health policies and practices to safeguard and improve quality of life for all residents. KCHD is responsible for disease surveillance, prevention and control, emergency preparedness, air quality management, ensuring food safety in public places, providing nutritional programs, family planning, immunizations and much more. More information can be found by visiting www.knoxcounty.org/health.



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When life falls apart around you, who can you count on? There is one place you should be able to turn. The body of Christ is designed to take care of those that are wounded. For example, if your arm started to ache, the rest of the body would not come



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

together to find a way to remove it. Instead, the body comes together to try to heal the arm, to restore it to health. The body of Christ is to be the same way. Paul told the Corinthian church, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part

is honored, every part rejoices with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26).

Around these parts, Peyton Manning is a legend. The Colts had a huge following from TN, or did have a large following. I suspect now many Tennesseans are Broncos fans. As great of an athlete Manning was for the Colts, when injuries began to mount, the organization

chose to go another way. Within organizations and businesses, you are only welcome as long as you produce according to their satisfaction. Once you are less effective, or have to sit out for a season, you become a liability and ties are cut.

The body of Christ is not an organization. It is a living organism. We don't cut ties, push out, or run

from those with problems and struggles. We care when people hurt. And who doesn't go through times of hurting and struggle? The body of Christ is made up of men, women, and children who have burdens. As we go through various trials, we can lean upon God and others in the body of Christ. They are present to walk with us through the crucible of life. After one comes through the other side, they are ready for a new mission in life.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

As an organism, the body rallies together when there is an internal

need. When someone is sick and needs food, the body responds with delivery of meals. When the word "cancer" is spoken by the doctor after the test, cancer survivors rally to offer encouragement and support. When clothing and furniture is needed to help someone get back on their feet, donations flood in by caring brothers and sisters in Christ. The body of Christ responds lovingly to needs because that is what we do. It is in our DNA as Christians. We do what Jesus would do.

We don't glory in our strengths, but in our weaknesses, for our merciful Father has intervened. The Spirit enables the part of your life that is weak to become strong. The ones who receive mercy realize they need it. The ones who receive mercy are also the ones who in turn show it to others.

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Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
Bus Ministry -
For transportation call 546-0001.

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Sunday Evening, September 23 at 6 p.m.

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3320 New Beverly Church Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918

Info: Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor 865-546-0001
www.NewBeverly.org or www.BFife4Life.com

Directions: I-640 to Exit 8. Go north on Washington Pike to Greenway Road (Target). Turn left. Church is 1/4 mile on the right.

Doors open at 5:00. No charge for this fun-filled evening, but a Love Offering will be taken. See you there!

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House to Home

ANNOUNCEMENTS

48th Annual Country Market at Historic Ramsey House

The 48th Annual Country Market will take place this year from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on September 22nd, at Historic Ramsey House, 2614 Thorn Grove Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee. This year's event will feature a classic car show as well as all day music and entertainment, wagon rides to a pumpkin patch, arts and crafts, antique dealers, fall decorating items, mums, herbs, old fashion ice cream and cobblers and kettle corn. Mrs. Ramsey's kitchen will be serving hot dogs, beans and corn bread and the popular Wallace Bar-B-Q. We will be featuring appraisals by Joe Rossen and Darryl Mackley. This year we have invited Community Service Groups to join us. We will have the Knox Co. Sheriffs' Dept, American Red Cross, Random Acts of Flowers, and Second Harvest Food Bank. The market asks participants to please bring giving hearts and non-perishable foods to donate. Raffle tickets for a hand pieced reproduction of a queen-sized Civil War quilt by Mildred Dugan will be raffled off in December during the Candlelight Tour of the Historic Home. Admission to this event is only a \$5 parking fee. Tours of the home will be conducted by guides in period dress and will be available for \$5 per person. For more information about participating as a vendor or registering a classic car, call (865) 546-0745.

Airing the Quilts Event

Presented by Historic Ramsey House and Seymour Quilt Guild at 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on October 20, Airing the Quilts will offer bed turnings, demonstrations, a boutique, and a beautiful assortment of quilts strung between trees dressed in their colorful fall foliage. Cost of admission is \$5. The event will be held at the Historic Ramsey House, 2614 Thorngrove Pike, Knoxville, TN 37914. For more information, please call (865) 546-0745.

Chiropractic's Birthday Party at Scoles

On Thursday, September 20th from 9:30 a.m. to 12 and 3 - 6:30 p.m., Scoles Family Chiropractic is throwing a party in honor of Chiropractic's 117th Birthday. Join Drs. Andy and Jennifer Scoles, Amanda Jacoby, and Steven Collins for some fun and refreshments. They will also offer a complimentary exam, x-rays, report of findings and first adjustment for all new patients through the end of September. For more information call, (865)531-8025. Family and friends are welcome! Scoles Family

Chiropractic is located at 7555 Oak Ridge Highway, Knoxville, TN 37931. For more information, please call (865) 531-8025 or visit www.HealthyKnox.com

East Tennessee Chili Cook-Off

Get your taste buds ready! Second Harvest Food Bank, Bush Brothers & Company and Kroger will partner for the Seventh Annual East Tennessee Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, October 21, at World's Fair Park Festival Lawn from noon until 6 p.m. Over thirty amateur cooking teams will whip up their tastiest recipes to compete for the best chili in town. The \$10 admissions fee includes a "Tasting Pass" to sample each chili and vote for a favorite. Kids can play on the inflatable playground at the Kids Fun Zone while Mom and Dad enjoy live music. Visit our website www.etnchili-cookoff.com for more information!

Emerald Youth Foundation Participates In CACFP

Emerald Youth Foundation and its flagship ministry JustLead are partnering this year with the Child and Adult Care Food Program

(CACFP). Through this program, youth receive snacks after school at no additional charge while participating in JustLead at the following locations: Emerald Avenue UMC, Virginia Avenue Ministry, Mount Zion Baptist, Clinton Chapel AME Zion and New Friendship Missionary Baptist. To learn more about Emerald Youth Foundation, visit www.emeraldyouth.org or call (865) 637-3227.

King Library to Host Photography Program

Photography program "Snowflake and Moth Photography" will be given by Kris Light of Oak Ridge at the King Library in Sevierville,

Tennessee. Please join the LeConte Photographic Society at 10 a.m., Saturday, September 22, in the Bridgemont Room for this interesting program that is free and open to the public. Not a library sponsored event.

Knoxville Area Urban League Hosts Interview Workshop

The Knoxville Area Urban League will hold a workshop entitled "Talk Your Way Into a Job: Effective Interviews" from 9-11 a.m. on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 1514 East Fifth Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917. Instruction provided by Whirlpool Corporation. There is no cost to attend but space is limited.

To register or find out more information, call (865) 524-5511.

Lady Trotters Seek Players

The Lady Trotters seeking third through fifth grade female players for competitive AAU basketball teams. Please call Will at (865)748-7332 for more information.

Oak Ridge Chapter of NARFE Upcoming Meeting

The Oak Ridge Chapter of NARFE will meet at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18, at the Double Tree Hotel in Oak Ridge. Please call (865) 938-4532.

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Upcoming auctions

The Proxibid internet high end sale has been moved a week ahead to Saturday, September 29 at 11 a.m. This sale has many wonderful items and I hope you can attend. Fountain City Auction's September 21 sale, however, is still at 6 p.m. so plan on being there for another of Greg and the crew's great sales. You may view both sales at Auctionzip.com for pictures and descriptions of items. Greg has hinted that he may do another Country Sale in November, so you will want to keep an eye out on Auctionzip.com for sale dates as well. If you have good country items large or small this would be a time to consider adding them soon as these sales fill up quickly so please contact him as now is the time. On my end with the internet sales I have space for a few items for the September 29th sale left to fill. This sale is only for higher end antiques and collectibles.

Fountain City Auction is still planning on launching a brand new service for customers with higher end items they wish to



By Carl Sloan

consign. We will put these items on Proxibid for a fixed price or 'make an offer' basis only. We will professionally photograph and describe your items and post them online for worldwide viewing for 30 days for only \$25. In addition, Proxibid will send out two auction blasts to their 93,000 known customers and viewers every two weeks. We also will relay any offers to you and will even counteroffer on your behalf to help get your items sold.

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Chocolate Dipped Brownies

3/4 cup sugar
1/3 cup butter, cubed
2 tablespoons water
4 cups (24 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips, divided
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 eggs
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
2 tablespoons shortening
Chopped pecans, jimmies and/or nonpareils, optional

In a large saucepan, bring the sugar, butter and water to a boil over medium heat. Remove from the heat; stir in 1 cup chocolate chips and vanilla until smooth. Cool for 5 minutes. Beat in eggs. Combine the flour, salt and baking soda; add to chocolate mixture. Stir in 1 cup chocolate chips.

Pour into a greased 9-in. square baking pan. Bake at 325° for 35 minutes or until set. Cool completely on a wire rack.

Place in the freezer for 30-40 minutes or until firm (do not freeze completely). Cut into bars.

In a microwave-safe bowl, melt remaining chips and shortening; stir until smooth. Using a small fork, dip brownies to completely coat; allow excess to drip off. Place on waxed paper-lined baking sheets. Sprinkle with pecans, jimmies and/or nonpareils if desired. Let stand until set. Store in an airtight container. Yield: 3 dozen.

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