



# THANK YOU

## FOCUS Weekly Poll\*

**President Obama  
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pledging to raise  
taxes.”**

**Do you believe  
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**YES 24.44%**

**NO 75.56%**

*Survey conducted  
November 8, 2012.*

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

## Knox County Veterans Office expands services, outreach opportunities

The Knox County Veterans Service Office is making it more convenient for veterans to get assistance by expanding its outreach to senior centers and partnering with faith-based organizations to more effectively reach veterans in Knox County.

“The Veterans Service Office is an important resource for veterans in our community,” said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. “Knox County wants to make it easier for veterans to get assistance because they have given so much to our country.”

Last week, Mayor Burchett and others cut the ribbon on the new Veterans Service Office located in the Knox Central Building at 1000 N Central Street. Improvements at the new location include



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

*Members of the McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base march in Friday's Veterans Day Parade in downtown Knoxville.*

**Continue on page 2**

## Loe Loses, Incumbents Re-elected

**By Focus Staff**

There was no way to put a pretty face on Gary Loe's loss in the legislative race to succeed retiring State Representative Harry J. Tindell. Tindell, a veteran Representative, had decided to retire following a redistricting that left his district almost evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats.

Loe was considered to be the favorite going into last Tuesday's general election, although there were rumblings throughout the campaign that he wasn't connecting with voters. Gloria Johnson, an educator and Chair of the local Democratic Party, was the best candidate that Democrats could rustle up. Johnson had run against Becky Duncan Massey in a 2010 special election for the State Senate and had lost badly. While by all accounts, a very nice lady, Johnson was not considered a strong candidate, even by most Democrats. She was badly outspent in the general election by Loe who flooded precincts with direct mail, as well as radio and television ads. Although Johnson raised

a respectable campaign war chest, even her supporters thought she did a poor job of allocating her resources.

Loe's advertising clearly did not resonate with voters; in fact, it may have backfired. One commercial compared Johnson with departed University of Tennessee football coach Lane Kiffin. Many hardcore Republicans thought the ad bizarre at best and stupid at worst. In sorting through the election returns it became readily apparent, Gary Loe did not hold even the Republican base. Loe's greatest margins came from two solidly Republican precincts in South Knoxville. Subtract those from the vote totals and Johnson would have positively routed Gary Loe.

Just before the general election, Governor Bill Haslam came to Knoxville and endorsed Gary Loe. Haslam's endorsement was quickly woven into a radio commercial which ran often before Election Day. It was probably too late and made little difference, with Johnson carrying most of the district

**Continue on page 2**



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

*Gloria Johnson takes the stage at the Square Room on Election Night to thank her supporters.*

## Q & A with Gloria Johnson

**Questions by Tasha Mahurin**

Election 2012 has come and gone, and while many are still digesting the results of the Presidential race, local headlines Wednesday morning detailed another tight race a little closer to home. Gloria Johnson, special education teacher, and Chairwoman of the Knox County Democratic Party, narrowly defeated challenger Gary Loe for the State House District 13 seat. *The Focus* caught up with Johnson this week to discuss the campaign, the 13th District, and her thoughts on joining the state legislature.

**Gary Loe for the State House District 13 seat.  
To what do you attribute the success of your campaign?**

My volunteers put me over the top. There's no doubt about it. Since the very beginning, we've been talking about protecting the middle class and investing in our future by keeping our kids' class sizes small and giving teachers the support they need to succeed. There was a lot of money spent by outside interests trying to bury that message. But my volunteers wouldn't let that happen. They took it door to door, talked to voters over the phone and helped make sure

**1.) You ran a close race against challenger**

**Continue on page 4**

In this week's *Knoxville Focus* poll, voters were asked, "President Obama advisor David Axelrod said, "The President won the election after pledging to raise taxes". Do you believe Obama's victory gives him a mandate to raise taxes?"

Less than 25% of those surveyed thought President Obama's reelection victory gave him a mandate to raise taxes. More than 75% felt Obama's reelection was not a mandate to raise taxes.

Interestingly, not a single demographic felt the President has a mandate to raise taxes. Every district in the City of Knoxville as well as Knox County was in agreement. Even inside the First District, a resounding 75.86% said they did not believe the President had a mandate to raise taxes. Obama won huge majorities inside the First District in the recent election.

The highest margin of those saying they think the President has a mandate to raise taxes was in the Seventh District, which is North Knox County. Just over 29% of voters in the Seventh District believe that the President has a mandate to increase taxes, with more than 70% saying they don't believe Obama has such a mandate.

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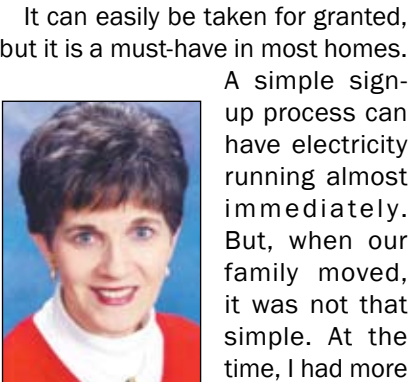
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# Serving God, Country, and Fellow Man



By **Ralphine Major**  
ralphine3@yahoo.com

It can easily be taken for granted, but it is a must-have in most homes. A simple sign-up process can have electricity running almost immediately. But, when our family moved, it was not that simple. At the time, I had more pressing matters on my mind—like ballgames, band practice, and school schedules—than to worry about electricity. I had always known the outcome, but I wanted to know how it started. I asked Riley.

In 1971, Riley was building a house across the field from property my parents had purchased. “I was up on the roof,” he told me. “Your dad and grandpa came to see me. I had never met them before. Your dad said he was building a house and asked if I would allow a right-of-way across my property so you could get electricity.” Getting our electricity was made that simple through this neighbor’s generosity, and our father never forgot Riley’s kindness. Never.

Riley Wheeler is a native of Kentucky, but he married a local girl just as he was beginning his military career. He served our country twenty years in the United States Army. After World War II, Riley was sent to Europe where he pulled occupation duty with the 1st Infantry Division in Germany. He served twenty-three months in the Korean War with the 7th Infantry Division. In the Vietnam War, Riley served twelve months with the 1st Cavalry Chopper (Helicopter) Outfit, 2nd Brigade Task Force of 5,500 men. In school, my brother remembers the Wheelers’ oldest son wearing a jacket that his father had sent him from Vietnam. I can only imagine how special it must have been to get a jacket from a father stationed in a faraway land. Riley’s late brother also served in Vietnam and became

a victim of Agent Orange.

In 1969, Riley retired from the military and entered other occupations. He taught leather crafts and shoe repair at the State Area Vocational School in Knoxville; he sold shoes along a route that extended from Somerset, Kentucky, to Newport, Tennessee; and he spent about eight years in the East Tennessee Honor Guard where he provided a military presence at countless funerals of those who had served their country. Today, Riley is a retired teacher from Knoxville City Schools and is also retired from the East Tennessee Honor Guard. Gardening and grandchildren occupy much of his time.

As our mother often reminds me, “we could not ask for better neighbors than the Wheelers.” Many years ago our late father had several head of cattle, and one day he noticed a dog running them. When he called the Wheelers and asked if it could be their dog, they kindly told him they would take care of it. They did.

There is something else my family and I will always remember, too. I was not home, but my mother and brother provided me every detail. I felt like I had been there, too. Eighteen years ago on August 31, our father suffered heart failure on the land that he loved. Several neighbors showed up, Riley being one of them. A terrible storm was coming, and Riley returned home across the field to get a tarp to shelter our father and the emergency personnel. Barbara, his daughter, came to help, too. That is something we can never forget.

The Wheelers have been married fifty-eight years. They have three sons—David, Tim, and Buddy (William)—and three daughters—Barbara, Tamara, and Carol. I was interested to learn that Tamara was born in France when Riley was stationed there, and she has dual citizenship. They are the proud grandparents to eight grandchildren and two great-grandsons. I would imagine faith would be important to someone who spent so much time in active military



**Riley Wheeler in his United States Army uniform. Photo provided by Riley Wheeler.**

duty. Riley told me he joined the First Christian Church in Liberty, Kentucky, on September 1, 1943, and was baptized in October of ‘43. His wife is a long-time member of Clapps Chapel United Methodist Church and Riley attends there.

A few years after our father passed away, one of the neighbor’s cattle got out and went all over the neighborhood trampling through gardens, lawns, and flower beds. I heard there were some who mentioned taking legal action; and I heard that Riley said, “that’s not what neighbors do.” He should know what neighbors do because he gave a new family in this neighborhood the means to get electricity and he came to the aid of a neighbor in his last moments. This family man and former army man, who has always been a neighbor, shared with me a favorite passage from the Bible—Deuteronomy, Chapter 28. Those who know Riley agree that he is a man who lives by The Golden Rule: “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” Matthew 7:12—an example for all of the soldiers in the Army of God.

## FOCUS Weekly Poll

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**Do you believe Obama’s victory gives him a mandate to raise taxes?**

**Yes 24.44%**

**No 75.56%**



By Age	Yes	No	Total
18-29	[None]	100.00%	4
30-49	30.51%	69.49%	59
50-65	24.58%	75.42%	179
65+	23.32%	76.68%	253
Total	24.44% (121)	75.56% (374)	495

By Commission District	Yes	No	Total
1	24.14%	75.86%	29
2	24.59%	75.41%	61
3	22.00%	78.00%	50
4	26.09%	73.91%	69
5	21.31%	78.69%	61
6	24.53%	75.47%	53
7	29.23%	70.77%	65
8	22.95%	77.05%	61
9	23.91%	76.09%	46
Total	24.44% (121)	75.56% (374)	495

By Gender	Yes	No	Total
Unknown	37.04%	62.96%	27
Female	24.23%	75.77%	227
Male	23.24%	76.76%	241
Total	24.44% (121)	75.56% (374)	495

Survey conducted November 8, 2012

## Knox County Veterans Office expands services, outreach opportunities

**Cont. from page 1**

a handicap-accessible entrance, private office spaces for added security and plenty of free parking.

The public is also invited to a veterans benefit brief at First Baptist Concord on Thursday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 11704 Kingston

Pike in Farragut. This partnership between First Baptist Concord and the Knox County Veterans Service staff is a creative and efficient way to better serve veterans in the community.

For more information call 865-215-5645 or email veterans@knoxcounty.org.

# 38 things I still love



By **Sarah Baker**  
bakera@knoxfocus.com

Last year on my birthday I wrote a list of 37 things I’d learned. This year on my birthday, I’d like to indulge again and share with you 38 things I’ve especially loved in my thirty-eight years (in no particular order).

1. My mom singing “On Top of Old Smokey”

2. My dad singing “Surrey with a Fringe on Top”
3. Sugar Run at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
4. Midnight walks on the Middlesboro Golf Course
5. U2
6. Seeing my daughter get really tickled
7. Cookies ‘n Cream ice cream
8. Twirling at the end of Drew’s arm
9. The Ragamuffin Gospel
10. Long phone calls with Robin or Rhonda
11. Nine inch nine at Tomato Head
12. The movie “Stand by Me”
13. Hiking with Kat
14. The Art Institute of Chicago
15. The dollar bin at Target
16. Coke Zero
17. Riding on the back of Jay’s motorcycle
18. “The Color Green” by Rich Mullins
19. Sandy’s house
20. My dog’s chin on my arm
21. Marc Chagall
22. The Gilmore Girls
23. Real letters

- written on paper
24. The Ecstasy of St. Theresa
25. Having Jeff on my team
26. Movie night with Laura, Lish, and Renee
27. Chacos
28. Calla lilies
29. Barbara Kingsolver
30. Creek walking
31. The Beatles
32. J.J. Abrams
33. Thrift Stores
34. The Book of Ruth
35. When a kid really gets it
36. Worn leather bags
37. Yard-saling with Jenny
38. Coffee with CBS

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## Loe Loses, Incumbents Re-elected

**Cont. from page 1**

which stretches from Fountain City to West Knoxville and through parts of South Knoxville.

Gloria Johnson easily carried the traditionally Democratic precincts in the district, but she also was not losing the Republican precincts by much, except for South Knoxville.

Loe stressed being a track star at the University of Tennessee, which apparently counts for little in Knox County. Despite his ads promoting his “deep roots” in our community, it was Gloria Johnson who had numerous volunteers out going

door-to-door.

“Gary just never really took hold with the voters,” one longtime Republican office holder said. “That is a closely divided district and his campaign just did not resonate with enough people.”

Incumbent legislators Becky Duncan Massey, Bill Dunn, Joe Armstrong, Steve Hall, and Ryan Haynes were all easily reelected. Haynes in particular piled up an impressive vote. Roger Kane was unopposed in the general election after having defeated former Knox County Sheriff Tim Hutchison in the primary.

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Publisher's Position

Sorting through the ashes



By Steve Hunley, Publisher  
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Republicans nationally will be sorting through the ashes of a defeat many did not see coming. President Obama and the Democrats won every state that was considered to be a "battleground" state. Possibly even worse still, the

GOP took a beating in the races for the United States Senate.

In the last election cycle, Republicans nominated Christine O'Donnell over Congressman and former Governor Michael Castle, who was expected to easily win the seat for the GOP. O'Donnell, a perennial candidate, was clearly unqualified and lost badly. Sharon Angle, an extreme right wing candidate managed to help Harry Reid get reelected despite every indication in the world to the contrary in Nevada. Ken Buck accomplished much the same in Colorado. That is at least three Senate seats in the last election cycle. It was even worse last week.

Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown lost to an

opponent whose chief qualification seemed to be that she wasn't a Republican.

Linda McMahon expended almost \$100 million dollars to lose a Senate race in Connecticut in the last two election cycles. George Allen's race to make a comeback was stifled by former Governor Tim Kaine. Virtually everywhere across the United States, Republicans lost Senate races that were considered to be difficult to lose. It seems entirely realistic to believe the Republican Party has lost eight to ten Senate seats in the last two election cycles due to the GOP electorate choosing flawed nominees who are too far right to win a general election. For instance, Indiana Senator Richard Lugar would have

been easily reelected, but was ousted in favor of a far right favorite in the primary. The end result is that Indiana has a new Democratic U. S. senator.

Republicans are going to have to face some facts if they expect to win national or even statewide elections in the future. The Republican Party cannot be a nationally competitive party by being a regional party with narrow concerns. To survive, Republicans are going to have to seriously address the concerns of Hispanic citizens, many of whom share the same core values with the Republican Party. The GOP will also have to make itself more attractive to female voters.

Even in Knox County, it

is easy to document the slide of the local Republican Party. Attendance at local Republican meetings this year was scant, if not actually pitiful in many instances. In the not so distant past, local Republican clubs would boast attendance numbering in the hundreds, especially during a presidential election year. Many of the same Republican clubs have swung so far to the right as to be considered part of the lunatic fringe. All too often, those with differing opinions are ridiculed as not being Republicans. There is little or no tolerance for diverse opinions, nor does there seem to be any outreach to encourage diversity inside the local Knox County Republican Party,

which seems to be symptomatic of the national party as well.

The farther to the left the Democratic Party moves the worse it will be for that party; similarly, the farther the Republican Party moves to the extreme right, the less likely it will be that the GOP can win national elections.

The loss of the recent election is not Mitt Romney's fault; considering the results in the last two cycles, intelligent folks have a lot to reflect upon. Were it not for the election of a Republican Congress the consequences would be unthinkable, but it is time for Republicans to start thinking about the future, if they are going to have a future.

Demographics - not Democratic - won 2012 election



By Richie Beeler

Barack Obama was re-elected as the 44th President of the United States last Tuesday by a national margin of about 3 million votes. The turnout was heavy - heavier than many experts on the Republican side thought it would be. In the final analysis of the electorate, Democrats outnumbered Republicans by about six points, 38 percent to 32 percent. That was a mere one point short of their 2008 advantage that elected Obama the first time.

Conservative pundits like Michael Barone and Dick Morris, who had predicted a Romney landslide, were baffled by the heavily Democratic vote. The result even left some analysts scratching their heads and wondering if the country will ever see another Republican president. The likelihood of such a scenario depends solely on the answer to one question: why was the turnout so strong in the Democrats' favor?

There are a number of experts and lay people who are convinced that the turnout happened simply because the country has fundamentally shifted to the left. They cite the fact that Democratic voters have

outnumbered Republicans by 6 to 7 percentage points in two consecutive presidential elections. But their theory of a political paradigm shift in the American electorate goes deeper than mere numbers.

Liberalism won the day last Tuesday in a way unlike anything we have ever seen. Two states legalized the recreational use of marijuana. Two more states voted to legalize same-sex marriage. And the first ever openly gay candidate was elected to the United States Senate from Wisconsin, defeating a popular former governor. When you take those results and lay them against the backdrop of a public education system that has been built on secular liberalism for more than a generation, you have a lethal combination for conservative values in this country.

But is this political trend permanent? Does it really represent a fundamental shift in the country, or is it just a swing to the left by an ideological pendulum that will almost certainly swing back to the right? My answer is somewhat two-

fold. I do believe the country is becoming more liberal. That is obvious to even the most casual of observers. But I do not believe the shift is as dramatic as the last two presidential election turnouts indicate.

The makeup of the electorates of 2008 and 2012 had much more to do with social and racial demographics than with Republican or Democrat ideologies. In 2004, 76% of the presidential electorate was made up of white voters. That number dropped to 74% in 2008, and 72% in 2012. That means 28% of all the votes cast in this presidential election were from minorities. Based on the current makeup of the two political parties, that number makes it virtually impossible for a Republican to win.

But why were GOP analysts so mistaken and surprised by the turnout? Simple. They underestimated the star power of Barack Obama. In 2008 the prospect of electing the nation's first African-American president drew minority voters to the polls in record numbers.

Four years later, despite a sluggish economy and the unpopularity of Obamacare, one fact remained: Obama was still the nation's first African-American president. The opportunity to re-elect him drew even larger numbers of minorities to vote.

Obama's popularity among minority voters is not an unprecedented phenomenon. In 2004, George W. Bush enjoyed the same type devotion from white evangelicals. John Kerry, the Democratic nominee, got 10 million more votes than Al Gore had received in 2000. Had the turnout been the same, Kerry would have won in a landslide.

But a huge evangelical vote pushed the demographics of the turnout to a one-point Republican edge. Bush won by more than 2 million votes.

My point is that large swings in the demographic makeup of the electorate have happened before and they will happen again. And they usually don't indicate seismic shifts in ideology. Yes, the country is becoming more liberal with each passing year. But I maintain that the right of center America we have lived in for the past several decades has yet to cross over to the left.

If Obama and the Democrats fail to fix the fiscal

mess the country is in - and they will - look for the electorate to be more Republican in 2016. Without a minority on the ticket it will be very difficult to keep the white vote at or below 72%. And don't forget about the mid-term elections. Their effect on our government can sometimes be even more profound than that of a presidential election. In 2010 there was a major shift back to the right among voters. I expect a similar shift in 2014.

Conservatives can only hope it's not too little, too late.

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# FOCUS MORE ON Seymour & South Knox

## Special presentation held in honor of The William B. Stokely, Jr Foundation

The King's Academy in Seymour, TN held a presentation in honor of a donation made by William B. Stokely IV of The William B. Stokely Jr. Foundation on October 24, 2012. The \$25,000 donation will aid the refurbishments to the Stokely Gymnasium located on campus. Mr. Stokely presented Walter Grubb, President of The King's Academy and Mark Weekly, Director of Athletics, with a check in front of the Stokely Gymnasium stating, "We are happy to continue support for such a

great institution in our community and to an asset my grandfather so treasured." Mr. Grubb was quoted in acceptance, "Stokely Gymnasium has been one of the most important and most used facilities on our 67-acre campus for almost 50 years. The academy family is very grateful for this generous donation from The William B. Stokely Jr. Foundation that will enable us to get many more years of use from this great facility."



### Friends Of Seymour Library Announce Bi-Monthly Meeting

The Friends of Seymour Library will have its bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. Our group has successfully raised the funds to purchase window shades for the library. Thanks to all who helped in this endeavor. Please join us for this meeting where we will make the final decision about this purchase. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information about the event, please call 865.573.0728.

## Q & A with Gloria Johnson

**Cont. from page 1**

that people who believe in strong schools and a strong middle class came out to vote.

**2.) Just last year Knoxville celebrated the inauguration of its first female mayor, who is also a Democrat. And now you'll be representing the 13th district as a female and maintaining its Democratic representation despite recent redistricting. Do you believe the historically Republican political climate is changing on the local level?**

People are definitely fed up with the politics. What they've seen in Nashville is the majority party squandering away precious time and money to debate ugly, hate-filled measures that don't create jobs and don't protect our families. The people I talk to want leaders who are going to focus on results. At the end of the day, this party or that party isn't what keeps families up at night. They worry about how they're going to pay the bills and make sure their kids get a good education. Democrats, myself included, have focused heavily on these bread-and-butter issues. People are responding well to it. So if there's a groundswell in Knoxville to start focusing on common sense, I'm proud to be a part of it.

**3.) Speaking of redistricting, the 13th district is diverse socially, economically, and politically. What challenges do you see, if any, in representing such a diverse area, and how will you address those?**

Over the last few years, I have met with a lot of people from a lot of different walks of life. While there are differences person to person, so many of the challenges we face are

similar. Parents worry that they won't be able to afford to get their kids into a good college. Workers worry that their job might get shipped overseas. Business owners hope there will be enough customers to keep their doors open. The amazing thing is that all of these pieces fit together. If we invest in our kids, they can compete for the jobs of the future. If we attract those good-paying jobs, then we will build a strong middle class. A strong middle class is the best customer base a small business owner could ever ask for. Booming small business drives the economic engine of the state, which creates more jobs. More people working adds to the tax base, balances the budget and allows us to invest in fixing roads, bridges and school improvements. No matter how diverse we are, we're all connected and we're in this together.

**4.) How did your work as a special education teacher influence your decision to become a political candidate and, going forward, how do you see your role as an educator and your role as a state representative influencing each other?**

As a teacher, I could not sit back and watch people who've never set a foot in a classroom continue to micro-manage children's lives. For instance, there was a proposal on the table to increase class sizes. As a special education teacher, I knew right away that would limit one-on-one interactions with students, which shortchanges their education. Other teachers felt the same way. Small class sizes empower teachers to do more. The best private schools in the nation put a premium on small class

sizes. If we're serious about building a stronger economy in the future, we need to make sure our students are better prepared for it. All facets of education seem to be hot topics in the legislature, so I am sure my two decades of classroom experience will be an asset that informs smart policy.

**5.) What are your top priorities or goals as you begin your term?**

Tennessee First, which gives responsible, in-state businesses owners the first crack at state contracts so our tax dollars create jobs here -- not out of state.

Continue working towards eliminating the sales tax on food. It's one of the highest food taxes in the nation and it hurts working families hardest.

Take on the big money special interests and remove them from politics so our families can be heard.

Work to expand access to health care for working families and protect reforms that guard women and children from insurance company abuses.

**6.) Do you feel confident in your abilities to reach said goals even though Republicans now hold a super-majority in the State House?**

I'll work with anybody to protect and build the middle class, reward responsible businesses and fix the problems facing our city and state. Lately, we've seen a lot of legislation that rewards the wealthy and well-connected while our kids are falling deeper into poverty, workers are earning less and tuition keeps increasing. I'll be a voice for students, working people, women, small business owners and seniors — folks whose concerns

haven't been addressed or even heard. We've got to have balance and shared responsibility in our priorities. I'd say a fighter like me is exactly what's needed.

**7.) After the recent presidential election, our nation remains divided along party lines. Do you feel this is also true on the state level, and how will you work through these challenges to enact change?**

The race for House District 13 was a tight race, too, but the problems we

face are not Republican problems or Democratic problems. Solutions don't come with party labels. I hope to put an end to the partisan bickering up there and focus on results. I'll gladly reach across the aisle if it helps us protect families and restores some opportunity for people who work hard and play by the rules.



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the cast of “Finding Big-  
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and pictures.**

**The event is free and  
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a bounce house and face  
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# City's risk management department wins national award

The City of Knoxville's Risk Management Division has been named winner of a prestigious national award by Risk & Insurance Magazine, for its efforts to reduce workers' compensation costs while also improving workplace safety for City employees. Knoxville has received the 2012 Theodore Roosevelt Workers' Compensation and Disability Management Award for

the nonprofit sector. Also known as the Teddy Awards, the honors are given each year to one company and one nonprofit organization for their efforts to reduce the number and cost of injuries to workers. "We are thrilled to receive this recognition, which reflects the real progress we have made in reducing workers' compensation claims," said Gary Eastes, the

City's Risk and Benefits Manager. "We have cut our annual costs \$5.92 million in 2002 to \$1.29 million in 2011, and we have done it by helping employees to be safer on the job." In an article about Knoxville's award, Risk & Insurance Editor Dan Reynolds wrote: "Knoxville's risk management team, through hard work and patience, have reached a place where

city department administrators and staff members trust that they are indeed looking out for their best interests: Trying to return them back to work and helping to keep them in good physical condition." Those efforts include case management for injured workers, with an integrated system that combines health screening, wellness guidance, on-site medical attention

and physical therapy. They also include such simple but often-neglected steps as ensuring that all City employees wear seatbelts while driving on the job. Eastes and Ginger Huskey, Risk Coordinator for the City of Knoxville, accepted the award Wednesday at the National Workers Compensation and Disability Conference & Expo in Las Vegas. This

is not the first national honor for Knoxville's Risk Management Division in 2012. In June, the Public Risk Management Association named Eastes its Public Risk Manager of the Year. To see a brief video produced by CSC, a software solutions company and City of Knoxville contractor that nominated Knoxville for the award, go here: <http://youtu.be/FOG2KXDYVzU>.

## Juvenile Service Center receives donation



*Frank and Belinda Gambuzza of Salon Visage recently gifted the Richard L. Bean Juvenile Service Center with a barber chair for use in the new Barber Shop. Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin, a friend of the Gambuzzas, worked with them to arrange for the chair, which was delivered by Tommy Gambuzza. This was a generous donation that will be used by the kids at the Center for many years to come. Pictured are Superintendent Richard L. Bean, Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin and Tommy Gambuzza.*

## New president takes reins of University Area Optimist Club

Alice R. Bowling Wirth kicked off her tenure as president of the University Area Optimist Club with a full calendar of youth-serving projects. Presiding at her first meeting at Calhoun's on the River on October 23, Wirth told members that the University Area Optimist Club will conduct the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, the Essay Contest and Oratorical Contest for area youth, assist with youth projects at the Beck Cultural Center and other local

agencies, and mount other efforts to help young people throughout the year. Wirth, a lecturer in the University of Tennessee's College of Communication's School of Communication Studies and director of the college's Diversity Student Leaders Society, took the leadership post in October, succeeding Annazette Houston, the Club's first president and a current lieutenant governor for the Tennessee District of Optimist International. The University

Area Optimist Club was founded in September, 2011. The University Area Optimist Club is one of more than 55 clubs in Tennessee and 2,900 clubs worldwide whose mission is: By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids. The volunteer service organization meets the fourth Tuesday evening of every month at 6 p.m. at Calhoun's on the River and is open to the public. For more information, contact Don Lindsey at 865-862-9250.



*Alice R. Bowling Wirth*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### ROBOPOCALYPSE

Over the last several weeks I have closely followed the editorial dialogue in the national and local press, surrounding Daniel Wilson's bestselling book "Robopocalypse" being included on Hardin Valley Academy's STEM Academy reading list. A simple web search on selected keywords will deliver a long list of these articles. Under the current debate, the most common cases being made for the book being acceptable for inclusion on the reading list generally falls under one of these three categories:

- To exclude the book would be tantamount to book banning.
- To be a party to excluding the book would be no different than being labeled a book burner.
- Our children hear much worse language in their everyday lives, so this is okay.

None of these arguments hold up under close scrutiny. We do not live in a totalitarian society, characterized by burning or banning books. On the contrary, we live in a very permissive society that seems to be getting more so every day. The children of Knox County have access to a world of printed material and may read it, in many cases, whether their parents want them to or not. That is not the issue. The issue remains, should a book be placed on a reading list by Knox County

***Continue on page 2***

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# Letter to the Editor: ROBOPOCALYPSE

Cont. from page 1

Schools (KCS) that falls outside a set of core values, which reflect the community in which they live. And the answer is a resounding "NO!"

According to an August 9, 2012 Josh Ault published quote on WATE.com, STEM Academy dean, Debbie Sayers, said "In our selection of the book choices for students, we discussed adult-level language, and decided that most (not all) students of this age group are exposed to profanity through much more graphic means than the written text." Because our children may be exposed to similar or worse language than that found in "Robopocalypse" is not a reason to place the book on a KCS reading list. The public education system of Knox County would better serve the students and their parents if they developed and tried to instill a set of core values into our children, so that these values can, in

turn, be taken by our children into society, instead of an increasingly permissive society setting the core values to which our children will be exposed in the public school system. Does the KCS leadership have the capacity to set these core values or is it up to society to set them for the leadership. Since we elected you or you were appointed, I would prefer the former.

The KCS may be equated to a large business with its own bureaucracy, whose customers are not only the students and their parents but every citizen of Knox County. Every person in Knox County has a vested interest in the product (the student) that is produced by this very large taxpayer owned business. The student will ultimately reflect upon and influence the future society they all are destined to take an active part, and we all will live.

The issue before KCS is not whether to include "Robopocalypse" on a reading list; it is an indicator of a larger issue. No individual teacher, group of teachers, or school should be making isolated decisions about what is on student reading lists without access to a set of core values set by the KCS board and the superintendent that undergirds guidelines by which these decisions are constantly tested. The stakes are too high. If the core values and guidelines exist, they need to be followed. If they are not followed, what are the consequences of this inaction?

It comes down to leadership. In a business where employees' actions are creating negative publicity, immediate steps should be taken to mitigate the effects of the bad press and the negative image casted on the business, and steps should be taken to see that it does not happen again. This should be what is on the minds of the KCS board and superintendent. You are in charge of a multi-million dollar bureaucracy, funded with Knox County tax dollars on behalf of the residence of Knox County. This is reflecting poorly on your image.

Appearance seems to suggest that KCS finds itself lacking any meaningful guidelines, based on a set of core values, to provide direction on selecting reading material for students. Common sense needs to prevail here. It seems that society's core values are setting KCS' core values, when ideally; KCS should be setting guidelines based on a set of core values to prepare our students to have a more positive societal influence. If you do not stand for something, then you find

yourself standing for absolutely nothing.

There was an excellent piece written by Lori Borgman titled, "The Death of Common Sense," published in the Indianapolis Star on March 15, 1998, which was written as an obituary. A portion reads...

Common Sense, aka C.S., lived a long life, but died of heart failure at the brink of the millennium. No one really knows how old he was, his birth records were long ago entangled in miles and miles of bureaucratic red tape. Known affectionately to close friends as Horse Sense and Sound Thinking, he selflessly devoted himself to a life of service in homes, schools, hospitals, and offices, helping folks get jobs done without a lot of fanfare, whooping and hollering... ..C.S. breathed his last. Services will be at Whispering Pines Cemetery. C.S. was preceded in death by his wife, Discretion; one daughter, Responsibility; and one son, Reason. He is survived by two step-brothers, Half-Wit and Dim-Wit.

As a taxpaying citizen of Knox County, I ask the KCS board and superintendent to use your common sense in dealing with this issue and the broader issues it points to within the KCS schools. As elected and appointed officials of a prestigious Knox County governing body, you have the respect of your district constituents, or you would not have been elected or appointed to your position. This is your opportunity to lead and exercise common sense authority over the organization you were chosen to direct.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Jim Thompson

## Central Alumni, Teacher of the Year to be Honored at Breakfast

Central High School Foundation and the CHS Alumni Association are pleased to announce their three inductees for the Central High School "Wall of Fame" honoring distinguished alumni. The 2012 honorees are Robert Temple, Class of 1948, Mary Sue Miller, Class of 1956 and Barry N. Litton, Class of 1969. The Eleventh Annual "Wall of Fame" Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 17 at 9 a.m. at Central Commons, Central High School, 5321 Jacksboro Pike. The event will feature a video production by David Dixon including interviews with the honorees highlighting the accomplishments of these alumni.

Bob Temple had a long career as a businessman and real estate developer, including developing Woodvale and Temple Heights subdivision. He has been a principal supporter of the Northside YMCA which is named for him. His other civic activities have included funding and building six homes Habitat for Humanity. Bob has had a lifelong interest in athletics and physical fitness. He served as a baseball and basketball coach in the Fountain City Recreation program. He still plays tennis three times weekly and was the Tennessee State Seniors Champion in 1998. Robert H. Temple is married to Helen Boring Temple. They are parents of three children, Linda Temple Wise, Ginger Temple Baxter, and Robert "Rob" Temple, Jr. The family includes eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mary Sue Beggs Miller was twice named Central "Teacher of the Year" in 1967 and 1986, during her 37 years teaching at Central High School. She is an innovative and dedicated business teacher, seeing many changes in business education throughout her career. She was involved in numerous school activities especially as the yearbook advisor. Since her retirement, she has not slowed down. Mary Sue has been a volunteer with the Mission of Hope since its beginning in 1996. She and

her husband Ed, have devoted countless volunteer hours working in the warehouse and making Christmas deliveries. She edits the quarterly newsletter published by Mission of Hope and volunteers in their office. The Lions Club is also the beneficiary of her skills and enthusiasm. Mary Sue and Ed Miller have one son, Dan who graduated from Central in 1987. Dan and his wife, Kim have three children, Jackson, Natalie and Megan.

Barry Litton is the founder of Fountain City landmark Litton's Restaurant, recognized several times by Southern Living magazine and has placed first in the Best of East Tennessee polls for many years. He is a long-time supporter of school, recreation and civic causes, and was name Fountain City "Man of the Year" in 2009. Goodwill Industries recognized him as Employer of the Year in April 1998 for supporting employees with disabilities for more than three decades. Barry's three children, Erik, Ashley and Elizabeth, have periodically worked at Litton's over the years. Erik, a fourth generation restaurateur, has joined his father in the business. Barry and his wife, Jacquie, are residents of the Gibbs Community.

In addition to honoring these distinguished alumni, the Breakfast will also recognize Central teacher Byron Booker, named the 2012 Tennessee "Teacher of the Year." Mr. Booker was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments as a teacher of English as a Second Language, for his extensive work with students, families and leadership. He is known for his excellence inside the classroom, as well as his compassion and hard work in his community.

Tickets are \$20.00 for the breakfast, catered by All Occasions Catering and may be purchased in person at the school office, or by contacting Larry Smith at 922-5433 or Courtney Shea at courtshea@aol.com. Proceeds benefit academics, technology and teacher enrichment at Central High School.

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# Tom Connally of Texas

## Pages from the Political Past



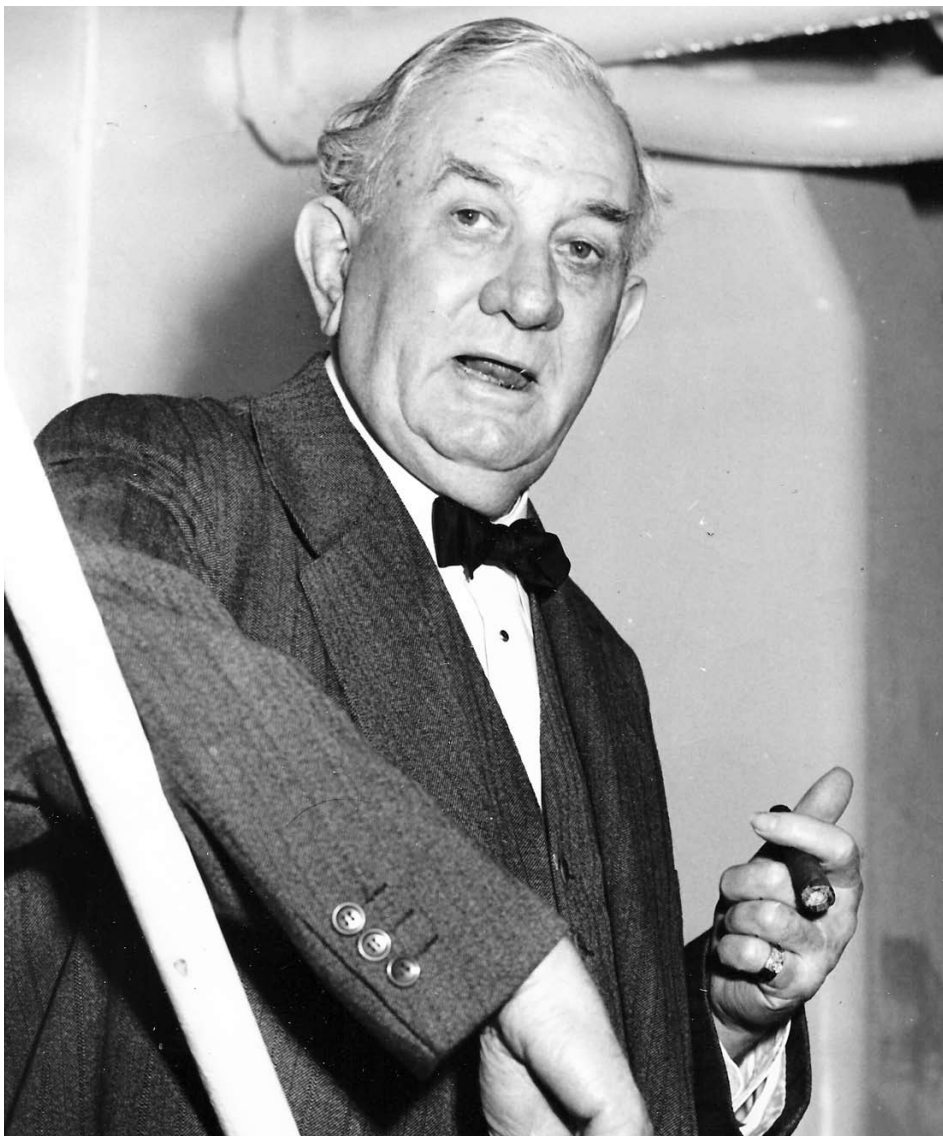
By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

When folks think in terms of Texas and Connally, the late Governor John Connally usually comes to mind, but there was another Connally who enjoyed a much longer political career: Thomas Terry Connally. Tom Connally was no relation to John Connally and during his time, was far better known.

Tom Connally was born August 19, 1877 in McLennon County, Texas. His father, Jones Connally, was a Confederate veteran and young Tom was the only surviving son in his family. By 1898 Tom Connally had his law degree from the University of Texas in hand and two years later, at the age of twenty-three, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Young Tom Connally was so well known locally, he was unopposed in both of his campaigns for the Texas State legislature. Connally decided against seeking a third term and settled in the small town of Marlin, Texas, to practice law. Connally was then courting his future wife, Louise Clarkson, and the two married in 1904. Mrs. Connally was quite a lady, having been a classically trained vocalist. Tom and Louise Connally were to have but one child, a son named Ben. After his wife's death, Tom Connally was to say about his wife, "She loved me, but she adored Ben." Mrs. Connally was a wealthy woman and when she died, Tom Connally signed over her entire estate to his son.

In 1906, Tom Connally became the prosecuting attorney for Falls County, Texas. Connally returned to private practice after a four-year stint as prosecuting attorney, although he was very active in several fraternal orders, as well as the Methodist Church. In 1916, the local Congressional seat came open and Tom Connally determined to run, despite the fact the seat was centered around Waco. Still, Connally proved to be such an able campaigner that he won the primary over two opponents without being forced into a run-off election. Tom Connally was on his way to Congress. Connally won a seat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and throughout his Congressional career, Tom Connally's chief interest would remain foreign policy. During the decade of the 1920s, the Republicans dominated the White House and Congress, but Congressman Connally was frequently used as a spokesman by the Democratic Party on foreign affairs.

Connally's service in the U. S. House of Representatives had been interrupted by America's entry into World War I. Nothing would do but for Congressman Connally to enlist, although he did not resign from Congress.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

**Texas U. S. Senator Tom Connally. Right, Artist's caricature of Texas Senator Tom Connally**

Connally had also volunteered to fight in the Spanish-American War and both wars were over before he saw action, causing Connally himself to say he had been "in more wars and fought less than any living man."

In 1928, Connally was announced as a candidate for the United States Senate against incumbent Senator Earle B. Mayfield. Mayfield had been elected six years earlier with the support of the Ku Klux Klan and was himself a Klansman. The South usually retained its senators for many years, so a campaign against an incumbent was especially risky at that time. Connally took a different approach during the campaign and ridiculed Senator Mayfield for his Klan membership and while the KKK was no longer at the peak of its political power, it was a courageous thing to do. Connally regularly denounced the "bed sheet and mask candidates" in his speeches all across Texas and won the election.

Tom Connally returned to Washington, D. C. in 1929 as the junior United States Senator from Texas, just as Herbert Hoover was taking the oath of office as President. It was only seven months before the stock market crashed and the Great Depression began. Senator Connally fought many of Hoover's remedies to right America's economic woes, including a national sales tax and raising the tariff.

Connally, like virtually every other Democrat in the country, was bitterly opposed to Hoover and longed for the outwardly icy engineer to be defeated. Connally might have preferred to support the presidential candidacy of New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, but Texas had its own candidate in House Speaker John Nance Garner of Uvalde. When Roosevelt was nominated and selected Speaker Garner as his running mate, Connally was delighted.

Senator Connally naturally supported most of the New Deal legislation proposed by FDR, but he never neglected the concerns of Texas. Connally was busy

with bills affecting cotton farmers, cattle ranchers, and the oil industry. Like virtually every other industry in the country, oilmen, both the large companies and independent operators, were severely and adversely affected by the Depression. Connally responded by introducing what became known as the Hot Oil Act of 1935. Connally's bill made the interstate shipment of any oil produced in violation of newly established state quotas illegal.

1935 was also the year that Tom Connally suffered a devastating personal blow. His wife Louise had been out shopping and came to Senator Connally's office feeling tired. Mrs. Connally suffered a heart attack and died in her husband's office so quickly it left Tom Connally stunned and numb.

Tom Connally's first break with the popular Franklin D. Roosevelt came when FDR proposed expanding the U. S. Supreme Court. Connally refused to go along and opposed the court packing bill. In his memoirs, Connally admitted his personal relations with President Roosevelt suffered as a result, as a distinct chill emanated from the White House toward the Texan. FDR was not above being petty in showing his displeasure and Connally remembered his humiliation when President Roosevelt announced the appointment of a new Federal Judge for Texas as Connally stood nearby and it was clear the senator had not been consulted. Connally had recommended someone else for the appointment, a fact that was not lost upon Texans. Senator Connally had to endure another such embarrassment when FDR was in Texas and mentioned several of his "good friends" in the Congressional delegation, but made not a single mention of Tom Connally.

Still, Tom Connally remained strong in Texas and had been reelected in 1934, defeating Joseph Weldon Bailey, Jr., the son of a legendary former senator who had become something of an icon in the Lone Star State. Senator

Connally's deteriorating relations with FDR did little to hurt him with the voters at home, where Roosevelt was becoming far less popular, and he was reelected in 1940 with minimal opposition.

Tom Connally, a widower, shared a large bachelor apartment in Washington, D. C. with his good friend, Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee. The arrangement ended when Tom Connally married the widow of Texas's other United States Senator, Mrs. Lucille Sanderson Sheppard. The new Mrs. Connally was evidently even more wealthy than her predecessor and they lived quite comfortably in the nation's Capitol and the Senator would arrive at his office every morning in a chauffeured limousine.

Senator Connally was something of a flamboyant character and easily recognizable by his personal appearance. Connally's silver locks flowed over the back of his collar and he was usually dressed in carefully tailored suits and invariably had a half smoked cigar in one hand. His grandson, Judge Richard Arnold, remembered Senator Connally's starched white shirts had no buttons; the Texan preferred the more elaborate shirt studs and cuff links.

Tom Connally was also one of the more nationally famous senators due to his prominence in foreign policy, as well as his speaking ability. Connally's Texas wit and sarcasm were formidable. TIME magazine recorded some of Tom Connally's biting sarcasm in its obituary on the former senator. Connally once told New Hampshire Senator Styles Bridges he should "approach these matters with an open mind instead of an open mouth." Connally's observation about Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of Nationalist China, was equally to the point and caustic. "The trouble with the Generalissimo is that he doesn't do any generalissimoing."

Senator Connally had made a radio speech about the threat of war just days before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, but like most members of Congress, Connally was

stunned by the attack. Summoned to the White House, Connally was astonished by the explanations offered by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, leaving the Texas senator muttering about "that goddamned Frank Knox."

1941 was also the year Tom Connally became Chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee. It was the apex of his career and it was Tom Connally who brought to the Senate floor the resolution declaring war on the Axis powers following FDR's dramatic speech about "a day which will live in infamy." Connally became the Senate spokesman for the Roosevelt and Truman foreign policies. While Connally was successful for the most part in pushing those foreign policy initiatives, as well as helping to create a bipartisan approach in the Senate, it came with a price in Texas.

Senator Connally was easily reelected in 1946, just after having received tremendous national publicity for his participation as a member of the U. S. delegation to the San Francisco conference approving the Charter for the United Nations. In fact, Tom Connally was the second American to affix his signature to the Charter after Secretary of State Edward Stettinius.



In 1948 Harry Truman accomplished the impossible by winning the presidency in his own right and the Democrats had captured both Houses of Congress, making Tom Connally Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee once again. Connally also had a new Senate colleague from Texas, young Lyndon Johnson who proceeded to pay a call on Senator Connally. Connally was back in Texas, staying in a suite of rooms at the old Falls Hotel in Marlin when Johnson arrived to seek Connally's help in securing the best possible committee assignments. Author Robert Caro, in his excellent multi-volume biography of Johnson, relates that the newly elected senator "got off on the wrong foot with crusty, irritable Marse Tom."

According to the story related by Robert Caro, LBJ started the conversation by stating his desire to serve on the Foreign Relations and Finance Committees, both of which coincidentally, Connally served on himself. Senate rules generally forbade two senators from the same state serving on major committees. Connally apparently used the occasion to

needle Johnson, whipping out a book listing committee assignments and pointed out LBJ could serve on the Agriculture Committee. "You're for the farmers, ain't you, Lyndon?" Connally drawled.

Senator Connally then pointed out Johnson could be helpful to Texas A&M University by serving on the Armed Service Committee and again asked, "You're for the A&M, ain't you Lyndon?"

Johnson quietly acknowledged he was indeed for both farmers and Texas A&M University and Connally replied that after LBJ had been in the United States Senate for some time, then he could get on one of the better committees and "render a real service" to Texas and the nation.

Lyndon Johnson carefully avoided irritating his senior colleague during the four years they served together in the Senate, but Tom Connally's time was coming to an end. Texas was deeply divided and Governor Allan Shivers led a far more conservative wing of the Democratic Party and by 1952 many believed Shivers was eyeing Tom Connally's Senate seat. When Shivers finally announced he would run for governor again, Texas Attorney General Price Daniel declared his own candidacy for the Senate.

Tom Connally returned to Texas and quickly discovered to win another term would involve raising a massive campaign war chest, as well as an intensive canvass of the state. Polls indicated the unpopularity of the Truman administration would make it difficult for Connally to win again, as he was publicly identified in the mind of many Texans as Truman's foreign policy spokesman. Connally's long interest in foreign affairs caused many Texans to grumble their senator was far more interested in Europe and Asia than Texas.

Tom Connally decided against running again and retired, living in Washington, D. C. Connally dictated a lively autobiography, joined a law firm, although he largely used his office merely to meet and greet friends from his heyday in Congress. Connally's chauffeur would regularly take the old Texan back to Capitol Hill where Tom Connally would have his long silvery locks trimmed.

Age and infirmity caught up with Tom Connally, as it does everyone, and he died in Washington, D. C. of pneumonia on October 28, 1963.



# Chasing the wind

Life is filled with frustrations. Some of the biggest are the striving to complete a task and understanding a concept or statement presented by another.

Most of us have watched a dog chase its tail. The pup discovers that long thing flitting about and decides he needs to catch it. With all the same energy used to chase a squirrel, that mutt runs in the tightest of circles. His hope is that he can just get his teeth on that elusive tail. In the end, he either flops to the floor in an exhausted, dizzy state or, woe to him, he catches that tail and sinks his fangs into that nemesis and feels the sizzling pain that follows.

In the past months, Americans struggled to decide about the leadership of the country. Hours of debates and commercials and millions of dollars later, no one was sure exactly what either candidate offered. Of course, most elections have turned this way. Politicians are afraid to lay out in simple terms what they believe and propose. Instead, they use double-speak that leaves voters saying "Huh" and knowing not a whit more than before the pols uttered their first words.

One of the heights of frustration comes when a person tries to understand



By Joe Rector

what coverage is offered in an insurance policy. The documents go on for pages, but the vague, legalese paragraphs offer no clues as to what is and isn't paid for. We're supposed to "trust" our agents, and I do. However, being able to read a clear, concise policy is what most of us want. It isn't about to happen folks.

Recently, I bought Amy a porch heater for her birthday. I opened the box, pulled out the contraption, along with too many pieces of foam packing, and eventually found the directions. The pages consisted of warning statements that serve as COA documents for the manufacturer. The instructions were pictures; that's it. I stared at them in hopes that they would telepathically deliver the way I was to assemble the darn thing. After receiving nothing, I worked until the base and top were together.

Now is the season for colored leaves and cooler temperatures. Those of us who have yards with trees have begun the task of getting up the leaves. In my case, that means mulching them. Already I've performed that job three times. Each time, I work for a couple of hours and choke on dust from dirt and ground leaves. With the job complete, I clean the mower and look up. To my

dismay, the places that I've wiped clean of tree debris are once again half covered in leaves. I put the mower up and walk into the house covered in dirt and disgusted. Tomorrow, I can do the job again and then again the next day and the next until I finally grow weary of grinding leaves in December.

I used to fret over leaves and policies and politicians, but not so much any more. Age has a way of teaching all of us some valuable lessons. The truth is that the world will go on even if leaves pile up knee deep in the yards of our world. Most of the time, we'll be covered with insurance in spite of our inability to understand those thick policies. These days, one man's election doesn't completely determine the destiny of our country. Opposition is always somewhere to check, and most recently block, the entire efforts of the commander-in-chief.

We choke on the gnats of our lives. We worry too often about things over which we have no control. I now figure falling leaves are one of God's greatest teaching tools for us humans. He uses them to show us just how little control we have over external things and instructs us, instead, to work on areas that lead to personal growth. To the degree all humans turn toward that self-improvement, life will be better and frustrations will diminish. Remember, "Man plans, and God laughs."



From State Representative Harry Brooks

It's over. I think my opinion is like many of yours. I am glad that it is over. Although my candidate for President did not win, I still value the American system of choosing our leaders. We enter every campaign knowing there will be a winner and a loser. What we must bring out of this event is support for the office of the Presidency. America needs unity now as we have not seen in many years. I urge my friends to put aside partisan politics and put America first. We are still the greatest democracy the world knows, and we must continue to be an example to other nations throughout the world. Let's resolve to pray daily for all our leaders and for our nation. We need it.

I am honored to have been elected, without an opponent, to serve another term representing the people of the 19th District of Tennessee. Thus I will be beginning my sixth term in January. I have worked hard for my constituency during the time I have been in the Legislature, and I look forward to two more years. My goal, as always, is to serve the people of the 19th District with integrity and responsibility. I pledge to continue my work for the next term with diligence and faithfulness.

On Sunday, November 18, a very special visitor from the 90th Legislative District in Memphis will be speaking at my church, Union Baptist at 6701 Washington Pike. Representative John DeBerry has been representing House District 90 since 1995. He currently serves on the House Education

Committee, House Children and Family Affairs Committee and serves as Vice-chair of National Conference of State Legislators Human Services and Welfare Committee. Additionally, he has been an ordained minister for over forty years, and he is currently the Pastor of Coleman Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis. If you do not have home church obligations, I would like to invite you to join us for our morning worship at 10:30. I have heard Representative DeBerry preach several times, and I can assure you, he is a man of God. You won't be disappointed with his sermon.

As we begin organizing for the upcoming legislative session, I will be spending quite a bit of time in Nashville. This is the first of weekly articles or news reports that I will be sending with the goal of keeping you informed. Helping constituents with any issue you might have is one of my top priorities. Please don't hesitate to call me to let me know how I can best be of service to you. My Nashville office is open year round to help you with any need you may have. That telephone number is 615-741-6879 or 1-800-449-8366 x 44556, and my home number is 865-687-5987 where you may reach me personally at any time. I can be reached by email at rep.harry.brooks@capitol.tn.gov or if you would like to receive updates by email you can sign up at <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/lyris/h19s.html>.

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## A Greater Impact

By Dan Andrews  
andrewsd@knoxfocus.com

It has been slightly over a year since "Impact Wrestling" last came to Knoxville. Since that time the wrestling company has grown dramatically. With higher TV ratings, new talent, deeper story lines, and a world-wide tour schedule, the wrestling company is poised to return to Knoxville on November 16 with a greater impact.

Part of the reason for success is the strong balance between established veterans of the industry and exciting new talent.

To get a better understanding of why this wrestling organization has become so successful and what it takes to make it in this industry, *The Knoxville Focus* interviewed two wrestlers on both sides of the spectrum.

We interviewed Brooke Tessmacher, a rapidly rising star, and huge fan favorite in the female division. We then interviewed Tennessee native James Storm, an industry veteran and ultimate fan favorite who has been with the company from the beginning.

Brooke Tessmacher is the perfect example of the new generation of professional wrestlers that are driving the wrestling industry to new levels. She is a Hawaiian Tropic model, a rugby player, and an avid snowboarder. In the ring, however, she is a two time world champion in the female knockout division. Her signature move is the risky high flying elbow from the top rope.

With well over 100,000 fans on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook, she has a deeply devoted fan base. Brooke

**Continue on page 3**

## CAK does enough to move on against Kingston

By Ken Lay

Christian Academy of Knoxville football coach Rusty Bradley knows his team didn't play its best game Friday night.

But he was happy with the final result.

"You'll take the wins any way you can get them," Bradley said after watching his team grind out a 23-7 victory over District 4-AA rival Kingston in the second round of the Class 3A Playoffs at Warrior Stadium. "Sometimes, you have to win ugly."

The defending Class 3A State Champion Warriors normally score points in bunches. CAK also puts points on the board in a hurry.

But on this night, points didn't come easy for the Warriors, who improved to 11-1 with their most recent victory.

CAK did manage to score on its first possession. The Warriors, who travel to Alcoa this week for a third-round game, took the opening kickoff and marched 78 yards on 10 plays.

Senior quarterback Charlie High capped the drive with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Josh Smith to put the home team up 6-0 with 7 minutes, 45 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Derek Sokolowski's extra point attempt was blocked.

The Warriors, who had only three possessions in the opening half, was flagged for offensive pass interference penalty that all but stopped CAK's drive. The Warriors punted on that drive.

"That penalty was big and we didn't recover from it on that drive," Bradley said. "It put us behind the sticks and we couldn't recover."

CAK took a 9-0 lead on its third and final possession of the first half when Sokolowski hit a 23-yard field goal midway through the second stanza. The successful kick culminated a 10-play 64-yard drive that consumed just over four minutes.

The Yellow Jackets, who moved

**Continue on page 2**

## Panthers eliminate Rebels for the second consecutive season

**Powell advances on to the quarterfinals, will play host to Tennessee High on Friday**

By Bill Mynatt,

Radio Voice of Powell Panther Football on AM 620 WRJZ

PowellFootballRadioVoice@yahoo.com

Last year it was a semifinal matchup that saw the Powell Panthers eliminate the West Rebels from the playoffs. While it happened in the second round on Friday, the result was similar as Powell's defense forced 5 West turnovers and parlayed them in to a 28-17 win to advance on to this Friday's quarterfinal round in the TSSAA Class 5A playoffs. The Panthers will face Tennessee High of Bristol, who upset second seeded Morristown West on Friday.

Powell's defense didn't take long to get things cranked up. After kicking off to the Rebels, the Panthers gang tackled the West ball carrier on the game's first play from scrimmage, forcing a fumble. Senior linebacker Devin Scott recovered at the West 34. After driving inside the 5, Powell opted to go for the touchdown on 4th and goal from the 2. From the power set, Scott snuck out of his blocking back position and worked himself wide open. Hagen Owenby's pass found Scott, and after Austin Rogers' point after, Powell led 7-0 at the 7:50 mark of the first. The scoring drive



PHOTO BY ERIC KENNEDY

***Powell defenders (in orange) Cody Jett (20), Brady Scalf (99) and Devin Scott (49) close in to make the tackle on West ball carrier Nathan Cottrell. Powell defeated West 28-17 on Friday and will advance on to host Tennessee High this Friday night in the Class 5A quarterfinals.***

covered 34 yards in 8 plays.

West cut in to the lead late in the first quarter. A long pass play put the Rebels in business inside the Powell red zone. Facing 4th and short, West opted to go for the first down, but an illegal procedure penalty pushed the ball back 5 yards. After considering going for it again, West coach Scott Cummings opted to go for the field goal, inserting Stuart Hall for the try. Hall's kick was good from 28 yards, and the Rebs had cut the lead to 7-3 with 2:01 to go in the first.

Powell put some distance between themselves and West in the second quarter with a pair of scores.

The first came at the 7:30 mark of the second when Owenby found Andrew Cox on a 12 yard slant route for the score. Cox made a nice move on the defender, cutting inside him and Owenby fired a bullet for the score. Rogers made the point after, and Powell led 14-3.

The second score of the period came with just 57 second left, as Owenby scrambled to buy himself some time,

and then threw the ball deep down the middle of the field, where it found the hands of 6'5" and 230 pound freshman wide receiver Darel Middleton. Middleton made the catch just inside the 5, and barely got in to the end zone for the score. That 40 yard catch, after Rogers' point after, stretched the Panther halftime lead to 21-3.

"That was a big play", senior offensive lineman Michael Ashe told me on the Panther Post Game Show on AM 620 WRJZ. "That gave us a lot of confidence

**Continue on page 2**

## Young Lady Wolves seek basketball success

By Ken Lay

West Valley Middle School's girls basketball team, it seems, has always made deep runs in the James A. Ivey, Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament.

Last season was no exception as the Lady Wolves reached the championship game before falling to South-Doyle.

Expectations will again be high at West Valley but Lady Wolves coach Alex Comer knows that he must be patient with a young squad.

"We kept six sixth graders this year so we're going to be young," said Comer, who opens his fourth season as head coach today (Nov. 12) when the Lady Wolves travel to face rival Farragut in a non-league game at 4:30

pm. "We've got some good young players.

"We have some good sixth and seventh graders. They have potential and if they're ready to contribute, we should be successful."

Returners from last year's West Valley squad which played for a KCMSBC title include: Jenny Thompson (eighth grade, point guard and co-captain); Trinity Lee (a

seventh grader who can play both forward positions and who is also a co-captain); Isabella Soldner (eighth grade, center) and Maggie Kimber (eighth grade, forward).

The Lady Wolves, who finished 16-5 last season, have a talented crop of newcomers led by eighth-grade guard/forward Madison Matherly, who joins the team after spending two years as

a cheerleader.

Expectations at West Valley are modest this season as the Lady Wolves' newcomers attempt to adjust to the speed of the middle school game.

"Right now, I just want us to be the best team that we can be," Comer said. "The girls have worked hard over the summer and they've all showed improvement.

"They've all worked hard to get better. It's encouraging because the leadership is there and everybody's worked pretty hard. Jenny is a three-year player and she's learned from the eighth graders on the previous two teams and Trinity is a captain as a seventh grader and she's shown leadership."

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# What if the Vols had picked Kippy Brown?

By Alex Norman

The situation... wasn't a good one.

It was the evening of Tuesday, January 12, 2010. Lane Kiffin had just informed his team that after only 14 months, he was leaving Tennessee for the sunshine of Southern California.

According to a report by ESPN.com, the meeting between players and Kiffin was "very, very, very hostile." (The UT student unrest that night is well documented).

It's a good thing Kippy Brown was there.

Brown had only been hired by Kiffin a few weeks earlier, being named the Vols wide receivers coach and "Passing Game Coordinator." Brown's three-plus decades of coaching experience were put to the test immediately.

Not to figure out a way to get his playmakers the football, but to keep them from lashing out at the man they had put their trust in...

"The main thing I told them was, no matter who was the coach, Tennessee football would go on," said Brown in a recent phone interview with The Knoxville Focus. "It went on with Johnny Majors, and it went on with Phillip Fulmer... that was the message."

He knows that better than just about anyone. Brown is a big part of the "Tennessee family." He is a Sweetwater native, and served as an assistant coach under both Majors (1983-1989) and Fulmer (1993-1994). Look at those years and you realize that Brown was a part of some special seasons, including SEC championships (1985, 1989), as well as Heath Shuler's last and Peyton Manning's first seasons (1993, 1994) on Rocky Top.

"The key to recruiting at Tennessee is that you have to be able to go out of state, unlike other states like Texas, Louisiana, etc.," said Brown. "There just aren't that many Division One football players in state in Tennessee. You have to be able to sell the crowd, the stadium, the support..."

Brown was willing to do that after Kiffin's departure. He was named the interim head coach by athletic director Mike Hamilton. The Vols were reportedly turned down by candidates like Texas defensive coordinator Will Muschamp, and Duke head coach David Cutcliffe, who had been the Vols offensive coordinator on two separate occasions in the 1990s and 2000s.

But instead of hiring Brown, Hamilton selected the relatively unknown coach from Louisiana Tech, Derek Dooley. Since then it is now secret that Tennessee football has struggled. Many Vols fans have wondered... would things be better today if Brown had been the choice?

Kippy won't allow himself to play the "what if" game...

"That's a waste of time. A decision was made and you have to live with it. That's how this profession is," said Brown. "No matter what happens, you have to react positively and get the job done. So no, thinking about that would be a waste of time."

Brown added that he still follows the program as a fan, and has many friends there, including Condredge Holloway, the history making Tennessee quarterback that now serves as an Assistant Athletic Director at UT.

Four days after the Kiffin resignation, and one day after Dooley's hiring, Brown was on the move again, this time back to the NFL to join Pete Carroll's coaching staff with the Seattle Seahawks. (Yes, the irony is there, because it was Carroll's surprise decision to leave Southern Cal that opened the door for Kiffin.)

Brown is the wide receivers coach with the Seahawks, and has played a role in the rebuilding of that franchise.

"I really like our players. We have the youngest offense in the league and a rookie quarterback (Russell Wilson)," said Brown. "He's (Wilson) smart and talented and getting better every week, and we have solid receivers (Sidney Rice, Golden Tate). The atmosphere is great and I can't imagine anyplace louder than our place (CenturyLink Field)," said Brown. "It's the loudest place in the league without a doubt."

The move to the Pacific Northwest wasn't an expected one even a week before it happened (Brown said his furniture never even gotten to Knoxville), but it's worked out nonetheless.

Still, Brown says that Tennessee will always have a soft spot in his heart.

"I wish them the best."

## Fulton Avenges Losses to Devils, Wins 42-14

By David Klein

The Fulton Falcons avenged a two game playoff-losing streak to the Greenville Greene Devils Friday night at Fulton. Forcing five turnovers and blocking a field goal, the Falcons ousted the two-time defending state champion the Greene Devils from the 4A Playoffs 42-14.

Greenville had beaten the Falcons in the 2010 playoffs 35-0 and 42-0 in last year's quarterfinals. Fulton Head Coach Rob Black said the Falcons had some business to take care of. "This was just one of those candles that was lit up that we had to blow out," Black said. "Our guys had some weight on their soldiers. They (Greenville) knocked us out two years in a row. Our guys came in ready to fight."

The defensive prowess for the Falcons began with Shawn Sullivan's blocked field goal on the Greene Devils' first offensive possession. "That was the big spark we needed," Black said.

Fulton took that spark on the blocked field goal and marched down the field. Keyed by some powerful runs by Daryl Rollins and a personal foul facemask penalty, the Falcons moved into the red zone. Fulton's drive stalled, and the Falcons faced a fourth-and-two for the touchdown. Josh Tillery batted away

run on the first play of the third quarter. "We seen it and took it," Rollins said of his run. He had 21 carries for 255 yards and three touchdowns on the night. Fulton now led 27-0 with 11:38 left in the third quarter.

The Falcon defense swarmed again, forcing a second Finchum interception. The Falcons got the ball back and marched down the field. Smith picked up a key fourth down, running for nine yards. One play later, Jolante Castle scored a three-yard touchdown. Fulton converted the two-point conversion for a 35-0 lead, and the mercy rule took effect with continuous clock running.

Rollins scored his third touchdown from the Falcons' own 6-yard line. He took off from inside, then cut outside and ran 94 yards down the right sideline. It was the Falcons' fourth score off of a Greene Devil turnover.

Greenville finally got on the scoreboard with a Stewart 5-yard touchdown run. They added a touchdown pass from Finchum to Trevor Wright with 36 seconds left to make the final score 42-14 Fulton.

Fulton improved to 10-2 and will either host DeKalb County Friday or travel to Livingston Academy. Greenville ended their season at 8-4.



PHOTO BY JAMES SPEARS

*Xavier Hawkins and KJ Roper run down the Greenville QB.*

Penny Smith's pass intended for Xavier Hawkins.

Greenville, however, could not capitalize. Instead, Sullivan stripped Tanner Stewart of the football, recovered it, and ran 40 yards for a touchdown. Fulton's defense had struck first. The Greene Devils blocked the extra point, and Fulton led 6-0.

Despite a Penny Smith interception, Greenville couldn't do anything with it. Fulton got the ball back, and Xavier Hawkins ran it in from seven yards out for a touchdown. Smith's two-point conversion pass to Hawkins was good and Fulton led 14-0.

Moments later, Dean Taylor recovered another Greenville fumble, their second turnover of the game. Rollins wicked reverse from six yards out led to another Fulton score. The Falcons led 21-0 with 4:48 left in the first half.

Another Greenville turnover, Zack Finchum's first interception, gave Fulton a chance to add to their lead before halftime, but Fulton was unable to score. The first half ended with Fulton leading 21-0.

Rollins shut the door on any hope of a Greene Devil comeback with his 68-yard touchdown

## CAK does enough to move on against Kingston

**Cont. from page 1**

the ball well all night, put together a 6-minute drive to close the first half. Kingston (7-5) came up empty when Brett Kendrick sacked Yellow Jackets quarterback Brandon Ott on the final play of the half.

The Yellow Jackets got the ball first after halftime and put together a 15-play drive that covered 70 yards and chewed up nearly nine minutes. Brody Roberts, who finished with 112 yards, scored on a short touchdown plunge with 3:18 remaining in the third. Keaton Shillings' PAT pulled the visitors to within 9-7.

CAK responded quickly and took and extended its advantage to 16-7 when High hit Davis Howell with a scoring strike that covered eight yards.

The Warriors put the game out of reach when senior running back Corey Rathbone scampered 37 yards to make the score 23-7 with 4:39 left in the contest.

CAK's defense came up big three times Friday night, as the Warriors made three stops on fourth down. Two of those defensive stands came late in the game.

# Panthers eliminate Rebels

**Cont. from page 1**

and momentum going in to the locker room."

West cut in to the Powell lead in the third quarter. Senior quarterback Ryan Francis led the Rebels on an 11 play, 77-yard drive that consumed 7:20 of clock time. Sophomore Nathan Cottrell scored on a 3 yard run. The point after kick was no good, however, and West had cut it to a 2 score game at 21-9.

The Rebel defense then came to life and forced a Panther punt, but the offense couldn't take advantage as they fumbled it right back to the Panthers in West territory at the 42. After a loss of a yard on first down, Powell junior running back Tyshawn Gardin struck, and struck in his typically quick fashion, as he started left and then cut back to the middle of the field, outrunning the West pursuit to the end zone. The 43 yard run, coupled with Rogers' extra point kick, extended the lead to 28-9. From there it would be an uphill battle for the Rebels.

West did manage to make it a two score game

once again, as they executed a nifty hook and lateral play that went for a 70 yard score.

Francis found Jonathon Mixon on an 8 yard slant pass, and then Mixon pitched the ball to Lionel Morris, who streaked down the sideline for the score. West went for 2 and made it on a Francis to Marshall pass, and West had cut the lead to 11 with 59 seconds to go in the 4<sup>th</sup>.

From that point, everybody in the stadium knew what was coming. Hall's onside kick attempt was unsuccessful, however, and Powell took over at the West 39 and ran out the clock to seal the win.

West saw its season end with a 9-3 record, another disappointing ending for a team that had aspirations of making it to Cookeville.

For Powell head coach Derek Rang, it was a special win.

"I'm not going to sit here and lie to you, this one had a little extra riding on it for me", he said. "I spent two years at West working under Scott Cummings and know those players and coaches well. I'm a

competitor and wanted this one really badly."

Rang, in his first year as the Panther head coach, had spent the prior two years at the Defensive Coordinator at West.

With the win, Powell improves to 11-1 on the season. As the number 1 seed in quad 1, it will host again this week in the quarterfinals, this time against the Vikings of Tennessee High. Tennessee High, the 6 seed, comes in to the game riding on the strength of two playoff road upsets.

The first came in the opening round at Daniel Boone, the 3 seed, as Tennessee High avenged a regular season loss with a 28-7 first round win. Then on Friday, the Vikings traveled to Morristown West and defeated the Trojans 29-21 to advance to Friday's quarterfinals. They are now 8-4 on the season.

"I really don't know much about Tennessee High", Rang told me. "I hear that they try to spread the field and throw it around a lot. We'll trade some game film tomorrow (Saturday) and have a better idea after that."

Owenby had a solid night both running and throwing the football for the Panthers. The talented junior completed 13 of his 16 pass attempts, good for 161 yards and the 3 TDs. He also ran the ball 17 times, good for 64 yards.

Montario Washington had 15 carries for 69 yards, while Gardin netted 45 yards on his 5 tries.

Weaver was the target on 5 of Owenby's completions for 52 yards.

Scott, just as he has most of the season, led the defensive charge with 16 tackles, 2 for lost yardage. Brody Huskey added 8 tackles, and Dylan Sweat 6 to lead the Panther defensive effort.

Senior defensive back Jonathan Strozyk had an interception, snuffing out a West potential scoring threat, to add to his school career interception record. He now has 19 for his career, and 5 for the

season.

Sweat also added and interception for Powell.

Francis had another outstanding game for West. The senior carried the ball 17 times, good for 111 yards. He also completed 6 of 11 passes, good for 92 yards.

Game time for Tennessee High at Powell is 7 p.m. The broadcast on AM 620 WRJZ and streaming at [www.powellpanthersfootball.com](http://www.powellpanthersfootball.com) begins at 6:30.



Weekly achievements for Tuesday, Club 55, October 30, 20112

High Game Scratch-Male  
257 Robert Woodruff  
244 Ed Beatty  
223 Gene Allmon

High Series Scratch-Male  
630 Ed Beatty  
628 Robert Woodruff  
605 Hubert Gusby

High Game Scratch-Female  
187 Barbara Nelson  
187 Sandra Turner  
186 Betty Phillips

High Series Scratch-Female

521 Barbara Nelson  
484 Janet Huffaker  
484 Betty Phillips

Wednesday Club 55:  
High Game Scratch-Male  
266 David Peigh  
259 Robert Watkins  
254 Ed Beatty

High Series Scratch-Male  
675 Bill Byrge  
636 Gene Allmon  
625 Hubert Gusby  
625 Robert Watkins

High Game Scratch-Female  
198 Carolyn McGill  
179 Cleo Sideris  
177 Kathy Cate  
177 Susie Martin

High Series Scratch-Female  
588 Carolyn McGill

513 Kathy Cate  
475 Susie Martin

Thursday No-Tap:  
High Game Scratch-Male  
300 Billy Majors  
300 Hubert Gusby  
279 David Peigh

High Series Scratch-Male  
822 David Peigh  
817 Billy Majors  
790 Hubert Gusby

High Game Scratch-Female  
254 Betty Phillips  
238 Lynn Porco  
219 Margaret Myers

High Series Scratch-Female  
652 Betty Phillips  
621 Lynn Porco  
605 Margaret Myers



# Veteran Wolves look to improve 2012-13

By Ken Lay

As the 2012-13 Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference looms, West Valley Middle School boys basketball coach Chuck Comer is anxious to see how his team will respond to a competitive conference schedule.

"I think we'll be a little bit better than we were last year," said Comer, who will open his 14<sup>th</sup> season as Wolves head coach today (Nov. 12). "The kids have practiced hard, so we'll see what happens."

West Valley, which went 10-10 last season, will start its campaign today with a non-conference tilt at Farragut.

The Wolves, who featured one of the league's youngest rosters in 2011-12, have five returning players. Those returners will all be slated as starters for today's contest against the Admirals, which tips off at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Comer, who has been the only boys coach at West Valley, said that he's hoping that his team picked up some experience and learned a few lessons last year.

"I think we'll be improved," he said. "I really have no idea what to expect because in the middle schools, you don't do a lot of stuff in the summer."

"I think we'll be bigger and more improved."

Top returners include eighth graders: Chance Bolen (forward/center); Jackson Henningfield (center); Tyler Petersen (guard/forward); Clark Poynter (guard/forward) and Nick Rogers (guard).

Those experienced veterans will be joined by a crop of newcomers. Those players will look to make an impact as the Wolves, who won the 2010 James A. Ivey, Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament, compete in a very deep and competitive league.

"I think the league will be competitive," Comer said. "I think Powell [the defending] champ and Bearden may have the two best teams."

"Bearden gets a lot of their players back."

West Valley's veteran coach also looks for the Admirals to be strong.

"I think Farragut lost some people, but they're always really big," Comer said.

# A Greater Impact

**Cont. from page 1**

Tessmacher explained that it is crucial to stay actively involved in social media. She stated it is a way to reach out and touch the fans, a way to showcase their true individual personalities, and a way to show that they are real and that fans want to know what is going on. It builds a connection that arcs when she tours the world and meets her fans at autograph signings and fan after fan already feels that built in personal connection. While Brooke Tessmacher has a team of people helping her with her official website, she personally and solely operates her twitter account. With high flying, exciting wrestling moves in the ring and personal fan interaction out of the ring, one quickly realizes why Brooke Tessmacher has become such a huge fan favorite.

James Storm (pictured right) is a

veteran wrestler who has been with the company since its inception. While hundreds of wrestlers have come and gone, James Storm has consistently remained a fan favorite. He attributes that to knowing what the fans want and his ability to change with the times. He embraces the growing success of Impact Wrestling even though it means more time on the road, but he is comfortable with that. "I've been a professional wrestler my whole life. It's what I do to pay the bills," Storm explained.

Traveling on the road five days a week and working out in the gym two to three hours a day in a different city almost every day is what he signed up for. He loves being a wrestler and strongly recognizes how touring has a direct impact on the success and growth of the company.

When Impact Wrestling first started



there was very little touring. As the organization has grown over the years so has the touring schedule. As the tour returns to Knoxville this week, look for bigger crowds, bigger excitement, and a whole new level of impact.

Impact Wrestling returns to Knoxville November 16th. For more information visit <http://www.impactwrestling.com>.

# New faces, same expectations for Powell boys

By Ken Lay

Powell Middle School boys basketball coach Darin Courtney knows that his team will be in a transition mode early this season.

But that doesn't mean that he's about to temper his expectations.

"We'll have a chance to win every time that we step out onto the floor," said Courtney, who officially opened his 11<sup>th</sup> season Friday when the Panthers traveled to Jacksboro. "I expect to be in a deep and competitive league and I expect us to compete."

Powell, which went 23-1 last season and won the

both the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference regular-season championship and the James A. Ivey, Jr. Memorial Basketball Tournament last year, have only two returning players who had playing time last season.

Others, who will get their first taste of game action in 2012-13, did practice with the team last year. In addition, the newcomers played together on a Powell Youth Basketball All-Star team.

"We have a lot of newcomers who practiced with us last year," said Courtney, who has won three tournament championships in his

first 10 years as the Panthers' coach. "They also played together on a junior pro all-star team."

"They've played a lot of basketball together. It's just a matter of getting them to play the style we want to play and getting them to achieve the goals that we want to achieve."

All of Powell's players are eighth graders this season. The two returners are center Tanner Kesterson and guard Reilly Hamilton.

The newcomers include: Amari Rogers (point guard); Derek Reagan (forward); Matthew Samples (guard/forward); Jack Richards

(guard); Jonas Payne (who will play both the small and power forward positions); Levi Everett (forward/center); Jordan Mink (guard); Tyler Mink (center) and Logan Ward (guard).

Results for the Panthers' first game in Campbell County were unavailable at press time but that was the first in a series of three tough games to open the season for Powell.

The Panthers will host Emory Road rival Halls on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in a non-conference tilt. Powell will open KCMSBC play at Northwest on Nov. 19.

# As for UT coaching job, Fulmer is back in the mix

Who knows what athletic director Dave Hart is thinking as far as the University of Tennessee football coaching situation is concerned, but I could see

By Steve Williams

a win-win option at his disposal, if he so chooses.

Option 1: Give Derek Dooley a fourth season, if the Vols compete and make progress over their final three games against Missouri, Vanderbilt and Kentucky, particularly on the defensive side of the ball, where Dooley has had to shift his attention. (This option would have to include the hiring of a new defensive coordinator).

Option 2: If the team flops down the stretch and more fans jump ship, to the point that it becomes necessary to make a coaching change for financial reasons, hire

Phillip Fulmer.

Yes, the former UT head coach appears to be back in the mix. Last week, following the 55-48 close-call win over Troy, Fulmer's name resurfaced in town and across the state in discussion of whom the university may turn to in the event Dooley is not retained.

On Election Day, one Knoxville sports radio talk show even asked its listeners to vote for who they would want as the Vols' new coach (other than Jon Gruden, the people's choice but a longshot), and Dooley, surprisingly, came out ahead, getting 18 percent of the vote. Also surprising was Fulmer finishing second in the balloting. Apparently, the second winningest coach in UT history, who has recently been selected to the College Football Hall of Fame, has more support among the fan base than many thought.

With the program's current struggles, it could be, too, that the results Fulmer achieved in his 16 years on the job at Tennessee are appreciated more now than ever before. His 152-52 record included a national championship in 1998 and five trips to the SEC championship game in his last 11 seasons.

Bill Snyder's current success at Kansas State undoubtedly has stirred the coals in the renewed interest of Fulmer. The 73-year-old Snyder, who was brought back for a second tenure at Kansas State in 2009, has his undefeated Wildcats in contention for a national title this season.

Could Fulmer, now 62, make a similar comeback? Out of coaching and living somewhat of a normal life, we've heard he looks great and feels recharged.

There are interesting similarities and connections when comparing the

coaching careers of Snyder and Fulmer.

In his first stint (1989-2005), Snyder turned Kansas State, a perennial major college door-mat, into a Big 12 Conference champion in 2003. His 1998 team had been upset by Texas A&M at season's end, possibly costing Kansas State a national title shot and at the same time opening the door for Fulmer's Vols to advance to the first BCS title game.

But Snyder had two losing seasons, slipping to 4-7 in 2004 and 5-6 in 2005, and he resigned with a 136-68-1 record. Kansas State brought him back three years later. His successor, Ron Prince, had a 17-20 three-year record. Snyder's Wildcats were 6-6 in 2009 and 7-6 in 2010 before going 10-2 and losing to Arkansas in last year's Cotton Bowl.

Equally appealing in the interest of Fulmer is the

possibility of him bringing back John Chavis as defensive coordinator. Chavis, now at LSU, is recognized by many as the SEC's top DC. There's also been speculation that Fulmer would also bring in Tee Martin, the quarterback on his national championship squad, further increasing past UT ties.

Hart already is one up on his predecessor, Mike Hamilton, in that he didn't fire Dooley after the Vols' loss at South Carolina this season. Coming into the Missouri game this past Saturday, it appeared Hart was giving Dooley every opportunity to make the most out of the season and keep his job.

Four years ago, with the Tennessee program struggling through similar tough times, Hamilton informed Fulmer the day after losing at South Carolina he wouldn't be retained after the 2008 season. That announcement turned

the Vols' season upside down. Emotionally torn up, they lost to Wyoming in a homecoming game five days later, then managed to regroup to beat Vanderbilt and Kentucky to finish 5-7, a win short of qualifying for a post-season bowl game.

Dooley deserves the chance to fix this season and possibly lead this team, which has worked hard and hasn't quit, to a bowl game for their efforts. A tough road game at Vanderbilt and the home finale against Kentucky remain on the schedule. If the Vols do finish strong, Dooley also deserves a fourth year to build on to the foundation he has started. That's only fair, considering the shape of the program when he arrived.

But if Hart has to go to Option 2, I'm sure Fulmer would be eager to take over and help his alma mater. It would be his dream job.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Fine Craft Fair at Jacob Building Nov. 16-18

Attend a spectacular exhibit of fine crafts and holiday gift ideas at the 46th annual Craft Fair presented by the Foothills Craft Guild! The dates are Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17, from 10 to 6 and Sunday, November 18, from 11 to 5 at the Jacob Building in Knoxville's Chilhowee Park. This event features the original work of 140 artisans who have been juried into the Guild according to the highest standards of excellence in quality

workmanship. Enjoy a variety of fine crafts representing the Tennessee region... woodwork, pottery, jewelry, glass, fiber arts, metalwork, sculpture, basketry, and more!

Anne Freels specializes in creating handmade corn shuck dolls, and her inspiration springs from a combination of Appalachian Mountain and Southern Alabama heritage. Her one-of-a-kind originals are made with natural hand-dyed corn shucks, and her dolls depict folklore,

mountain ways, herbal healing, and other connections with nature.

Best-selling author Dr. Bill Bass is a special guest for the Authors' Corner and will be autographing books Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Other featured authors are Bill Landry, Sam Venable, and Jim Johnston, who will autograph their books on all three days.

For great fun, visit the Make It & Take It Booth on Saturday and Sunday where all ages can explore the fun of doing small crafts projects like straw weaving or stamping

greeting cards. There will also be daily Craft Demonstrations such as basket making, woodworking, marbling, and spinning. Best-selling author Dr. Bill Bass is a special guest for the Authors' Corner and will be autographing books Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Other featured authors are Bill Landry, Sam Venable, and Jim Johnston, who will autograph their books on all three days. Admission is adults \$6, seniors \$5, and children 6 and under free, [www.foothillscraftguild.org](http://www.foothillscraftguild.org).



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

**First Lady Of Tennessee Participated In United Way Of Greater Knoxville's Early Grade Literacy Event. First Lady Crissy Haslam visited Norwood Elementary to present books to children in the Intensive Reading Tutorial Program for first graders last Thursday.**



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**Info:** Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor  
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[www.NewBeverly.org](http://www.NewBeverly.org)  
[www.TimLovelace.com](http://www.TimLovelace.com)

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

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## Watershed

As I drove to work on Election Day I saw no tanks or infantry. No planes dropped bombs to terrify voters or suppress their voice. And the people did speak, especially those less than thirty years old, single women, and conventional minority groups. This is how the demographers and commentators explained the reelection of Obama. I fault these experts with their charts and the President for the Balkanization of our country that was once known as the United States of America. And I fault the rest of us for allowing it to happen. In a history book I'm

reading, Professor Rufus Fears holds that the leaders we choose are a reflection of ourselves. The reflections are only, in part, related to skin color. The perverse media whines about prejudice and racism of some groups and ignores other groups whose vote for one candidate was 95%--a plurality only seen in communist countries. We have chosen the President again instead of a "good man" -- Obama's and Biden's own words. We passed over a God fearing Christian with business skills, character, proven leadership, and a work ethic. Fifty one point two (51.2) percent

chose "hope" again over reality, an indictment of our entire culture.

Last week I was in a different place and honored to be in the presence of warriors. Navy heroes stood beside their comrade, Reed, as he exchanged vows with his beloved, Sara. The ceremony was directed by a retired Navy chaplain who after decades of service is still a part of the military service "community." As I sat through the ceremony I reflected on these amazing people. Their handshakes and demeanor exude honor and command respect. The contrast between their stalwart appearance and the rest of us is striking. I trust these men of valor and substance, fit and mature beyond their years, not the Gollum-like Harry Reid or the duplicitous rock-star, Obama.

Where do these men and women come from, I asked myself? Where do you find people who will sacrifice themselves to save comrades in Benghazi, or jump out of airplanes, or dive hundreds

of feet under the ocean to disarm bombs? It must bubble up from some primal force. It must emanate from the numinous notion of freedom.

As I watched the groom and his bride circle the floor in the dance of honor I thought of the movie An Officer and a Gentleman and I realized that my time in leadership has passed, just like my vision of America. Jack Nicholson's character in the movie, A Few Good Men, screamed at the courtroom that we civilians exist because good men stand watch on the wall. How sad and pernicious are the policies of our effete politicians as they move to remove these protectors from freedom's watch.

The same kind of politicians ruled ancient Israel 2600 years ago. This ilk put the fate of their nation and their people in foreign alliances. These leaders thought that their charisma and skills as negotiators could beguile and befriend their adversaries. They didn't heed the warning of prophets

like Jeremiah. They believed that God would never allow Jerusalem and the Temple to be destroyed. However, the Babylonians did come and their Egyptian allies abandoned the Jews on the battlefield. Jeremiah would write his Lamentations squatting on the rubble of a destroyed Jerusalem and Temple and watch the smarter-than-everyone else being drug off into slavery to work the plantations of Mesopotamia.

The Temple of America is crashing down and will soon be gone. Perhaps it's been gone for sometime except in the minds of those who loved it. Perhaps it became an idol that distracted people from our real purpose. However, even those who say rubbish to Providence now see that we've crested our glory days. Like water that can't run back up hill, the election was a watershed event for America. The American mystique is gone and can't be recaptured before the darkness runs its course.

Ask Putin and Chavez or the new Mesopotamian tyrant Ahmadinejad if you don't believe me.

Generations after Jerusalem's and the Temple's destruction Nehemiah and Ezra led a remnant of Jews back from captivity and the plantations. They rebuilt the Temple with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. I suspect our future Nehemiahs will again heed that primal and visceral desire for freedom and rebuild on America's ash heap. The Phoenix of freedom will rise again.

That is hope you can believe in.

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

For appointments call Keesha at 865-522-0326.

Do you have a question for Dr. Ferguson? Please e-mail him at [jferguson@summithealthcare.com](mailto:jferguson@summithealthcare.com).



## Rosie's World

## Pay attention to the language

Have you noticed that your Social Security is now called Federal Benefit Payment Entitlement? This isn't a benefit--it's earned income! Not only did we contribute to Social Security, our employers did too. It totaled 15% of our income before taxes. If you averaged \$30K per year over your working life, that's close to \$180,000 invested in Social Security. If you calculate the future value of your monthly investment in Social Security (\$375/month, including both your and your employer's contributions) at a meager 1% rate compounded monthly, after 40 years of working, you'd have \$1.3 million+ dollars saved. This is your personal investment. That's almost three times more than today's average Social Security benefit of \$1,230, according to the Social Security Administration (Google it, it's a fact).

And your retirement fund would last more than 33 years (until you are 98 if your retired at age

**Continued on page 2**

## \$350K raised for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

On October 28, 2012, Farm Bureau Insurance of Tennessee raised more than \$350,000 for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer®. More than 28,000 walkers across the state have participated in one of the five Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events that have taken place this month across the state of Tennessee in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville and the Tri Cities. The West Tennessee event will be held on November 4, 2012.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is the American Cancer Society's signature event to raise awareness and funds to fight breast cancer. The event unites the entire community to honor breast cancer survivors, educate people about how to reduce their breast cancer risk or find



Farm Bureau Insurance CEO, Sonny Scoggins, presents Jenny Stripling (l) and Mary Ann Upchurch (r) of the American Cancer Society, with a check for funds raised by Farm Bureau agents across TN in support of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks that took place in October.

the disease early and raise funds to end breast cancer.

Farm Bureau Insurance of Tennessee participated

as a Statewide Pacesetter sponsor this year. "The American Cancer Society was thrilled to have Farm Bureau Insurance

involved and is humbled by the tremendous outpouring of support received across the state from all

**Continued on page 2**

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# Faith

## A Church To Call Home

By Tasha Mahurin  
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

"Kindness has won more people to the faith than stadium events and million dollar productions." Those were the words of Jason Creech, Pastor of A Church Called Home.

The church hosted its first service in the Halls Cinema on September 9 with 118 people in attendance. Although a new church in the community, the leadership of A Church Called Home wasted no time in their mission to demonstrate the love of Christ in tangible and creative ways. This past Friday the church purchased all the tickets for the 6:35 showing of Disney's new movie "Wreck It Ralph" at Halls Cinema.

"The church exists to serve and love our city and the people within it; to show the love of Christ in real and practical ways. Maybe outsiders would be insiders if we were just a little kinder. So, with that in mind we decided to treat the families in our community to a free movie," explained Creech.

Creech and his team did just that by treating 85 movie-goers to a free showing of the highly anticipated Disney film.

"It was great watching people approach the ticket office to make their purchase only to hear someone say, 'Your tickets have been paid for by A Church Called Home.' That's a win for us! I refuse to be labeled as 'after people's money.' Instead, we will give. God gave - He his only Son. Someone once said, 'The only time Jesus ever passed the basket, He was giving not receiving,'" Creech added.

Creech came to the Christian



*The congregation of A Church Called Home meets every Sunday at Halls Cinema 7.*

faith at the age of 19. He has 14 years of pastoral experience, serving on staff at four churches in the area of student ministries. Jason is the founder of Mirror-Mirror Inc., a nonprofit that hosts events in public schools throughout Kentucky and abroad, speaking to over 63,000 students. Mirror-Mirror partners with businesses and colleges to equip young people for success. Because of faithful sponsors, the organization has given over \$4 million in college scholarships, awarded students with over \$11,000 in new clothing, and granted one hard working student a new car.

Jason is also the author of the following books: New.U, Dealing With the S-Words, and Navigate. He and his wife Melissa were married in 1996 and moved to Knoxville earlier this year to plant A Church Called Home. They have two children, Tori and Chaz.

When asked why plant a new church in Knoxville? Creech responded: "According to the americanchurch.org, 80% of the Knoxville population does not attend church. I think the real question should be, 'Why not another church?' We live in a time of much instability and fear. Every night the evening news reveals how far we've strayed from what God has called us to be. The Church plants herself in the midst of it all, and represents the strength and security of Someone greater! She is a lighthouse of hope and a welcoming home to all who will come."

A Church Called Home meets every Sunday morning in Halls Cinema 7 at 10:45. To find out more information visit their website at [www.churchcalledhome.com](http://www.churchcalledhome.com). You may also call the church office by calling 865-643-8900.

## Church Happenings

### Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church

Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church, located at 7753 Oak Ridge Hwy. will again open our doors for a FREE Thanksgiving Dinner prepared by members. This is your invitation to join us in the Family Life Center on Thanksgiving Day. Dinner will be served between 11:30 and 1:00. Come join us on Thanksgiving Day for wonderful food and fellowship!

Reservations may be made by contacting the church office but are not required.

Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church will have a HEALING & PRAYER Service Sunday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. The 45-minute service is a quiet and reflective time in the Chapel and is open to the community.

For more information on this or

other programs please call the office at 690-1060. Web: [www.beaverridgeumc.com](http://www.beaverridgeumc.com).

### Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon

The Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon (KFL) will meet November 13, 2012 at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway, Knoxville at noon. Rob Ellis will be the guest speaker.

### Seymour United Methodist Church

This Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m., rehearsal for the Christmas Cantata, "I hear the Prophet Callin'" will be held. All are welcome to participate with the chancel choir for their Dec. 16th, presentation.

The "Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal" will be held this Wed. at 5:30 p.m. Reservations needed Sunday or Monday

noon this week.

At 6:30 p.m. on this Wednesday, 11/14/12, our annual Church Charge Conference will be held in the sanctuary, followed at 7 p.m. by a worship of Thanksgiving with Holy Communion. Both of these important gatherings will be led by our District Supt., Rev. Charles Maynard.

On Saturday, Nov. 17th, at 9 a.m., the "Groundskeepers" fellowship group will meet for some garden winterization projects.

Looking ahead, the Older Adult Council has its annual Christmas Dinner scheduled for Saturday, December 1, at 6 p.m. Ages 55 and above, pick up your ticket(s) from reps in main church hallway the next few Sundays.

## Pay attention to the language

**Cont. from page 1**

65). You can only imagine how much better most average-income people in retirement if our government had just invested our money in low-risk interest-earning accounts.

Instead, the folks in Washington pulled off a bigger Ponzi scheme than Bernie Madoff ever did. They took our money and used it elsewhere. They "forgot" that it was OUR money they were taking. They didn't have a referendum to ask us if we

wanted to lend the money to them. And they didn't pay interest on the debt they assumed. Recently, they've told us that the money won't support us for very much longer. But is it our fault they misused our investments?

And now, to add insult to injury, they're calling it a "benefit" as if we never worked to earn every penny of it. Just because they "borrowed" the money doesn't mean that our investments were a charity!

Let's take a stand.

We have earned our right to Social Security and Medicare. Demand that our legislators bring some sense into the government. Find a way to keep social Security and Medicare going, for the sake of that 92% of our population who need it. Then call it what it is: our Earned Retirement Income.

I don't usually write about controversial subjects such as religion or politics but this sort of touched a nerve in me. I

am concerned about the many baby-boomers who will be retiring in the near future. I wish I would have seen this article the week before the election. Not that it would have made any difference. We can only pray that things will change for the better.

Thought for the day: Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much. Helen Keller

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

## Colonial Heights UMC celebrates Homecoming

As members both current and past arrived at church on Sunday morning, October 28, to celebrate Homecoming 2012, they were greeted by a huge Welcome Banner, a beautiful fall arrangement and a very special welcoming committee of senior membership. Rev. Robert Countess, minister from 2000-2009, (now the minister of Mountain View UMC located in Kingsport, TN) provided the sermon. Choir Director Devon Lyon led the choir in wonderful ole classic hymns, "I'll Fly Away," "Standing on the Promises," and many other favorites.

A pre-service hospital-ity hour was enjoyed by all. Everyone munched on home baked goodies such as ham and biscuits, homemade apple dishes along with fresh coffee that was prepared and served by the ladies of CHUMC.

As soon as the service concluded, members of the congregation moved to the Fellowship Hall where everyone enjoyed dishes that were once enjoyed at Sunday dinners and served on Grandmother's best china. The best part of the luncheon was the memories shared. Mrs. Barbara Thornton, a member since July 1968, shared her experiences and the changes she has seen in the church during these years. Mrs. Jenny

Fowler recalled memories of her childhood growing up in the church, her marriage to husband Jim, and raising their children Jackie Sue and Jimmy within the same church family. Members also enjoyed a continuous video program provided by Mr. Cy Wills from the video archives of years past. Much fun was had by everyone, and many laughs were heard as both men and women remembered what they looked like 25-30 year ago - quite a difference!! Along with the videos, Mrs. Judy McQueen provided a selection of newspaper articles and black & white photos of past activities from the Quilting ladies, Youth outings, Christmas teas and the famous Men's Chili & Bean dinners, along with many other activities enjoyed by our church family. While everyone enjoyed the memories we were serenaded by the the CHUMC quartet, consisting of Emily Flanagan, Liz Wheeler, Gincy Brewster and Brenda Bacon who sang "He Is Here," "The River Is Here" and "Blessed Assurance."

All in all, it was a wonderful day of outstanding fellowship, past memories, and most important a time to celebrate the freedom we have in this wonderful country to share our Faith without the fear of retaliation.

## \$350K raised for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

**Cont. from page 1**

Farm Bureau offices and agents," said Mary Ann Upchurch, State Vice President for the American Cancer Society in Tennessee. "All the Farm Bureau agents in Tennessee were involved in some form, whether it was selling pink hats, helping to promote their local walks or holding their own local fundraisers. They all rallied together to help end this disease. Even Farmer Charlie got involved to help. The American Cancer Society could not be more appreciative and thankful for what they have done for us in Tennessee and for women everywhere who are battling this disease."

The funds raised by Farm Bureau Insurance will be used to provide free resources and support to the 1 in 2 women newly diagnosed with breast cancer who will turn to the American Cancer Society for help and support. Dollars raised will also fund groundbreaking research to find, prevent, treat and cure breast cancer, as well as help the Society ensure access to mammograms for women who need them.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is the largest network of breast cancer awareness events

in the nation, uniting more than 270 communities to fund the fight. This event also supports the American Cancer Society's unique mission to fight breast cancer on all fronts and save lives by helping people stay well by reducing their breast cancer risk or finding it early; helping people get well by providing information and support during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking breast cancer research and by fighting back by encouraging lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and rallying communities worldwide to join the fight.

It is not too late to make a donation to the American Cancer Society through Knoxville's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event. Visit [www.makingstrides-knoxville.com](http://www.makingstrides-knoxville.com) to help the Society continue saving lives. For more information about breast cancer, contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).

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Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.  
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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

# Big sales coming in January

Two very important sales at Fountain City Auction are planned in early January for you sellers and collectors alike.

The first sale in January is Fountain City Auction's 9th Annual

Advertising Sale on January 4, 2013. This sale always packs the house with folks coming from many states away. The best of the best is offered here with porcelain signs, antique advertising, clocks, soda, petroleum, folk art, retro and historical items. It seems each year is better than the last. Reserve seating is already at the 50% mark and growing.

The following Friday, January 11, 2013, will be a double hitter with a very important Proxibid international live audience/ internet attendance and looks to be the best yet in quality and quantity. That is saying a lot as these live internet/ audience sales have been a huge success over the past year. Items already on hand include a rare pair of Lalique France table lamps from the estate of Edsel Ford, museum grade Southern appliqué quilts that are amazing, several sterling flatware sets, one 1870s Gorham repousse, many items of fine signed art glass, folk art, pottery, fine jewelry to include antique platinum, fine diamond rings, gold jewelry, heavy gold chains, an Art Deco heavy 14K bracelet with stones, many items of 14k diamond pins, rings, necklaces, Victorian estate gold and silver items, fine



By Carl Sloan

art, rare antique Knoxville Bridge sterling spoon and the list goes on and on with fine items in many other categories.

The time to consign in either of these two sales is now !

The Advertising Sale is already being promoted in several states and the more exposure on the website, the better. The same strategy goes with the international Proxibid sale, as pre-bidding will start in mid-December.

These type of sales require a great deal of time to process and promote the items, so a month before the actual sale is optimal for best results.

How do I know if I have anything that would fit into either sale and what should I do ?

For a free evaluation, either by phone or in person, all that you need to do is contact The Focus either by calling (865)686-9970 or email staff@knoxfocus.com. The Focus will forward your info to me for a return call or email promptly.

Many of the items already in these two upcoming auctions have come from your responses over the past months and I am always happy and grateful to talk to those in our community to give fair and accurate assessments and information at no cost! Do call soon as these sales fill up quickly and there are two more general sales available for other items. Let me hear from you and don't hesitate to call or write.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Bearden High School presents 'Legally Blonde'

Bearden High School students will perform the Tony-award winning Broadway show "Legally Blonde-The Musical." This will be the first time this Broadway show has been performed by a high school in the Knoxville area. The production includes a cast of forty students, a twenty student stage crew and orchestra under the direction of Mrs. Leann Dickson, Musical Theater teacher. Performances will be at Bearden High School on November 8 and 10 at 7:30 p.m., and November 11 at 2:30. Tickets will be available at the door: \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. November 10 will be Alumni Night "Pink Out!" as former students from across the country will return for Saturday's performance dressed in pink!

## Civil War Roundtable

On Tuesday, November 13, 2012, the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable will host nationally known historian Edwin C. Bearss as its speaker. Mr. Bearss is Chief Historian Emeritus for the National Park Service and speaks nationwide on topics concerning the American Civil War. At 8:00 p.m. Mr. Bearss will speak on the topic: "Fredericksburg:

Burnside Meets Lee." The talk is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and will be at the Bearden Banquet Hall at 5806 Kingston Pike (next to Buddy's BBQ and .2 mile east of the intersection of Kingston Pike and Northshore Dr.) To attend the talk only is \$5.00. (Students with current IDs are admitted free.) Alternatively, you can come at 7:00 p.m. and enjoy a delicious buffet dinner which is \$15.00 for members and \$17.00 for non-members (including talk). To make dinner reservations, please call (865) 671-9001 by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 12.

## Knoxville Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help meeting

Knoxville Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Night Group will meet at Associated Therapeutics, Tuesday, November 13, 2012, at 6:30 pm, 2704 Mineral Springs Ave. For more information call Judy Moyers at 865-922-2281.

## Bonny Kate Chapter meeting

Bonny Kate Chapter, DAR will meet on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 12:00 a.m. at the Second United Methodist Church, 1524 Western Ave., Knoxville. The program - 'The War of 1812: The Star Spangled Banner and the Tall Ships' Presented by Mrs. Lawson Hickox .



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

As part of their civic training, Cub Scouts frequently visit local governmental offices. Nearly a dozen of them from Cub Scout Troop 1882 of Beulah United Methodist Church were hosted by Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero last week. In addition to fielding questions from the lively, yet thoughtful, bunch, Rogero offered them each an opportunity to "be Mayor for a minute." Members of the troop were able to have their photo taken sitting behind the Mayor's desk.



Congratulations to this year's Powell Middle School winners of the National Council of Garden Club Poetry Contest entitled "Protecting Our Aquatic Friends. Pictured with Powell Middle School Principal, Gary Critseleous and Linda Hooper Whitwell are 3rd Place winner Cameron Bryson, 1st Place winner Maria Kasipvic and 2nd Place winner Carson Sneed.

Winning poem by Maria Kasipvic:

Creatures of the Sea  
Save our oceans.  
Save our seas.  
Save the Creatures  
who swim beneath.

Little Creatures of the Sea,  
Let them be  
Let them live for eternity.

Plastic-It does not belong  
with the Little Creatures  
of the Sea.  
Please, just let them be  
Free  
So we can all live  
I harmony.

Little Creatures of the Seas,  
Let them be.  
Let them live for eternity.

## UT Gardens November 2012 Plant of the Month:

# Beautyberry

Submitted by James Newburn, Assistant Director, UT Gardens, Knoxville

Perhaps no shrub is as appropriately named as the beautyberry. This graceful multi-stemmed shrub, with arching branches, fruits in fall and is laden with clusters of berries from late September through mid November depending on the weather and how hungry the birds are. Most berries are bright purple, which is a bit unusual for a berry color in the gardening world, but there are white- and pink-berried selections as well. The one thing they all have in common is "beauty."

The shrub flowers in clusters on new wood at almost every leaf node in midsummer. The flowers can go unnoticed because of their small size. This is then followed by the setting of fruit in the form of a small berry (technically a drupe) about the size of a BB in the same clustered formation along and encircling the stem. As the fall season progresses, the shrub will lose its leaves and the

resulting branch looks like a type of funky Christmas ornament.

Callicarpa americana is our native beautyberry and can be found in the southeastern U.S.

The brightly colored purple berries stand out against the muted colors of the fall landscape. If purple's not your choice, look for 'Lutea' for white or 'Welch's Pink' for pink berries. Or, collect all three.

Other species of beautyberry with similar characteristics are C. japonica and C. dichotoma. A white-berried cultivar with variegated foliage has recently been introduced named C. dictoma 'Duet'. It has a Tennessee connection as the original plant was



Laden with berries from late September through November, the beautyberry is a shrub that lives up to its name. Photo by James Newburn of a specimen in the UT Gardens, Knoxville.

discovered on the campus of Tennessee Tech. The green leaves with yellow margins extend interest by adding a touch of color throughout the growing season. C. dichotoma 'Heavy Berry' produces masses of purple berries while 'Leucocarpa' produces white ones.

Beautyberries are generally disease resistant,

low maintenance plants. They should be planted in full sun for maximum fruit production - though plants will tolerate some light afternoon shade. Typically reaching between four to six feet tall, they are ideal for a shrub border, en masse, or as a specimen plant. Since they bloom on new wood, pruning back to

**Cont. on page 4**

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Little goodies from  
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BEAN POT

Thanksgiving is almost here so let us give thanks for all of our blessings. My sister, Charlsie, passed away a year ago so I will be using lots of her recipes. Lillian Bean.

## Cream Cheese Danish

2 cans crescent rolls

Spray 9x13 pan with Pam and lay 1 can of crescent rolls on bottom (they say glass pans are best to use).

Filling:

2 8oz pkgs Cream Cheese

1 cup sugar

1 egg yolk

1 tsp vanilla

Mix and spread filling on bottom layer. Top with remaining can of crescent rolls. Brush some of the egg whites on crescent rolls.

Bake at 325° for 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly brown.

Icing:

1 cup powdered sugar

2 to 3 tbsp milk

1/2 tsp vanilla flavoring

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## Beautyberry

**Cont. from page 3**

between 12 inches and 18 inches in the spring may rejuvenate an unkempt plant and spur increased berry production but simply removing dead branches is all that is required. Additionally, they are an ideal source of food for birds because of their heavy berry production and dense branching, which provides great cover.

With its unique berry formation and color, the ease with which it is grown and the season of fruit production, beautyberry is a great addition to the fall garden.

James Newburn is assistant director of the UT Gardens.

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