



## Judge Tim Irwin Wants Your Stuffed Animals

By Focus Staff

When first seeing Tim Irwin, Judge of Knox County's Juvenile Court, one likely doesn't think about stuffed animals. 6'7 feet tall and weighing in at almost 300 pounds, Irwin looks more like the professional football player he once was than a judge. Irwin doesn't have the hail-well-fellow-met bonhomie of the typical politician; instead he has a rather gruff exterior, albeit a gruff exterior that masks a warm concern for children and a profound sense of compassion.

Tim Irwin was a star on the football field while attending the University of Tennessee and parlayed his success there into a professional career with the Minnesota Vikings. Unlike many professional athletes, Irwin also worked hard to further his education and earned a law degree. Irwin had a successful

law practice when he announced he would be a candidate for Judge of the Juvenile Court to succeed the retiring Carey Garrett. Irwin proved to be so formidable a candidate, he encountered no opposition in either the primary or general elections.

A year ago, Judge Irwin came up with the idea of acquiring stuff animals for the children coming to the Juvenile Court. Knoxvilleans responded generously and beyond what even Irwin thought possible.

More than 30,000 cases are heard yearly at the Juvenile Court and Irwin presides over an impressive operation that seems to function both smoothly and effectively. With so many cases, perhaps it is not surprising the supply of stuffed animals is beginning to run low.

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*Tim Irwin,  
Judge of Knox County's Juvenile Court*

### FOCUS Weekly Poll\*

**In your opinion,  
should the  
Superintendent of  
Schools in Knox  
County be elected  
by the people or  
appointed by the  
School Board?**  
**ELECTED 69.16%**  
**APPOINTED 30.84%**

*Survey conducted  
December 6, 2012.*

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

## Making Holidays brighter through the VMC Holiday Store

By Tasha Mahurin  
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

While cash registers ring at malls and shopping centers this time of year, another type of exchange is taking place at Volunteer Ministry Center in North Knoxville. VCM opened its annual Holiday Store just last week. The Holiday Store is a unique program for the recipients of VMC services to earn gift items for their loved ones with points accrued through community service. Individuals are then able to redeem the points to "purchase" the items they have selected from the Holiday Store.

"Our volunteers earn their points through a wide array of community service projects," VCM CEO, Ginny Weatherstone told *The Focus*.

Participants volunteer at VCM, Minvilla Manor, the Old Grey Cemetery, and a Helen Ross McNabb Center among others. According to Weatherstone the program is popular with men who contribute skilled labor to various projects.

"We normally rake the Old Grey Cemetery each December through our program," Weatherstone added. "It provides a source of pride and accomplishment for all involved."

Over the past fifteen years, the Holiday Store has been extremely successful in providing

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## THE GIBBS CHRISTMAS PARADE



*Knox County Commissioner Dave Wright drives a John Deere tractor in the Gibbs Ruritan Christmas Parade. Photo by Ralphine Major.*

By Ralphine Major  
ralphine3@yahoo.com

He looked right at home on the tall John Deere tractor coming down Tazewell Pike. He should. The Knox County Commissioner for the Eighth District has had plenty of experience with tractors on his parents' farm in the Gibbs Community. In a scene lifted right out of rural America, Dave Wright was driving Grady Lett's 1954 Model 60 Series John Deere with an American flag flying in the breeze. "My Dad had a John Deere just like it, and I spent a lot of hours on the tractor as a teenager." Dave told me. "In the dairy business, we needed a high-powered tractor to pull silage and move hay," he added. There were lots of those green and yellow tractors pulling floats and wagons in the Third Annual Gibbs Christmas Parade on Sunday afternoon, December 2.

There was a time when members of small, rural communities had to drive to downtown Knoxville to enjoy a Christmas parade. Times have changed. The Gibbs Ruritan Club sponsored and organized the Christmas parade which ran from Gibbs High School through Harbison's Crossroads down to the IGA Grocery Store. In partnership with Clear Springs Baptist Church (CSBC), the parade was routed up the beautiful hillside of the future home of the church and ended on Emory Road.

The big, yellow Rural Metro truck led the parade and was followed by the Jr. ROTC in uniform and bearing flags. The Gibbs High School Marching Band, Majorettes, and Color Guard followed with their festive Santa hats. There is nothing quite like a band in a parade adding that wonderful mix of bass drums, brass, and woodwinds to the Christmas carols. A float filled with champions waved to the crowd as the Gibbs High School Girls' Softball Team—the 2012 State Champions—made their way through the parade. To the delight of happy children along the route, several of those on floats tossed out candy canes. Many floats were decorated with angels and scripture by area churches and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. Tractors carrying American flags, antique cars decorated in glistening garland, and tractor trailer trucks honked and rolled in procession.

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## The Great Divide JWPE opinions aired at public hearing

By Tasha Mahurin  
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Tensions were high last week when an estimated 600 of South Knox residents, concerned citizens, and elected officials made their way into the auditorium at South Doyle Middle School for TDOT's public hearing on the James White Parkway Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

TDOT revealed plans for a freeway design of the extension rather than a parkway design. A freeway requires a wider right-of-way, but has been determined to be the most efficient road system to move traffic. According to traffic studies completed by TDOT, ¾ of all traffic on this stretch of Chapman Highway is "thru traffic". However, the design could be

changed to a parkway.

TDOT officials also presented an overview of the project, which included new crash data specifically for the stretch of Chapman Highway from the Henley Street Bridge to Fronda Road. From 2007 to 2012, there were 1,235 crashes on this section of Chapman Highway, seven fatalities, and 39 incapacitating injuries. According

to TDOT, this is two times greater than other similar roads in Tennessee. Additionally, TDOT claimed that the extension would further serve to improve traffic flow and safety on Martin Mill Pike, Neubert Springs Road, and Sevierville Pike.

Mayor Madeline Rogero, who is a South Knox resident, addressed TDOT and the crowd, "I support the no-build alternative," said

Rogero. "I've lived in South Knoxville for 11 years, and I live a half mile from where the current parkway ends. South Knoxville has changed. It's not a bridge to nowhere anymore."

Vice Mayor Nick Pavlis, who represents South Knoxville on city council, also spoke to the no-build alternative, but addressed

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# Judge Tim Irwin Wants Your Stuffed Animals

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Judge Irwin, just after a stint playing Santa Claus, has again called for Knoxvilleans and Knox Countians to open their hearts to those children who are all too often neglected and abused. Irwin explained that many of the children appearing at the Juvenile Court are not there because of having committed a crime or an offense, but due to issues of abuse and neglect from their own parents or guardians.

The expressions on the faces of frightened and abused children being

handed a stuffed animal are indelibly imprinted upon the minds of any person who has witnessed it at the Juvenile Court.

"You just can't get it out of your head," one long-time employee said. "Once you see that angelic smile break out across the face of a child that had been scared out of his wits, well, it's just amazing."

Judge Irwin, a father of three, seems to possess some innate ability to determine the inner being of a young person. He has an uncommon knack for putting up with no

nonsense, yet remains willing to give a child another chance.

Irwin, a big and bluff man, has proven to be a remarkably good judge of a court that has more than its share of heartbreaking stories. Judge Irwin has also initiated a very simple program that really does make a difference, distributing not only stuffed animals, but a little bit of love at the same time.

For information on how to donate, contact the Knox County Juvenile Court at (865) 215-6400.

# Gibbs Christmas Parade

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A long line of beautiful horses and a team of mules pulling a covered wagon brought a touch of the Old West to the parade. I heard nickering, but I could not see the source. I heard it again. Finally, I saw a pretty little pony pulling a cart. Following the pony was the nickering sound. A tiny miniature horse was clip-clopping along with his cart trying to keep up with the rest. This little fellow certainly could nick the loudest! Parade organizers thought of everything—a clown followed the horses and cleaned up after them. The parade's final John Deere tractor, a 1952 Model G owned by Grady Lett and driven by Charlie Wright, pulled the wagon carrying Santa Claus!

A coordinator of the parade, Larry Dougherty, followed Santa in a truck with a poster board displaying names of all the sponsors. On behalf of the Ruritan Club, Larry wishes to thank the sponsors as well as the participants in the parade. He invites Focus readers to visit [www.gibbsruritanclub.org](http://www.gibbsruritanclub.org) to see pictures of this year's parade. Another coordinator, Eddie Jones, is the incoming President of the

Gibbs Ruritan Club. I am sure those who lined the parade route, often six people deep, appreciate the efforts of everyone who made the parade possible. I certainly do.

The parade brought Christmas joy to the community—and much more. I caught up with Jane Wright who was getting ready to serve hot chocolate to participants at the Ruritan's tent on the grounds of CSBC; Clear Springs offered refreshments at another tent. Later, Jane shared with me about the additional benefits of the parade: "There was no entry fee to the parade, except to bring non-perishable food as the entry fee. The food was donated to the Corryton Food Pantry that is managed/run by Rutherford Memorial United Methodist Church. A trailer load of food was delivered to the church on Sunday afternoon after the parade; so benefits were obtained by many—even those who could not attend."

During this special time of year when we celebrate a Saviour's birth with parades and nativity pageants, may we all remember to say "Merry Christmas" often to those we meet—the cashier, the postal carrier, family and friends, and people we meet each day. "Merry Christmas!"

# Bobby get your gun



By Richie Beeler

Bob Costas doesn't care for guns. At least he doesn't care for the fact that most Americans can legally procure one. The long time NBC sports anchor went on a bit of a tirade during half-time of last week's Sunday Night Football telecast in the wake of the murder-suicide shooting involving Kansas City Chiefs line-backer Jovan Belcher.

Belcher had the day before killed his girlfriend, and then himself, using a firearm. In his editorial monologue, Costas

asserted that if Belcher had not owned a gun, two people would still be alive. He went on to say that unless gun laws were changed in this country, more young people will die.

I will heartily and regretably agree with one part of his statement. More young people are going to die. The rest of his opinion is hogwash.

Allow me to begin my rebuttal by quoting an old adage used by gun advocates: "Guns don't kill people; people kill people."

While perhaps over-used, I must agree with the premise of this quote. I have never seen or heard of a firearm killing a person without human assistance. Even in the case of accidental shootings, it is almost

always the person who has the accident, not the gun. But the real issue here is not with the guns themselves. It is with the laws that govern the use and purchase of them.

Folks like Mr. Costas - and most assuredly the despicable network he works for - want you to believe that the answer to gun crimes in America is simply to make the purchase and ownership of firearms illegal. If nobody can own a gun, then nobody will ever get shot, right? Riiight. Just like nobody will ever take drugs, break the speed limit, or gamble.

There are two fundamental issues in play here. The first is the simple issue of logic as it applies to human nature. Whether you make it illegal or not, people are going to take drugs, they are going to drive fast, they are going to gamble.

And they are going to get guns. Making guns illegal will NOT stop people from owning them. It will only stop people from owning them legally. And that could change the equation in a very bad way.

If I may quote another old adage: "If guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns." Once again, I must agree with the spirit of this statement. Making guns illegal would relegate them to a dark, seedy underworld where crime rules the day. Rather than instruments of security, guns would become almost exclusively weapons of violence.

The law-abiding homeowner desiring only to protect his life, family and property would be far less able and likely to purchase a gun illegally than the drug dealing thug on the streets.

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# FOCUS Weekly Poll

**In your opinion, should the Superintendent of Schools in Knox County be elected by the people or appointed by the School Board?**

Elected 69.16%

Appointed 30.84%

By Age	Elected	Appointed	Total
18-29	33.33%	66.67%	3
30-49	60.87%	39.13%	69
50-65	72.39%	27.61%	163
65+	69.71%	30.29%	274
<b>Total</b>	<b>69.16% (352)</b>	<b>30.84% (157)</b>	<b>509</b>

By Commission District	Elected	Appointed	Total
1	79.31%	20.69%	29
2	70.97%	29.03%	62
3	65.38%	34.62%	52
4	50.00%	50.00%	78
5	52.00%	48.00%	50
6	71.19%	28.81%	59
7	72.06%	27.94%	68
8	83.87%	16.13%	62
9	87.76%	12.24%	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>69.16% (352)</b>	<b>30.84% (157)</b>	<b>509</b>

By Gender	Elected	Appointed	Total
Unknown	82.35%	17.65%	17
Female	69.14%	30.86%	256
Male	68.22%	31.78%	236
<b>Total</b>	<b>69.16% (352)</b>	<b>30.84% (157)</b>	<b>509</b>

Survey conducted December 6, 2012

Someone might suggest that the same argument could be used for illegal drugs. If they weren't illegal, they wouldn't be controlled by such a dangerous and unseemly element of society. This argument holds little water with me. Illicit drugs are a vice. Guns are a necessity. Illicit drugs are a recreational luxury. Guns are a fundamental right.

And that is the fundamental issue that is the most fundamental. The right to purchase and possess guns is explicitly afforded American citizens by the Constitution. It is not ambiguous. It is not implied. It is black and white.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right of citizens to bear arms. This right was very intentionally placed by our founders just after the Amendment guaranteeing the freedom of speech, religion, and the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. In other words, our founding fathers believed the people had a right to speak out freely against their government without fear of tyrannical recourse. And what

measure were they given to protect that right? The Second Amendment, guaranteeing them the right to bear arms against the advances of such tyranny. It would have been unthinkable to our founders for an American government to ever infringe on such a sacred right of its citizens.

But anyone who is paying attention knows that we now live in an America that is rapidly becoming very unlike the one our founders created. With each passing year and decade it looks more and more like one of the socialist states of Europe. These are places where the government gradually but systematically gains control of all its citizens' freedoms.

Freedoms like the right to choose their own health care, the right to own and manage private property, the right to succeed without being penalized. And the right to protect themselves against a dangerous society.

And an increasingly dangerous government.

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# Publisher's Position Dancing down the Yellow Brick Road



By Steve Hunley,  
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The Knox County School system has revealed its legislative priorities for the coming legislative session. There is nothing especially surprising or significant, for that matter, in the agenda trotted out by Superintendent James McIntyre to be ratified by the Board. Naturally, as always, one of the top items on the legislative priorities is more money. The school system is on the cusp of hiring a new lobbyist to keep the Superintendent informed and likely through the Superintendent, the Board. The school system is proposing to invest \$30,000 in a lobbyist to look after its

## Making Holidays brighter through the VMC Holiday Store

**Cont. from page 1**  
holiday gifts for many who would have no other way to give a gift to their loved ones. The store offers everything from clothing and toys for babies and children, to gift sets for teenagers and gifts adults can give each other, such as fragrance and tool sets.

The Holiday Store is a community effort and would not be possible without community support. "We rely heavily on donations from the community," said Weatherstone. "We currently need footballs and basketballs. Fragrance and manicure sets are also in high demand for women and teenage girls, along with tool sets for men."

The VMC accepts donations of new gift items for all ages to help stock the store. Donations may range from \$5 to \$30. VCM asks that all items donated be kept in original packaging. Items can be dropped off at 511 N. Broadway Street, Knoxville, TN 37917.

The Holiday Store will be open on December 10th, 12th, 14th, 17th, 19th and 21st from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., and on December 15th, and 22nd from 10:00 a.m. until Noon.

The Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC) exists as part of the network of essential services to the homeless and others in crisis in cooperation with the Knoxville religious community and other caring individuals and groups. Their mission is to facilitate permanent supportive housing for those who are homeless and to provide services to prevent homelessness. VMC has placed over 500 individuals in housing since 2007 with ongoing case management as a feature of each placement.

interests in Nashville.

The Tennessee General Assembly now has a Republican super-majority and doubtless many of the school system's priorities won't even get the time of day from legislators. The McIntyre administration and a majority of the Board seem to be under the mistaken impression Tennessee is but an extension of Obamaland where taxes are only paid by the ultra wealthy and every service is free from an ever growing government.

While Knox County should certainly get its fair share from the State of Tennessee and the Basic Education Program, it will shock absolutely no one that Superintendent McIntyre and a majority of the Board will be coming with yet another proposed tax increase next year.

It also comes as a shock to no one that the school system is opposed to school vouchers. Surprise, surprise, an ever growing

bureaucracy is opposed to competition.

The Superintendent and the Board want control of the process authorizing charter schools, just as the fox would love to run the hen house. Allowing the Superintendent to determine whether an organization or group of parents have met a nebulous criteria is like expecting General Motors to determine if the Ford Motor Company should stay in business. Clearly the process ought to be determined by the State of Tennessee. Such an important decision should be made by an unbiased party and the Superintendent and Board of Education are anything but unbiased.

The Superintendent and Board support an appointed Superintendent. Imagine that. The Superintendent and Board say the election of a Superintendent of Schools is inefficient and "a poor governance structure," leading to "less accountability, not more." Really? I can

tell you that the majority of voters in Knox County do not agree and prefer electing the position (See this week's Focus Poll).

Did any member of the current Board ever serve with an elected Superintendent? Did Jim McIntyre ever run for public office? What any of them know about the topic would likely collectively fit inside a thimble and have space to spare.

Under the present system, all a Superintendent has to do is keep five out of nine Board members happy. The current Board has shown little initiative, preferring instead to allow Dr. McIntyre to make all the decisions and allow them to provide a rubberstamp at their first opportunity.

One Board member recently noted after the abysmal failure of Dr. McIntyre's bid for a huge tax increase that the budget needed to be the Board's budget. That is true but the Board will have to change the way it does things and

there are going to be more than a few skeptical folks watching for a budget truly involving the Board members themselves.

That same Board member likely inadvertently pointed out the last budget made McIntyre a lightning rod and it will be even more so the second time around. Just how many such failures they can endure without it being everybody else's fault remains to be seen.

As to accountability, we're spending over half a billion dollars a year, yet every year there is the Superintendent and the Board demanding more money. While the system heralds the increasing graduation rates, the highest number of graduates that are ACT ready for college is at Farragut High School and only 42% of those are considered college ready.

We have a Superintendent who earns more in salary than Vice President Joe Biden. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John

Roberts and Speaker of the House John Boehner.

Much of the current school system is merely perpetuating itself with a goal of getting bigger and bigger. Note there isn't a single thing in the legislative priorities promoting the interest of the classroom or the teacher. Many teachers will still be evaluated by someone outside their own field which is just plain wrong. Did the Superintendent or the Board even mention they would like the legislature to at least address that glaring flaw in the current system? No. Not a word. Their solution to the grievance process is to move from having the Superintendent deny the grievance to having the Board Chair deny it instead. That's real progress. Haha.

Yet they continue to skip down the yellow brick road on the way to paying their respects to the all-knowing, great and powerful Oz. Some of us have already peeked behind the curtain.



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Through a rigorous scoring process, the panel recommended last week that Knox County renew its contract with Rural/Metro.

and the item is on County Commission's agenda this month.

We thought you'd be glad to know about Rural/Metro's selection.

One of Rural/Metro's competitors has filed an appeal of that recommendation, which is within their legal rights. Unfortunately, they also are unfairly attacking the integrity of some of the selection committee members.

The evaluation process used by Knox County was conducted in a thorough and professional way. We believe County Commission is not going to be swayed by these desperate tactics.

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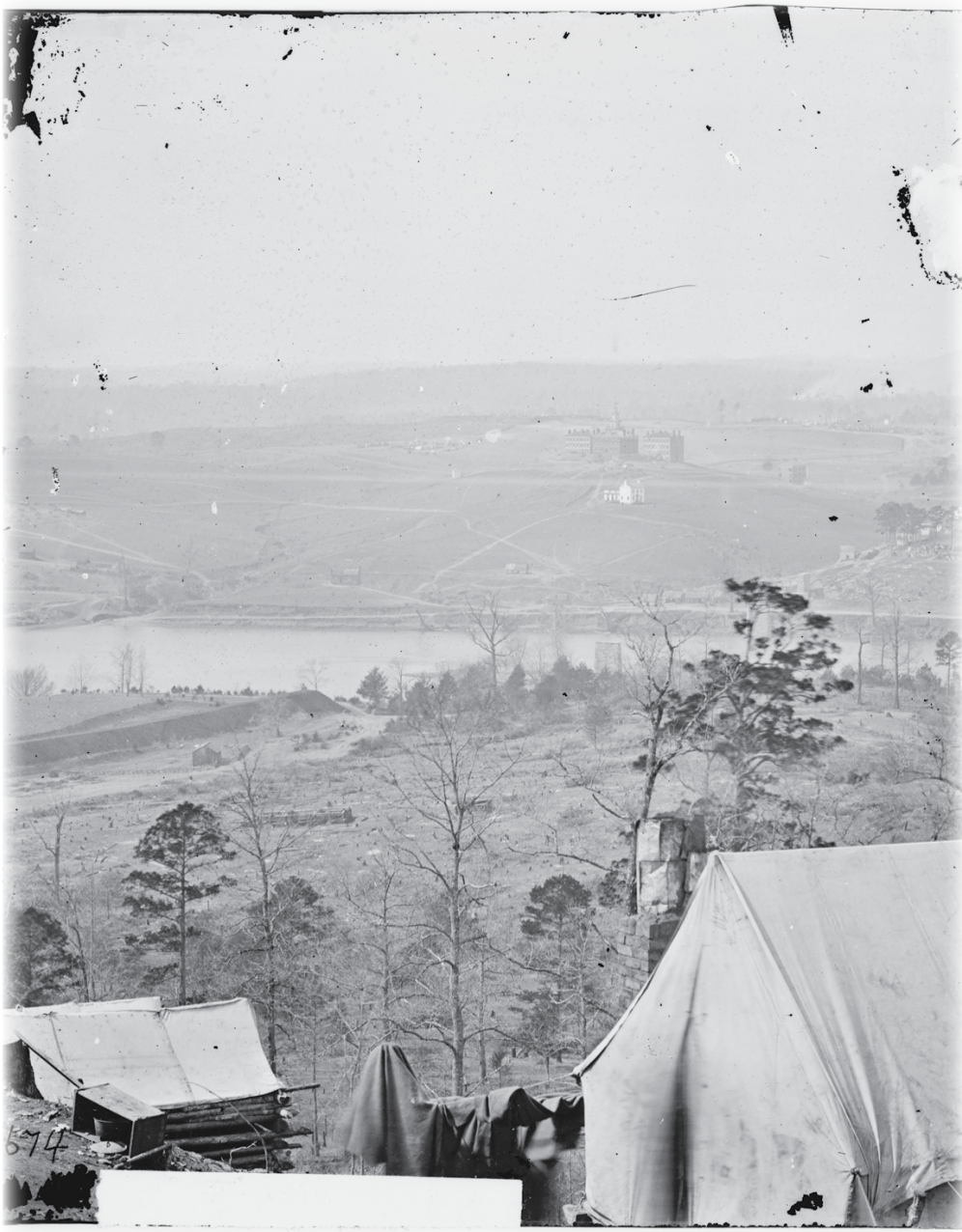
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# FOCUS MORE ON Seymour & South Knox

## Preserving the past, promoting the present



A view of the city from the South bank of the Tennessee River in 1863. The photograph was taken after Confederate General James Longstreet withdrew his advance on the city in early December of that year. Fort Higley was constructed by Union forces in order to help protect the city from Confederate advancement (Courtesy of the Library of Congress).

### Ft. Higley site to become public park

By Tasha Mahurin  
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

On November 26, 1863, Captain Orlando M. Poe and Major General Ambrose E. Burnside of the Union Army rode the high ridge along the Holston River to get a better view of Knoxville. Poe, concerned about Confederate advances, looked to lay out a series of defensive works along the south approach to the city. Just west of the incomplete Knoxville and Charleston Railroad line and roughly 600 yards east of the Confederate held Armstrong Hill, a 2-gun artillery epaulement surrounded by trenches for infantry was constructed, and Fort Higley was born. The fort never saw combat and sat largely undisturbed and surrounded by forest for nearly 150 years, until now.

In 2008, the Aslan Foundation purchased nearly 100 acres in South Knoxville, which includes the Fort Higley site, in an effort to save the historically significant area from future development. The group recently unveiled plans for property in the way of High Ground Park.

"This property is first a beautiful and environmentally special place, but it also has historical importance for our city," said Aslan Foundation President Bob Young during a recent walking tour.

Fort Higley was recorded as an archaeological site during a survey of Civil War sites in Tennessee in 1997. In 2005, the area faced possible destruction under consideration for a possible residential development. The site made the Civil War Preservation Trust's "Top 10 Endangered Battlefields" in 2005

and landed on Knox Heritage's "Fragile 15" list in 2007. When a portion of the property was placed back on the market in 2008, the Aslan Foundation, who is dedicated to preserving historically significant properties, bought it with the intent to preserve it. Those plans have evolved into High Ground Park.

Plans for the park include a walking trail leading to a woodland meadow and the earthwork remnants of the old fort site. The area contains significant Civil War remnants, rifle trenches, and a redoubt where Union cannons once sat ready to defend the high ground south of the Tennessee River. Additionally, informative educational signage will be placed along the path.

According to the Aslan Foundation, the park is ideally situated to become part of the proposed Battle Loop connecting South Knoxville's Civil War forts. The property is close to the city park that contains Fort Dickerson, another one of Knoxville's remaining Civil War fort sites, and will serve to further promote South Knoxville's identity as an Urban Wilderness. In addition to historic and environmental preservation, the Aslan Foundation hopes the park will be enjoyed by the community.

"High Ground Park will be free and open to the public," said Aslan Foundation Executive Director Jeff Mansour. "Our goal is to preserve and protect the unique environmental aspects of the property and create a special visitor experience."

Selective clearing and removal of exotic and invasive plants has begun. If all goes according to plan, the Aslan Foundation expects to dedicate the park on November 27, 2013, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the construction of Fort Higley by Union troops.

## The Great Divide JWPE opinions aired at public hearing

Cont. from page 1

the safety issues on Chapman Highway. "If we can put a man on the moon, we can make Chapman Highway safer," he stated.

While proponents of the extension had not been incredibly vocal, it was evident from the crowd's response that the audience was clearly divided on the issue. Both Rogero and Pavlis' statements were met with a mixture of heckles and cheers.

The Focus previously polled 500 registered voters who reside in the 9<sup>th</sup> district of Knox County on the issue. 83.63% of those polled supported the extension, with 16.37% opposed. Feedback from the poll was overwhelming. One South Knoxville resident remarked that the poll was skewed by those living in the county, and went so far as to suggest that county residents did not have a stake in the issue.

This issue was quickly put to rest by life-long South Knoxville resident and veteran, Bill Cox, 76, who was among the first to speak during the public input portion of the hearing.

"Freedom is free, but it

costs so much," Cox stated in reference to the tangible and quantitative 'cost' of the project. "It's time to build the road," he later added.

Proponents of extending the JWP included people who owned property on Sevierville Pike, Kimberlin Heights Road, View Park Drive, Horseshoe Drive, and Decatur Drive. It is interesting to note that several of these residents would be in the path of the proposed extension.

However, opposition to the project remained strong as speaker after speaker expressed their support of the "no build" alternative. Paul James spoke on behalf of Ijams Nature Center, which is against the extension. Mary English also spoke against the extension on behalf of the Knoxville League of Women Voters. There were over 50 members of the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club present who are adamantly opposed to the project.

University of Tennessee professor John Bohstedt stated, "Building highways doesn't get you anywhere. The Tennessee Department of Transportation needs to



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

South Knoxville residents inspect the proposed James White Parkway extension before attending last week's TDOT public meeting on the issue.

pursue alternative transportation."

The hearing, which was originally scheduled from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., went for nearly four hours.

TDOT will publish a summary of all the public comments, including those who spoke at the meeting,

those who submitted written comments or had their comments recorded, and those who mail in comments. Respondents have until January 4 to submit comments by mail.

TDOT spokesman Mark Nagi reiterated that comments from the public

during Thursday's meeting will be a factor in TDOT's decision whether or not to pursue the project or select

the "no build" option.

A decision is expected from TDOT early next year.

May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter & goodwill and may the year ahead be full of contentment & joy.



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# Bearden Band Marches in Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade

The award-winning Bearden High School Marching Band has returned from Philadelphia and New York where students were featured on the live broadcast of the annual ABC Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day Parade. Bearden was one of 18 bands in the nation invited to take part in the country's oldest Thanksgiving Day parade.

Televised live on Philadelphia's WPVI-TV and on many other stations throughout the country, parade commentators Cecily Tynan and Rick Williams introduced the Bearden Band in the broadcast. "They're very fortunate because their hometown takes great pride in their accomplishments and acknowledge them as ambassadors of the entire community," said Tynan.

Tynan and Williams were joined by ABC's Good Morning America weatherman, Sam Champion, who added, "The Bearden Marching Band has built a reputation in the U.S. and across Europe as

an outstanding band in concert, marching, and jazz programs, receiving consistent superior ratings and you can see why."

The 1.4-mile parade also featured a variety of visual displays including giant balloons depicting Cookie Monster, Scooby Doo, Elmo, Hungry Caterpillar, The Lorax, Frosty the Snowman and T-Rex, as well as a number of celebrities. This year's special guests included American Idol finalist Justin Guarini, Frenchie Davis from The Voice, two-time Grammy Winner Rita Coolidge, Kristen Alderson from General Hospital, Charlie McDermott of ABC's The Middle, country singer Charlie Worsham, Disney Channel singer Coco Jones, Miss America 2012 Laura Kaeppeler, and Ryan Howard of the Philadelphia Phillies.

After the parade, the Bearden Band enjoyed a guided tour of Philadelphia seeing such sites as Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and Ben Franklin's tombstone. That



The Bearden High School Band had the opportunity to tour Philadelphia during their Thanksgiving visit.

evening, Band members enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal aboard a riverboat cruise down the Schuylkill River.

The Band continued the trip for several more days with a visit to New York City. There the students

toured Central Park, Rockefeller Center, Times Square, the Financial District, and the 911 Memorial. The trip included a harbor cruise by the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, tickets to the Broadway show "The Lion King," and a nighttime view

of the city from the Empire State Building.

For more information on the Bearden High School Marching Band visit [www.beardenband.com](http://www.beardenband.com).

# Martha Lee's Jewelry

By Sarah Baker  
[bakers@knoxfocus.com](mailto:bakers@knoxfocus.com)

Martha Lee's Jewelry is the ideal place to shop for Christmas gifts this year, especially if you're looking for something thoughtful and distinctive. As soon as you walk through the front door, you are surrounded by beautiful colors and textures assuring you that you have come to the right place.

The locally-owned store offers an array of vintage costume jewelry including Sarah Coventry, Corro, Weiss, and Listner. Owner Terry Meriano has operated the store for over 30 years, taking it over after her mother, the store's namesake, was in an accident. Meriano, who fondly remembers playing in her mother's jewelry box when she was a little girl, has even brought much of her private collection to the store.

"I enjoy seeing other people appreciate it," says Meriano. "I imagine someone getting it for Mother's Day or Christmas and wearing it to church." "Each piece has a story," she says, "the story of where it's been and the story it will have with someone new."

Martha Lee's Jewelry has something for everyone. She has beautiful pieces from under \$10 to several hundred dollars. The variety of vintage pieces is splendid. She has pendants, pins, earrings, necklaces in all shapes and sizes and each one makes a statement. Each one has the ability to change an entire outfit. Classic jewelry



Terry Meriano, owner of Martha Lee's Jewelry, poses with some of her vintage jewelry.

sets hover around \$20 and are absolutely ideal Christmas gifts.

It is hard to think of vintage jewelry without thinking of cameos, and Meriano has a lovely variety. Another unique assortment found at Martha Lee's is a truly rare variety of micro-mosaic pins. She also has some really chic Christmas pins, perfect for a Holiday party or Christmas event at church. Have someone on your list that doesn't have pierced ears? Martha Lee's has about 400 pairs of clip earrings to choose from. Meriano has some stylish choices for men as well including cuff links, tie tacks,

and tie bars.

With the price of gold as high as it is, Martha Lee's Jewelry offers some wonderful alternatives. Not only does she have her astonishing collection of vintage jewelry, but she also has some beautiful diamonds, sterling silver, and gold too. Martha Lee's also offers repair work.

The store is located at 5103 Clinton Highway near Krystal and there are a thousand good reasons to go, even more than the names on your Christmas list.



Micro-Mosaics are some of the distinctive items you'll find at Martha Lee's Jewelry.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing to you to let others know that ads in *The Focus* get results.

Earlier this fall, a sudden wind storm blew a huge limb down from a 70 ft. monster, maple tree in my yard. The tree began looking unsteady and I was fearful that it was going to fall on my car and demolish it.

I began the process of searching for a tree removal service and found myself faced with a huge case of sticker shock. One company wanted \$5,000, one asked for \$4,500. Lucky for me, while reading *The Focus*, I noticed an ad by Blank's Tree Works.

I phoned Greg Blank and described my situation. He began asking me all about my tree. I could tell immediately that he was very knowledgeable. We set a time for an appointment the very next day, and to my amazement, not only did he show up, but he was also on time. He surveyed the tree and the yard and began telling me about the structure of the tree and how it needed to be removed. He was totally professional and very nice. We discussed the cost and I shared with him the quotes I had already

**Continue on page 4**

# Parkview Senior Living

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

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

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

Parkview Fountain City, 5405 Colonial Circle, Knoxville, TN 37918, 865-687-0033, [www.pvseniorliving.com](http://www.pvseniorliving.com)



More than 800 guests gathered the evening of November 15 to honor Dale Keasling, president and CEO of Home Federal Bank, at Emerald Youth Foundation's Legacy Dinner. The Charlie and Moll Anderson Family Foundation presented the fourth annual event held at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Keasling received the Legacy Award for his integrity, leadership and commitment to urban youth. "We were thrilled to honor Dale at this year's Legacy Dinner," said Emerald Youth executive director Steve Diggs. "He is passionate about serving our city's youth and the community at large, so he was a natural fit to receive the award."

Event chairman Richard Johnson welcomed guests following a powerful opening performance by Emerald Youth's 50-member choir led by John Jackson. The choir is comprised of elementary through high school youth from 14 Knoxville urban neighborhoods. World-renowned and two-time Grammy Award nominee Wintley Phipps also performed, including a stirring rendition of "Amen."

Other highlights of the evening included a video tribute produced by RIVR Media, testimonials by current participants and alumni, and remarks by Emerald Youth's senior director, Dr. Shara Shoup, who discussed the ministry's work with Knoxville's urban children, teens and young adults. Lurone Jennings, executive director of The Bethlehem Center in Chattanooga and longtime friend of Emerald Youth, served as emcee. Board member Mike Campbell, Regal Entertainment Group chairman, offered a gift match challenge of \$75,000 from the company in support of Emerald Youth.

Proceeds raised at the Legacy Dinner benefit Emerald Youth's three programs, JustLead, Emerald Youth Sports and Emerald Youth Fellows. More information is available at [www.emerald youth.org](http://www.emerald youth.org).



The Emerald Youth choir performs at the fourth annual Legacy Dinner honoring Dale Keasling. The choir is directed by local worship leader John Jackson. Photo courtesy Overbay Photography.

## Dale Carnegie leadership seminar to benefit United Way of Greater Knoxville

Knoxville area businesses can send up to four employees to a day-long Dale Carnegie Leadership Seminar for less than a third of the standard cost - and the tuition paid goes directly to United Way of Greater Knoxville.

Dale Carnegie of Tennessee is partnering with Club LeConte to offer the program, "How to Communicate with Diplomacy and Tact," on Wednesday, Dec. 12. The event also is open to individuals who want to improve their communications skills, again at a steeply discounted rate.

"This is a tremendous opportunity," said Ben Landers, CEO and President of United Way of Greater Knoxville. "We know Dale Carnegie offers great training. The tuition goes to a wonderful cause. It is a great way for businesses to give back and for us it will help reach our 2012 Annual Fund goal."

Participating businesses and individuals will reap more than good will. The daylong leadership training is ideal for anyone who interacts with the public - receptionists, customer service representatives, sales team members, and account executives - said Jim Christensen, corporate sales specialist at Dale Carnegie in Knoxville.

After the seminar, companies will see "more cooperative interaction between office workers, more composed employees who represent the business on the phone and stronger problem-solving skills," Christensen said. "Participants will gain more confidence to address larger crowds inside and outside the workplace."

The corporate rate for four employees is \$995; the individual rate is \$250. The Dale Carnegie catalogue price for the same seminar is \$895 per person.

The cost includes lunch.\* The seminar starts at 8:30 a.m. and wraps up at 5 p.m., followed by a two-hour reception at Club LeConte.

"I've been with United Way system for 30 years I've known lots of folks who have gone to lots of Dale Carnegie courses and benefited tremendously from them," Landers said. "Everybody I've ever known has said the experience was great."

Seating is limited. To register, contact: Jim Christensen at 865-771-9745 or [jim.christensen@dalecarnegie.com](mailto:jim.christensen@dalecarnegie.com)

\*The cost also includes materials. Participants will have to pay \$5 to park in the garage for Club LeConte, which is 50 percent of the regular daily rate.

United Way of Greater Knoxville is a local, independent organization dedicated to building a stronger community by focusing on the areas of education, income and health. In partnership with nonprofit agencies, local business, community leaders and ordinary citizens, United Way is improving the lives of every individual in Knoxville. By working together, we provide a network of services addressing Knoxville's most urgent needs while working toward lasting change. For more information, please call (865) 521-5580.

## Heroes are regular guys

We in Big Orange country love our football. Okay, for the last few years our love affair has taken on a love-hate characteristic, but all we need is a little hope, and the cheers and support return. Something else that thrills us is running into a former football hero.



By Joe Rector

During my teaching career, I worked with Spencer Riley. He played for UT from 1996-2000. During that time, he was selected for the All-SEC freshman team and played in the 1999 Senior Bowl. Riley was the center on the 1998 championship team.

Spencer and I taught at Karns High School. What I discovered was an individual who was at the core a "good ol' country boy." He loved to joke and laugh and have fun. In the classroom, he was all business and brought the same kind of passion that he showed on the football field. Spencer never allowed his UT star status to change him one bit. He was too wise and knew that time had passed. Instead, Spencer worked on cultivating friends and perfecting his teaching and coaching skills.

Bobby Gratz played fullback for UT from 1962-65. He was a tough football player from Morristown, who had a dedicated work effort and played much bigger than his 200 pound size. We worked together

at Doyle High School. Legendary principal Billy K. Nicely had passed, and Gratz was dubbed the new principal. He jumped into the position with all the energy he had displayed on the football field. Sometimes, however, students, teachers, and parents didn't appreciate the job he did, but he continued to give his best efforts.

A few years back, Vince Kanipe retired from the UT police department. Most folks recognize him as the officer who accompanied Coach Phil Fulmer and his family on game days. During the reception, the door to the hall opened and in came the UT coach.

Any UT fan worth his salt knows that Fulmer played line for UT from the end of the 60s and into the 70s. He began his coaching career as head coach in 1992 and led the Volunteers until 2008. Over that span, Fulmer's teams compiled a record of 152-52, finishing 100 games over .500. Recently, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

I introduced myself to the coach, and he greeted me as if I were an old friend. I talked with him for quite a while. He was a gracious man with a kindness not often found in celebrities. Even with all his success, this man from Winchester, TN has

managed to keep his down-home personality.

A couple of weeks ago I bought a car to replace one I'd sold my daughter. My wife found a used Altima at Cadillac of Knoxville, and I dropped by the dealership to take a look. The salesman was Danny Spradlin. He came from Maryville and played linebacker for UT from 1977-80 and then went on to an NFL career for five years.

Danny surprised me with his soft-spoken voice. He was more than kind and helpful. We chatted a little about football, and then I test drove the car. When I left the business, he said, "God bless you." Later, we returned to purchase the car, and again, Danny said that with no embarrassment in his voice. Doing business with a man with such a friendly nature was a pleasure.

We make heroes of our athletes. What sometimes gets lost in the hype and glitz is the fact that they are all normal folks who are blessed with a talent and who have developed it to its highest degree. In the end, however, these heroes are regular guys who have good days and bad days; they work to make their lives better each day and sometimes make mistakes. Still, we appreciate them and the joy they've brought to us as we've watched them on the playing field. When a fan sees one of these heroes, he should take time to discover what good folks they are.

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# Senator Ellison DuRant Smith of South Carolina

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Ellison DuRant Smith was one of the more colorful figures in South Carolina's oftentimes turbulent political history. It was frequent said, "His name is Ellison DuRant Smith and he sure do rant." More commonly, he was known simply as "Cotton Ed."

E. D. Smith was born while the War Between the States still raged on August 1, 1864 on the family plantation in Lynchburg, South Carolina. Smith was the son of a Methodist minister and several of his brothers followed their father into the ministry. E. D. Smith chose a different path, preferring politics to the pulpit. Smith attended the University of South Carolina, but graduated from Wofford College.

Ed Smith's first political office was as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, winning election in 1896 and serving until 1900 when he ran an unsuccessful campaign for Congress. Smith earned his nickname of "Cotton Ed" from having worked in agricultural pursuits and most specifically on behalf of the cotton industry. Smith was soon traveling all over the entire South, as well as South Carolina promoting cotton. A product of his times, Smith was an unrepentant white supremacist and would remain so throughout his long career. One of Cotton Ed's favorite sayings was, "Cotton is king and white is supreme!"

E. D. Smith was first elected to the United States Senate by the state legislature in 1908. Senator Smith was regularly reelected by the people of South Carolina for succeeding decades, but his popularity in his home state was by no means universal and he would frequently have to campaign hard to win the Democratic primary, which in South Carolina was tantamount to election in a one-party state. Smith became legendary during his campaigns for taking credit for those times when the price of cotton was up and blaming Wall Street, Republicans, and nefarious other special interests when the price was down.

Smith was seen as one of the most aggressive advocates for the farmers in Congress. In fact, Smith was himself an



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

South Carolina U. S. Senator E. D. "Cotton Ed" Smith.

actual farmer, living on and operating the family plantation in Lynchburg.

E. D. Smith was a flamboyant character, an excellent and highly entertaining speaker with an ability to shower ridicule upon the heads of his opponents. Smith's views, even at that time, were out of the mainstream of the public and as he aged, he became more and more resistant to change. Still, Cotton Ed was not hardly the most virulently racist and flamboyant politician in South Carolina, as he pales in comparison with his one time colleague, Coleman L. Blease, who blatantly advocated lynching. Smith, despite his oftentimes wild pronouncements, came from a distinguished family and could rightly be considered a member of the aristocratic South while "Coley" Blease was the champion of the "wool hat" boys and considerably more common than Smith.

Cotton Ed disapproved of the Republican presidents during the decade of the 1920s and he looked forward to the change in administrations when Franklin Delano Roosevelt defeated Herbert Hoover in 1932. Smith's joy at FDR's election was short lived. It was not long before Cotton Ed disapproved of both the New Deal and President Roosevelt. Smith's long seniority made him Chairman of the Senate's Agriculture Committee, but much of the New Deal's agriculture legislation was sponsored by Alabama Senator John H. Bankhead, II in a deliberate attempt to bypass the ornery South Carolinian.

Ed Smith didn't take himself or the Senate too seriously; he regularly referred to the Senate floor as the "Cave of the Winds." Senator Smith referred to the members

of his own committee as "butt-heads." Smith promptly dismissed the New Deal as "the Jackass Age" and watched skeptically as the Federal government grew by leaps and bounds. Smith naturally disliked Roosevelt's tolerance of black Americans and was absolutely horrified while attending the 1936 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, which saw an African-American minister give the invocation for the first time at a Democratic convention.

Cotton Ed was sitting with the South Carolina delegation on the convention floor when the minister got up to give the invocation and he roared, "\*@#damn! He's as black as melted midnight!" Looking at his fellow South Carolina delegates, Cotton Ed proclaimed, "Come on boys, this is no fit place for a white man" and stomped out.

Naturally, the national media confronted Cotton Ed about his having stalked out of the convention and Smith added insult to injury when he declared he had no objection to any minister - - - black or white - - - praying over his soul, but he wasn't about to stand for a "slew-footed, blue-gummed, kinky-headed Senegambian" praying at a Democratic Party gathering.

While many folks across the country were rightly appalled by Cotton Ed's comments and antics, the attention given his behavior by the national news media did nothing to diminish his popularity in South Carolina where his views were shared by many, if not most, white voters. Smith would be frequently asked by audiences to repeat the "Philadelphia story" at his public appearances in

South Carolina.

Senator Smith's dislike for Franklin Roosevelt was cordially reciprocated by the President. Cotton Ed had been outraged when FDR had attempted to enlarge the U. S. Supreme Court and President Roosevelt had himself been enraged by his proposal having been defeated by members of his own party. Against the advice of Postmaster General James A. Farley, the political generalissimo of the Roosevelt administration, FDR decided to get even with recalcitrant Democrats by purging them in the 1938 primaries. Roosevelt stubbornly insisted the Democratic Party should be the liberal party and any officeholder not meeting that criterion should be driven out. Roosevelt first retaliated against his foes by denying them access to Federal patronage and ignoring requests for projects for their respective states. FDR's wrath knew no bounds and having won reelection by carrying every state in the nation save for Maine and Vermont, Roosevelt believed the people would side with him against their own senators and Congressmen.

Franklin Roosevelt targeted some of the most powerful members of the United States Senate for defeat: Walter F. George of Georgia; Pat McCarran of Nevada; Millard Tydings of Maryland; Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana; Guy Gillette of Iowa; and not least of all, E. D. Smith of South Carolina.

The 1938 campaign was perhaps the most famous of Cotton Ed Smith's long career. The young Governor of South Carolina, Olin D. Johnston, announced his candidacy for the Senate from the White

House steps, which was certainly no coincidence. A third entrant was State Senator Edgar A. Brown, an influential and well known local legislator who had quite nearly beaten Cotton Ed in 1926. At the time, candidates for the Democratic nomination were required to speak together all across the state. The seventy-four year old Senator Smith was expected to speak throughout the length and breadth of South Carolina in the company of his opponents, but the old man proved to be up to the challenge.

Smith proved to be remarkably adept at thinking on his feet and his catalogue of epithets to describe his opponents was apparently endless and he subjected both Johnston and Brown to withering ridicule. Brown regularly bragged to audiences if they would send him to Washington, D. C., he would "bring home the bacon." Senator Smith demolished Brown by retorting, "There is no doubt Edgar Brown will bring home the bacon, but the question is... whose smokehouse is he gonna put it in?" Thereafter Smith routinely referred to "Bacon" Brown, who finally dropped out of the race.

FDR himself appeared in South Carolina, ostensibly on the way back from a fishing vacation, but he made a pointed reference to Cotton Ed, which the Johnston campaign made into an endorsement. Cotton Ed roared that FDR was meddling in South Carolina politics and insisted he would not be a rubberstamp for any president, FDR included.

To the surprise of many, Cotton Ed won the greatest victory of his political career, beating Johnston badly in the run-off election. For that

matter, Roosevelt's purge was a complete failure, with every Democrat he opposed being reelected save for Congressman John J. O'Connor in FDR's native New York.

Smith returned to Washington, his hatred of FDR and the New Deal burning even more brightly, if that were possible. Senator Smith, his somewhat high-pitched voice contrastingly strangely with his jowly appearance, continued to denounce the New Deal on the Senate floor during his last six years in office. Despite having served in the United States Senate longer than any other senator in history by the time his term expired in 1944, Ed Smith declared he would run again. His opponent in the primary was the same Olin Johnston who had lost six years before. This time Cotton Ed was eighty years old and not as mentally acute nor as energetic as he had been in the past. As the two men campaigned across South Carolina, Cotton Ed would speak briefly and sometimes had to resort to appearing on the platform, but allowing his speech to be played from a recording. Cotton Ed lost decisively to the young governor.

When it became clear he had been defeated, Cotton Ed merely told his family he was going outside to "look at the pigs." E. D. Smith died just a few months later, dying in the home where he had been born.

TIME magazine once stated Cotton Ed was "a conscientious objector to the Twentieth Century," which was not an inaccurate statement. Cotton Ed worked hard for the farmers, but his personal eccentricities and hatreds did not permit him to be an effective member of the United States Senate.



# Prescribed Fire

Several of my students have been going on and on about the end of the world in December - something about the Mayan Calendar? Another of those Chicken Little calculations.

A colleague reassured them, "It's okay. I've survived three ends of the world in the last decade or so."

Looking in their eyes, some of them, unfortunately, have let the hype get to them. I smile and say, "Don't worry. You will still have a novel project due in February."

My mama always soothed me about such nonsense with her assurance that the Bible says that no one knows when the world will end. I concur with Mama about the when, and I suppose I concur with Robert Frost about the how.

Frost famously wrote, "Some say

the world will end in ice, / Some say in fire. / From what I've tasted of desire, / I hold with those who favor fire." Me too, Rob. Me too. I tell my students, "You cannot control it. It isn't something to worry about. Enjoy being young." When it comes to worry, I pray they do as I say and not as I do. I do not worry about fire. I worry about stupid people in large groups. I worry about self-fulfilling prophecies.

During a visit to Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge recently, I witnessed the effect of prescribed fire. The mild scent of burnt grass was pleasant and complimented the quiet, November air. The purpose of prescribed fire is to reduce fuel build-up, prepare for new growth, and aid germination. I've often encountered the lesson of prescribed fire, though I have often resisted it.

A Pentecostal church I used to attend sang a song about "refiner's fire." Unfortunately, much of the fire I've been in has not been prescribed fire or refiner's fire. It has been where I landed from my jump out of the frying pan.

Every year, I teach the futuristic,

dystopian novel, "The Giver." In "The Giver," Jonas's community has no fire, just as it has no love. When Jonas is made to see the way things could be, he is alarmed to find that people used to live with candles and fireplaces in their homes. He calls it 'a dangerous way to live.' Then he adds, 'Still, I did like the light they made. And the warmth.' Students easily see that he is really talking about the benefits and risks of love.

I've always been taught that love is something you do and not something that you feel. According to M. Scott Peck, who named a book after another of Frost's poems, love should be disciplined. When I think of love being disciplined, I think of Jonas's fireplace and candles. I think of the courage he had to choose love, in spite of fear. I think of prescribed fire and refiner's fire, each bringing new seasons and new life. Perhaps if our desires were as disciplined as these fires, we could see them as our deliverance instead of our doom.



Rosie's  
World

## Christmas thoughts

About the poinsettia. The Mexican poinsettias are called flor de la noche buena, "flower of the blessed night". Their star-like shape is a reminder of the star of Bethlehem. Their scientific name means, "most beautiful". The name we know was given to honor Dr. Joel Poinsett, Ambassador to Mexico, who brought the first plants to the United States in 1828. They quickly became Christmas favorites.

Christmas trees: Christmas trees bring light and beauty to our homes and to public places. But long before Christmas trees were decorated, the fir tree, with its evergreen beauty, was known as The Tree of Christ. Some credit Martin Luther with decorating the first Christmas tree. On Christmas Eve he saw evergreens glistening with snow against a starry sky. To share the beauty, he cut a tree, brought it inside, and decorated it with lighted candles to suggest the stars over Bethlehem. Hessian soldiers who fought for the British in the Revolutionary War brought the Christmas-tree custom to the United States. Immigrants from Germany, Austria, and Scandinavia had Christmas trees and decorated them with homemade ornaments, cookies, fruit, nuts, small gifts, and

candles. Today our trees are fir, spruce, cedar, and pine; cut trees, live trees, and fireproof artificial trees. In tropical areas and in the southern hemisphere other kinds of trees are used as Christmas trees. All these trees are an expression of the beauty of Christmas and a reminder that the living Christ is always with us. The lights on the tree and the star at its top say that Jesus is the light of the world.

Mistletoe: hanging mistletoe over a doorway during the holiday season is a tradition around the world. But why do we kiss just because we're standing under some shrubbery? Derived from Anglo-Saxon words "mistle" (dung) and "tan" (twig), it is thought that mistletoe grew from birds. People used to believe that rather than just passing through birds in the form of seeds, the mistletoe plant was an inherent result of birds landing in branches of trees. One French tradition holds that the reason mistletoe is poisonous is because it grew in a tree that was used to make the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. The custom of kissing under the mistletoe may come from Roman times when enemies reconciled under mistletoe. It is a partial parasite that grows high in trees.

So enjoy this holiday season but don't forget the reason for it. It is a short season but full of warmth, friendliness, and good will for all, as it should be.

Thought for the day: to be loved, be lovable. Ovid

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

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cont. from page 1

gotten from the other companies. He took out a pamphlet for his company and wrote \$2,500 on the back. "I'll do the job for this amount," he said. "Everything?" I asked. "Everything," he said. "Agreed," I said and shook his hand.

We set a date for the removal. When the time came, my front yard felt like a scene from one of those old movies when the Calvary arrives. Greg sent

a "cherry picker" truck, a Bobcat, two big trucks, a stump grinder, one pickup truck, two vans, six men and every kind of tool you can imagine. It was as if they had visited Harbor Freight on their way to my house and purchased one of everything in the store. They brought big chain saws, small chain saws, long hooks, short hooks, sledge hammers, rakes, hoes, picks, and more. The crew of six men emerged from the

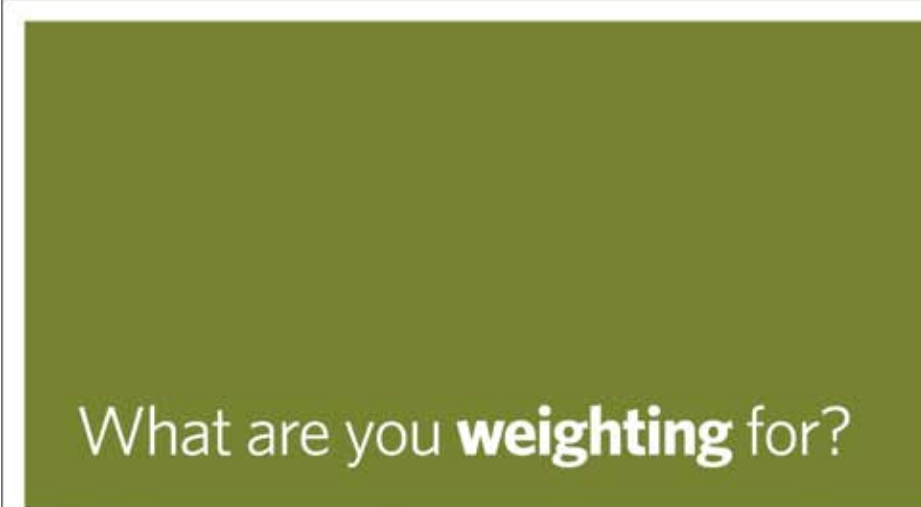
trucks and began working at 7 a.m. and went solid until 6 p.m. These guys took very few breaks and were a well-oiled machine. Each person had his speciality and they helped each other with very few words being exchanged.

All in all, Blank's Tree Works does an excellent job with tree removal. They are highly skilled and have a fantastic work ethic. They not only cut down the tree, they also removed all the limbs, leaves and dirt.

They even ground up the stump. They would have hauled away the mulch created by the grinder, but I requested that they leave it so I could use it in my flower beds.

Thank you, *Focus*, for the good ad. Many thanks to Blank's Trees. If anyone needs a tree service, I totally recommend Blank's.

Regards,  
M. Woodward



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# Falcons return to top with win over Covington

By Ken Lay

The Fulton Falcons are on top of the Class 4A football world.

The Falcons went 13-2 and defeated Covington 39-14 recently in the Class 4A Blue Cross Bowl at Tennessee Tech's Tucker Stadium in Cookeville.

Fulton's victory on Saturday, Dec. 1 clinched the school's fourth state championship in recent years. The Falcons won their third title recently and have

appeared in six state title games since 2000.

"I've done this before as an assistant," said Fulton second-year head coach Robbie Black said. "It has sunk in because I took a little break on Sunday and I was able to reflect on everything that we accomplished."

It was Black's first title as head coach and that made the Falcons' most recent championship special.

But all of Fulton's recent

titles have held their own place in Black's heart.

"They are all special," he said of the championships. "A lot of people coach and never get the opportunities to play in these games."

"We talked to the kids about taking advantage of this opportunity."

The Falcons ultimately made the most of this chance but they would have to battle their share of adversity early when the previously undefeated

Chargers (14-1) scored 14 unanswered first-quarter points.

"We've battled adversity this season and our kids and our [coaching] staff never hit the panic button," Black said. "It showed maturity."

"We had a good mix of youth and experience. We knew that we were going to see a Wing-T offense and we hadn't seen that all year. We told them that we could give them a look at

it in practice but we knew that it was going to be a little different."

The Chargers used their Wing-T attack to take an early lead. Covington pulled ahead 7-0 on Johnston White's early 6-yard touchdown run. Tyrone Tipton extended the Chargers' advantage to 14-0 with a 26-yard scamper.

But the Falcons, who claimed their first state title in five years, refused to let things unravel.

"We stayed the course," Black said.

Fulton trimmed the deficit in half by second quarter's end when Xavier Hawkins caught an 11-yard pass from junior quarterback Penny Smith, who would eventually win Offensive Player of the Game honors.

From there, the Falcons took control and erupted for 18 third-quarter points. Fulton pulled to within

**Continue on page 3**



Butch Jones was introduced as UT's new head football coach during a press conference Friday.

# The Vols (Finally) Have Their Man

By Alex Norman

You can't spell "Butch" without U-T...

After 19 days and reportedly three failed attempts, the University of Tennessee announced that Cincinnati's Butch Jones would become the 24th head coach in Vols history. He agreed to a six year deal, worth \$18.2 million (plus incentives).

"It is truly an honor and a privilege to be the head football coach at the University of Tennessee," said Jones in a statement released by UT. "I understand the values, traditions, and level of expectations that come with this position, and I look forward to being a part of the Vol Nation."

On Friday, December 7, Jones, his wife Barb, and their three sons, were given a formal introduction at a

packed press conference held inside the Peyton Manning Locker Room at Neyland Stadium.

Tennessee athletic director Dave Hart, who has taken his share of heat on social media during the coaching search, said that he knew how much Jones was excited about the opportunity, when they sat down for an interview the previous evening.

"It was not 20 minutes into our conversation that lasted through the night that I could see genuine passion," said Hart. "It wasn't artificial when he said... 'Dave, this is my dream job.' I knew that that was coming from his heart."

During the press conference, Jones sent a message to Vols fans, some of whom were not happy about his hiring. The dream of bringing former Super Bowl winning coach Jon Gruden back

to Tennessee was dashed, as was the chance to hire Oklahoma State's Mike Gundy. Louisville coach Charlie Strong almost said yes to the Vols, but eventually turned down Tennessee's job offer.

Those were household names to many Vols fans... Jones was not.

"Our fan base and myself have the same expectations. We're working to be the best," said Jones. "We're working to be number one every day... we're working to be national champions and we're working to be SEC champions. This program has done it and we'll do it again."

Jones brings six years of head coaching experience with him to Knoxville. Three years at Central Michigan were followed by three years at Cincinnati.

**Continue on page 2**

# Five area players claim Mr. Football honors

By Ken Lay

Five area football players took home Tennessee Titans Mr. Football awards recently.

Charlie High and Brent Kendrick of Christian Academy of Knoxville were honored along with Webb junior Todd Kelly, Grace Christian Academy's Will McKamey and Farragut senior kicker Jonathan

King.

High, CAK's senior quarterback shattered passing records this season en route to repeating as the top back in the 2A Classification. He led the Warriors to their second consecutive Class 3A State Championship with a 48-14 victory over Milan. CAK went 14-1 and finished

**Continue on page 3**

# Lady Admirals run past West, 64-38

By Ken Lay

The Farragut High School girls basketball kept its perfect record intact with a dominating performance at West High School Friday night.

The Lady Admirals got off to a fast start and recorded a 64-38 District 4-AAA victory over the host Lady Rebels.

Farragut (10-0 overall, 2-0 in the district) has had its share of offensive troubles this season. The Lady Admirals have won their games in ugly fashion early this season. They've gotten off to sluggish starts.

This wasn't the case Friday in Marble City.

"We shared the basketball tonight and our scoring was balanced," Farragut coach Jason Mayfield said. "Tonight, we got the shots we wanted within our offense."

The Lady Admirals were hot early and used a balanced

attack to cruise to an easy victory. Senior center Katie Overton scored 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. She also nailed five 3-pointers in the Lady Admirals' most impressive performance of the season.

Overton was the biggest star of the night but she also got plenty of help from her supporting cast. Junior forward Madyson Newby scored 12 points. Madison Maples also added 12 points. Senior point guard Whitney Smith, who fouled out midway through the fourth quarter scored nine points for the Lady Admirals, who led 21-10 after the first quarter.

Farragut, which converted eight long-range jumpers in the contest and got eight points from junior forward Rebecca Jameson, extended its advantage to 39-18 by

**Continue on page 2**

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# 'Hello, Tennessee'... give me a chance

University of Tennessee football has taken another step back instead of a step forward. That was my initial reaction when I learned UT's coaching search was zeroing in on Butch Jones. But after some research I discovered he was highly regarded on the national scene by at least one well known publication.

Sporting News, in fact, was prophetic in its description of Jones as it ranked him No. 28 among the nation's 124 major college coaches last spring. He was given the high ranking after coming on strong in 2011, following his first season at Cincinnati.

"Jones cleaned house in Year 1, dealt with significant injuries and had some wondering about him after a 4-win debut," pointed out SN's Steve Greenberg and Matt Hayes in their rankings. "Now look: 10 wins in 2011 from a team that

probably shouldn't have reached that high. Next problem for UC: keeping Jones. He won at CMU (Central Michigan), he's winning at Cincy. Another big season should lead to a big BCS job (hello, Tennessee)."

What Greenberg and Hayes predicted last May came true last week when Tennessee named Jones its new head coach.

Now, he deserves a chance from the Tennessee fan base. Could be he's a diamond in the rough.

On paper, Jones doesn't look like a good fit for Tennessee. His coaching background is mostly on the offensive side of the ball. The Vols need more help on defense. He's from Michigan. Cincinnati is about as far South as he's been in football, although as a senior in college he interned for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Would coaching a Big Ten power be his dream job someday? That could be another concern.

Jones even lost to Derek Dooley when he brought his Bearcats to Neyland Stadium on September 10, 2011. Tennessee won that day 45-23. But Jones went on to lead

his team to a 10-3 record, a No. 25 ranking in the nation by The Associated Press and beat Vanderbilt 31-24 in the Liberty Bowl.

Jones followed that up by leading Cincinnati to a 9-3 record this season. The Bearcats will be playing former longtime UT assistant David Cutcliffe and his Duke Blue Devils in the Belk Bowl on December 27, while Jones will be busy trying to put Tennessee back on track.

As a recruiter, the 44-year-old Jones is said to be passionate and high energy and known for using a down-home approach.

It's not the SEC, but Jones was 27-13 and won two Mid-American Conference titles in three seasons at Central Michigan from 2007-09. He's been 23-14 in his three seasons in the Big East at Cincinnati. That's a 50-27 won-loss record overall.

The Sporting News quoted an NFL scout as saying this about Jones: "If you're just looking at the surface, you see him winning with what Brian Kelly built (at Central Michigan and Cincinnati). Don't

believe that garbage. He can coach. He was one of those guys a few years ago where you just knew big things were coming his way. He's not done, either. Not by a longshot."

It's not surprising a lot of UT fans are disappointed with this hire. About 90 percent of them wanted Jon Gruden. He would have made a big splash on the national scene. Mike Gundy of Oklahoma State was offered the job, but I believe he was just trying to make his bosses and fans back home appreciate him more. Charlie Strong chose to stay at Louisville mainly, I believe, because he felt it was the right thing to do for the sake of his players.

Former UT coach Phillip Fulmer even got in the mix as a candidate after Gundy and Strong turned down Tennessee. Some UT fans said they were crossing back over to Fulmer's side once again. Former Vol players were going to bat for their coach. But someone told me he didn't think athletic director Dave Hart would want Fulmer back on campus, fearful

that Fulmer might nudge him out of his AD post someday.

For the record, Gundy was No. 10 in Sporting News' rankings and Strong No. 51. The top five were Nick Saban of Alabama, Chris Petersen of Boise State, Urban Meyer of Ohio State, Les Miles of LSU and Bob Stoops of Oklahoma. Other notables included No. 20 Lane Kiffin, No. 25 James Franklin, No. 34 Al Golden, No. 38 Jimbo Fisher, No. 47 Kevin Sumlin, No. 50 Tommy Tuberville, No. 53 Larry Fedora, No. 68 Jim Mora and No. 99 Dooley.

It looked like Jones turned down Colorado when he found out Strong wasn't going to Tennessee. The Buffaloes lost their coach and The Denver Post lost some credibility.

Jones made the right move. He will find Tennessee to be a great place to be. I expect UT fans will warm up to him, too. It's the right thing to do. If it doesn't work out, there will be plenty of time later for complaining.

For now, my cup is half full.

## The Vols (Finally) Have Their Man

**Cont. from page 1**

In that time, Jones's teams compiled a 50-27 record, along with four conference titles.

In many respects he is the antithesis of his predecessor, Derek Dooley... which shouldn't be a surprise since Lane Kiffin was a complete opposite of Phillip Fulmer and Dooley was much different than Kiffin.

While Dooley reportedly burned bridges with high school coaches in the state of Tennessee and failed to develop relationships with Vols alumni, Jones is preaching another approach in both respects.

"To our letter-winners, you are the foundation... we will have an open door policy at our practices," said Jones. "You have laid the

foundation for us to have much success for many years to come. I'm a firm believer that our letter-winners are the program and they will be welcomed back at any time."

Jones added: "Let me make no mistake about it we are going to win first and foremost with the great state of Tennessee. We have tremendous high school coaches in this state. We are the state institution and we will own our state. We're gonna to be at every high in the state and our players are going to understand what is to wear the 'Power T,' they're going to understand what it means to represent their home institution. I take great pride in that."

Jones understands the challenges that lie ahead. Tennessee has had three losing seasons in a row.

Their defense was one the worst in the nation last year. The Vols offense could lose their quarterback and their top two receivers to the NFL draft. Plus, the schedule is brutal in 2013, with road games at Oregon, Florida and Alabama on the docket.

"I know we live in an instant gratification society. Everybody wants everything at once," said Jones. "But I will tell you this... we're gonna go inch by inch... inches make the champion. And we're gonna to go to work. I don't know how long it will take, but you're going to be proud of this football team, and you're going to be proud of this football program."

## Lady Admirals

**Cont. from page 1**

halftime.

Newby came in early in the game and wasted little time making an impact.

"Mady came to me today and asked what she could do to get better," Mayfield said of his reserve center. "I told her what she could do and she did exactly what we talked about."

Newby's Friday night performance also caught the attention of her teammates.

"Newby was obviously dominating inside and that opened things up for us," Overton said. "She helped us hit our outside shots."

Farragut got a little sloppy in the third quarter as the Lady Admirals were unable to take advantage of some easy scoring chances. They turned the ball over several times in the frame.

West (2-3, 1-1) took advantage of its chances and pulled to within 49-33 by the end of the third stanza.

Farragut, however, re-established control in the final period. The Lady Admirals closed the game on a 15-5 run and surrendered one field goal in the final eight minutes.

Brianna Tate and Brooke Thompson scored seven points each for the Lady Rebels.

### Down the Lane

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

#### HIGH GAME SCRATCH-MALE

222 JOHN FISHER  
206 RALPH ALLMON  
200 ED BEATTY

#### HIGH SERIES SCRATCH-MALE

570 JOHN FISHER  
546 ED BEATTY  
527 RALPH ALLMON

#### HIGH GAME SCRATCH-FEMALE

189 LORETTA HARRINGTON  
177 SANDRA TURNER  
174 BARBARA NELSON  
174 JANET HUFFAKER  
174 JEANIE STURGEON

#### HIGH SERIES SCRATCH-FEMALE

485 BETTY PHILLIPS  
477 BARBARA NELSON  
453 LINDA WORTH

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2012

#### HIGH GAME SCRATCH-MALE

224 RALPH ALLMON  
223 HUBERT GUSBY  
213 BOB HILBERT

#### HIGH SERIES SCRATCH-MALE

631 HUBERT GUSBY  
530 BOB HILBERT  
521 JOHN FISHER

#### HIGH GAME SCRATCH-FEMALE

188 BETTY PHILLIPS  
177 LINDA W ORTH  
168 BARBARA NELSON

#### HIGH SERIES SCRATCH-FEMALE

521 BETTY PHILLIPS  
478 BARBARA NELSON  
473 LINDA WORTH

#### WEDNESDAY CLUB 55:

HIGH GAME SCRATCH-MALE  
244 FRED GUTENDORF  
222 MIKE CATE  
219 RONNIE RUSSELL

#### HIGH SERIES SCRATCH-MALE

612 CHARLIE MURPHY  
608 DAVID PEIGH  
608 MIKE CATE

#### HIGH GAME SCRATCH-FEMALE

187 MARY TATE  
169 MARGARET MYERS  
166 SUSIE MARTIN

#### HIGH SERIES SCRATCH-FEMALE

531 MARY TATE  
483 SUSIE MARTIN  
456 DELORES PEIGH  
456 KATHY CATE

#### THURSDAY NO-TAP:

HIGH GAME SCRATCH-MALE  
300 JIM BRYANT  
300 GARY WILSON  
298 BILL BYRGE

#### HIGH SERIES SCRATCH-MALE

821 GARY WILSON  
803 BILLY MAJORS  
773 JIM BRYANT

#### HIGH GAME SCRATCH-FEMALE

258 BETTY PHILLIPS  
251V ELLA DOWLING  
220 MARGARET MYERS

#### HIGH SERIES SCRATCH-FEMALE

612 MARGARET MYERS  
596 ELLA DOWLING  
579 BETTY PHILLIPS

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## Lady Eagles soar over Mustangs

Defense was not in short supply as the Sacred Heart Lady Eagles visited the St. John Neumann Lady Mustangs Wednesday night for their annual middle school basketball game in Farragut.

Sacred Heart used strong guard play to forge a workmanlike 5-2 lead at the end of one quarter, expanding it to 9-4 by half. Scoring seven points in the third quarter poised the Lady Eagles to put the game away. However, St. John Neumann showed resilience and determination with aggressive defense to work their way back into the game. Forcing a remarkable thirty-six turnovers, the Lady Mustangs whittled the score down to 18-16 with two minutes to play.

Constantly crashing the boards in a furious final thirty seconds, St. John Neumann fired five shots at the goal before Rencey Dunlap pulled down the rebound and was fouled. After she hit one of two free throws, SJN had one last attempt at tying the game, but their pass was intercepted by Laura Cunningham.

Guard Rachel DeBaar led the Lady Eagles with nine points and three steals in the 19-16 victory.

Post game, Lady Eagles coach, Jason DeVries, was proud of his team as he said they remained focused throughout what he termed, “an intense game.”

By Alex Norman

It wasn't supposed to be that complicated...

Lee Smith was going to be like his Dad, become a star at Powell High School, then at Tennessee, and then he'd move on to the National Football League.

Daryle Smith played six seasons in the NFL, and anyone that saw Lee play at Powell realized pretty quickly that Daryle's son had the potential to do the same.

“Growing up around my Dad and Big John Bruhin (who played 4 seasons in the NFL), that's two guys in the NFL from Powell,” said Smith in a recent phone interview with *The Knoxville Focus*. “Not many schools can say

that.”

Smith committed to Tennessee as a tight end, and signed his National Letter of Intent in February of 2006. But his time on the UT campus was short. Smith was charged with DUI that August, and kicked off the team by then Vols head coach Phillip Fulmer.

Like many teenagers, Smith made bad decisions... although his errors ended up in the public eye.

“It took me a few months, but I realized that I was young and dumb and 18,” said Smith. “But I met my wife and started a family. I realized that it wasn't just about me anymore. It was about being trusted... to be a role model... having a wife and kids and doing

the right thing.”

Fulmer granted an unconditional release to Smith, and he chose to make a new start at Marshall University. That was a move that paid off.

“Marshall is a great place,” said Smith. “They have such a love for football, and there are some really good people there. We played some big teams like Ohio State and Virginia Tech. Those games didn't happen every week, but they prepared me for the NFL... where there are no off weeks.”

Smith had a breakout senior season for the Thundering Herd in 2010, collecting 358 receiving yards on 38 catches. He also scored

**Continue on page 4**

## Rebels come of age in district hoops win

By Ken Lay

West High School boys basketball coach Chris Kesler saw his team mature a little Friday night.

The Rebels notched a hard-fought 52-44 District 4-AAA victory over Farragut and evened their record.

West (3-3 overall, 1-1 in the district) had some anxious late moments despite not trailing in the contest.

“I've got a bunch of inexperience and we still haven't matured,” Kesler said after his team survived a tough early district test from the Admirals (5-5, 0-2). “I saw my team mature a little tonight but it's going to be a process.

“This game was big for us. This win was big for us because I have kids who are still learning to fill their

roles.”

Both teams suffered through early scoring droughts. The Rebels, however, managed to manufacture enough offense to open an 8-5 lead by first quarter's end. The game remained tight throughout the first half but West, a sectional qualifier last season, held a 23-19 advantage at the break.

West opened the second quarter with a 13-4 run and opened a 21-9 lead when Ibrehim Teshome buried a shot midway through the frame,

The Admirals, however, would rally to pull to then 21-17 on a pair of free throws by senior guard DeMarcus Martin. The two squads matched baskets before heading to their respective locker rooms.

The Rebels were hot after halftime. West scored the first nine

points of the third quarter to a 32-19 lead. But the Admirals would answer and pull to within 34-30 when Brian Park scored five consecutive points. Park's 3-pointer made it 34-28. He would add a pair of free throws on Farragut's next possession and the Admirals were within four with 1 minute, 31 seconds remaining in the third frame.

The Rebels, who started strong in each of the first three quarters, closed the third on a 7-3 surge to open a 41-33 advantage heading into the final eight minutes.

In the fourth quarter, it was Farragut that enjoyed the upper hand early. The Admirals scored the first eight points of the final frame to pull to within 41-40 when Park, who scored all 12 of his points in the second half, hit two more free throws.

The Admirals then committed

four consecutive turnovers. The Rebels took advantage of the late Farragut miscues. West would all but put the game away when a basket by Israel Okita gave West a 50-40 lead with 1:13 left.

Farragut coach Chris Cool was obviously disappointed by the final score. He couldn't, however, find fault with his squad's effort.

“I'm really happy with our kids for the effort they gave and the heart they showed,” Cool said. “We had it 41-40 and then we turned it over four straight times.

“That meant that we had four straight possessions where we didn't get a shot.”

Teshome led the Rebels with 16 points. Yasmond Fenderson added 12 for West.

Park and Martin scored 12 points each for the Admirals.

## Five area players claim Mr. Football honors

**Cont. from page 1**

second to Alcoa in District 4-AA. CAK, however, avenged their regular-season loss to the Tornadoes in the Class 3A semifinals.

“This is a great way to finish my high school career,” High said after throwing for 461 yards and six touchdowns in CAK's second consecutive championship victory over the Bulldogs. “I'm just so proud of my team.

Kendrick claimed top lineman honors in Class AA. He didn't allow a sack and was the top lineman among Class 3A and 4A nominees.

Webb's Todd Kelly, a junior, helped the Spartans win their third Division II-A State Championship in four years. He has been offered scholarships from several top colleges, including Tennessee, Alabama, Vanderbilt, Southern California, Stanford and others.

Kelly, in nine regular season games, rushed for 719 yards and four touchdowns. He also caught four touchdown passes. He had an interception return for a score. He was also an impact

player on special teams. He had two punt returns that resulted in Webb touchdowns.

Meanwhile, McKamey, son of Rams coach Randy McKamey, had 2,400 all-purpose yards. He recently committed to play at Navy.

His season, however, was cut short when he sustained a head injury in the final week of the regular season. His campaign, however, netted him Class A's top back honors.

Farragut's Jonathan King was Kicker of the Year. He proved to be a valuable weapon for the Admirals, who suffered through a 3-7 season in 2012.

King, who was also a backup quarterback at Farragut, hit six of nine field goals and averaged 46.9 yards per punt last season.

Injuries forced King, a senior who recently received a scholarship offer from Air Force, was pressed into service as quarterback during his sophomore season due to injuries. He responded by leading Farragut to a postseason berth in 2010.

## Falcons return to top with win over Covington

**Continued from page 1**

14-13 on Smith's second scoring strike. This one was a 23-yarder to Dean Taylor.

Smith put the Falcons ahead for good with an 8-yard scoring scamper.

Fulton picked up a special team's touchdown when Dominique Williams made it 25-14 with seven seconds left in the third stanza.

The Falcons' defense got in on the fun when D.J. Campbell found the end zone on a 55-yard interception return. Campbell also had eight tackles (four solo) en route to receiving Defensive Player of the Game honors.

Darryl Rollins closed the scoring with a 19-yard run in the fourth quarter.

Black credited his team's defense.

“We buckled up,” Black said. [Defensive coordinator] Jeff McMillan did a great job in that game and he's done a great job for the last two years.

“A lot of people don't know that we made a change. We switched from a 4-3 to a 3-4 because it was what fit our talent.

“It was new to us and it was new to him. But he studied really hard.”

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# Arts & Entertainment

## For the Joy of Music

By Tasha Mahurin  
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

The Joy of Music School in Knoxville will benefit from the sale of a unique product this holiday season thanks to an effort spearheaded by Cindi Alpert of 106.1 The River. Alpert and a team of others have produced a local Christmas album which features a mix of traditional and original Christmas music by local Knoxville artists.

"I decided to focus on local musicians and bands because I wanted

to showcase the talent we have right here in our own backyard. Knoxville is loaded with talent, and I think often times we don't get the credit we deserve as a musical community," said Alpert.

When Alpert put out the call for local talent, she was surprised how many local artists reached out to donate their time and talent. She also quickly learned that many local musicians had composed but not recorded original Christmas music due to

the expense of studio time. Steve Rutledge, of Steel String Productions, was quick to lend his services to the project. Rutledge, an accomplished musician himself, is featured on the album contributing his version of Silent Night.

Todd McCoig, President of AMG Media, offered to donate both the discs and his graphic design services to the project. McCoig used original, whimsical artwork supplied by the Alpert's daughter Elizabeth for the cover of the album.

In fact, so many people were willing to participate in the charitable project that the costs were covered completely. The purchase of each CD will go directly to The Joy of Music School.

"It was so difficult to decide which organization would benefit from the proceeds generated from the sales of the CD, as there are so many worthy causes in our area," Alpert related. "After a visit to The Joy of Music School in Knoxville, the choice was clear."

The Joy of Music School

is a nonprofit organization that provides free music lessons for children who cannot afford them. All teachers are volunteers, and the school provides instruments, music and supplies at no cost to students.

Music from the album can be heard on 106.1 The River, as well as, 104.9 Q-Country in LaFollette.

"I am truly blessed to have the support of 106.1 The River and 104.9 Q-Country, along with our community of artists and business

owners to make this project possible. I also wanted to say a special thank you to my daughter, Elizabeth, for painting the album cover," Alpert added.

The CD is available for purchase online at [www.river106.com](http://www.river106.com) and will be available at The Corduroy Jazz Trio's December 20 show at The Orangery, as well as at a variety of local stores.

The album is entitled simply "For the Joy of Music."

## Dogwood Arts donates sculpture to City

Dogwood Arts and the Public Art Collectors Circle officially donated Kenneth Thompson's sculpture "Columns" to the City of Knoxville Public Art Collection in a ceremony last Friday. "Columns," constructed of cast and recycled concrete, was at its new permanent site in Krutch Park.

"We are honored to receive a piece of Mr. Thompson's work" said Mayor Madeline Rogero. "Public art enhances our public spaces and can provide unexpected

opportunities for inspiration or reflection."

"Columns" won best in Show of the 2011-2012 Art in Public Places Knoxville sculpture exhibit, part of the annual Dogwood Arts Festival. Thompson holds a Master of Liberal Studies in Sculpture from the University of Toledo and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from Siena Heights College, in Adrian, Michigan. While many of his sculptures are on display in Ohio and Michigan, Thompson has also done

public art installations in Florida, Arkansas and Washington, D.C.



## Choraliers present 'How the Grinch Stole Santa's Show'

On Monday, December 3, the Tennessee Theatre hosted the Central High School Select Choraliers and Bobcat Company as special guests for their Mighty Musical Monday. The students performed for two sold-out audiences at 12:00 and 3:00. Tune in to WATE on Sunday, December 23, to watch the professional recording of these stunning performances!

The Select Choraliers recently performed with the KSO Young People's concerts, and the Bobcat Company women were honored to perform for the Appalachian Ballet Nutcracker. This December the students will also be performing for the annual Pilot Corporation Holiday celebration, Regal Cinemas Holiday celebration, and the CHS Class of '50 Holiday luncheon.

If you have not been able to attend

any of these performances this Holiday season, you have another chance! The 150+ choral students are now preparing for their annual Christmas concert! "How the Grinch Stole Santa's Show" will be held in the CHS auditorium on Thursday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m. This festive show will open with traditional Christmas music from Concert Choir, Select Choraliers, and Bobcat Company. Then Bobcat Company will present a dazzling performance complete with breath-taking choreography, beautiful costumes, and sparkling lights! Tickets are \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$10 for general admission. Reserved seats may also be purchased for \$15. Tickets can be purchased online now at [www.seatyourself.biz/knoxcentralchoral](http://www.seatyourself.biz/knoxcentralchoral). Please call the Choral Department at (865) 689-1428 for more information.

## Catching Up With Lee Smith

Cont. from page 3

three touchdowns. At 6-6 and 266 pounds, Smith impressed the pro scouts enough that the New England Patriots picked him in the 5th round of the 2011 NFL draft.

But that wasn't a good fit, especially when you see that roster already has players like Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez at Smith's position.

He was released before the 2011 season began, and picked up immediately by the Patriots AFC Eastern division rivals, the Buffalo Bills.

Now in his second season with the Bills, Smith has started six games, and scored his first NFL touchdown in a game against Indianapolis last month.

"My family (he and his wife Alisha have three kids, with a fourth on the way) loves it here. The organization, all the people in the building are happy," Smith said. "I feel blessed to be here with my family. I'm very fortunate to play here."

Smith added, "The Bills haven't been to the playoffs in 12 years. Those fans are used to winning, and we want to give it to

them. It is painful watching the playoffs when you aren't in the playoffs."

Smith is fully aware of the realities of football. There are no guarantees in this sport. So he is doing all he can to make his time in the pros last a while.

"Where you are drafted means nothing," said Smith. "All that matters is making plays on Sundays. You need to be a good person too, but if you make plays? That's how you stay in the NFL."

Injuries are always in the back of your mind... that your career can end at any time."

Smith added, "I pick the coaches brains... you try to find your niche, what you can do. You don't want to be limited. You need to be good at some things and then work at others. You need to work at every part of your game."

"But if you do your job, you'll stay around. If not? You won't."

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**The Doctor is in**  
 a weekly column by  
**Dr. Jim Ferguson**

## Resignation

I think a well crafted sentence is a work of art. My high school and college English teachers would be amazed that I've come to appreciate metaphors, similes, and alliteration. I never considered myself anything but a science-oriented person until 2001. At that time a friend challenged me to begin a spiritual journal and as Robert Frost once said, "And that has made all the difference." Now, I find that the right word is magical, especially if the meaning is a double entendre.

A classic example of a phrase or a word with dual meaning is the quip, "Who is John Galt?" For

those who have never read Ayn Rand's classic novel, "Atlas Shrugged," this sentence is an enigmatic question. For the initiated this phrase is one of resignation exclaiming with a shrug of the shoulders that they are powerless to resist the flow of events around them and the tyranny of the State.

I have seriously considered resignation from Summit Medical Group and medicine practice because I am opposed to what medical care has become. We now function in the realm of the medical industry and the business model which have taken precedence over

the doctor-patient relationship, rendering the notion of medical professionalism increasingly obsolete. However, I now see that my resignation is actually a shrug of my shoulders and acceptance of the new reality. And this new order has conquered not just medicine, but America.

My patient's demeanor was one of resignation. She told me that she and her husband had finally been forced to throw her twenty-six year old son (a Peter Pan who has never grown up) out of their home because of his drug addiction and repeated theft. She said, "It's terrible to think of him under a bridge somewhere," but they finally realized that their son can't be helped until he hits the bottom. Other patients have told me similar tragic stories of their children murdered by fellow druggies or pushers, struggles with HIV infection, and the heartbreak of their beloved's disappearance and never knowing what happened. I've seen families emotionally broken and financially destroyed as they

try to rescue their children with fabulously expensive rehab after rehab.

What do you do with someone on drugs who no longer responds to reason? What do you do with a government that is so dysfunctional or a people who are so disconnected that neither operates by reason? I keep coming back to the metaphor of the Giant Sequoyah trees and Yellowstone Park's lodgepole pines. These trees package their seeds in cones sealed by resin which is designed to melt with the heat of a forest fire. The conflagration burns away the choking underbrush which would shut out the life-giving sunlight if the seeds were released into the cloying brush. Even the experts now acknowledge that fire not only releases the seeds, but it prepares the environment for a Phoenix to rise in the forest.

As I laid awake one night praying and wondering about the course of my medical group and my country, a vision came to me in a metaphorical cave like Elijah's, described in 1

Kings chapter 19. There was no voice in the dark or a burning bush that called my name. There was no flash of light and I wasn't asleep and dreaming. But, there was an epiphany, perhaps analogous to the whisper heard by Elijah in the cave of his despair. It came to me that I was to serve the remnant.

We call ourselves "post-moderns" with the implication that we're even wiser than those of the previous modern era that began with the Industrial Revolution. Unfortunately, we Homo sapiens—wise men—don't heed the lessons of history. As Lord Acton and George Santayana predicted, we're doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past because we don't heed the lessons of history. Perhaps that's my resignation. The lessons of Jeremiah in chapters 28 and 29 resonate with me these days. Our captivity will not be short-term as some false prophets opine. And our task is outlined in Jeremiah 29: 5-7.

It would have been easier and perhaps more

satisfying for me to have responded as Flo often did on the TV show Mel's Dinner ("Kiss my Grits!"). However, the lesson of history is that hubris should be shunned and stewardship embraced. Responsibility to my patients, my family and trusted employees in tough times must take precedence over my pride.

My final test of the new order will occur in 2014 with the full implementation of Obama-care. If I'm then told I must compromise my patient's best interests in favor of the State's, you will hear of it in this column along with the other meaning of resignation.

**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).**



# 3,000 Participate in Hot to Trot Thanksgiving Day Race 2012

## Two truckloads of food donations collected

A record-breaking 3,000 people participated in this year's Hot to Trot Thanksgiving Day Race held in the popular Turkey Creek shopping area. Runners and walkers gathered on a beautiful holiday morning to be a part of the annual event. The race, which takes place each year on Thanksgiving Day morning, is presented by Fleet Feet Knoxville and sponsored by Tennova Healthcare.

This is the 4th year for the Hot to Trot race. The event offers a 5K and 10K option, as well as an untimed one-mile Fun Run/Walk. This year's race saw more than 30 states represented and even a runner

from France.

"From the beginning, we have organized this as a 'family tradition' event," said committee member Brad Hood, Chaplain with Tennova's Turkey Creek Medical Center. "Lots of guests in town for the holiday register with their family and then, after the race, all go back home and eat 'responsibly.' It makes for a very fun start to a wonderful holiday."

Shahin Hadian, owner of Fleet Feet Knoxville, said, "Running the race dressed as a turkey always gives me a great vantage point to experience first-hand the holiday spirit shared by many generations. To me,

that is what our Hot to Trot race is all about!"

For the second year in a row, the Hot to Trot race's beneficiary was A Hand Up for Women, a local organization helping women develop life and job skills. It is a year-long program from which participants graduate with a greater chance for success.

This year, participants also donated non-perishable food items to a local charity. Two truckloads of donated goods were delivered to Sister Martha's Pantry, a charity run by the Sisters of Mercy. To encourage participation in the food drive, vendor sponsor New Balance, provided a free pair of shoes to one lucky participant.



**Turkey Creek Medical Center Chaplain, Brad Hood, assists Sister Martha Naber in unloading two truckloads of donated, non-perishable food for Sister Martha's Pantry, a charity providing essentials to those in need.**

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# Faith

## Sharing Your Faith Effectively

The Bible makes it clear that all people are sinners and in need of God's amazing grace. I am well aware of my sin and the hope I have been given by the cross. I want others to encounter the same peace and joy that I have experienced. There are many books, methods, and ideas floating around about ways to share your faith. Which is best?

The answer to that question will vary on who you ask and the culture you live in. There was a day in this country when door knocking and street preaching were successful approaches to sharing the good news of Jesus. But people today are turned off by such approaches (I would recommend church leaders read *"Un Christian"* by David Kinnaman of Barna Group). People today do not want to be screamed or yelled at. They desire relationship before making a decision for Christ. This means that many of our churches need to jettison and change the approach we have been using for reaching souls for Christ. Instead of making a hard sell to someone you don't know or barely know, it is much more important to serve people, build a relationship, and from your loving friendship the gospel will be lived out to them.

John Calvin said the local church has to be responsible for "making the invisible kingdom visible." Throughout the ages, beginning with the Roman era, people were drawn to Christians not because of evangelistic outreaches or crusades, or through mass media (these didn't exist), but because Christians were living the gospel and had a loving community, the church, where people really loved each other. It was during the great plagues that swept Rome in the second century that the Roman society saw love lived out by the Christians. When all the doctors fled, it was the Christians who stayed back to care for the sick. Many of those Christians died as they took care of the sick, but the pagans were drawn to Christ by the love they witnessed.

Andy Stanley, senior minister of North Point Ministries in Atlanta, GA, wrote:

If we were able to rewrite the script for the reputation of Christianity, I think we would put the emphasis on developing relationships with nonbelievers, serving them, loving them, and making them feel accepted. Only then would we earn the right to share the gospel. Their acceptance by us would not be predicated on their willingness to accept Christ. After all, God loved us before we were lovable; God loved the whole world before the world knew anything about him. This should be our model.

As we build friendships with others, the gospel is shared naturally. We also get to show clearly that being a Christ follower is not a one-time conversion decision. It is a kingdom enlistment that influences all aspects of life. It is a lifetime journey.



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



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

**Pastor Chuck Green will hold his first service as new pastor at Christ Connection Church in Farragut on Sunday, December 16.**

## Christ Connection Church welcomes Pastor Chuck Green

**By Tasha Mahurin**  
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Christ Connection Church in Farragut will welcome Pastor Chuck Green as the church's new pastor on Sunday, December 16. Green and his wife, Linda, reside in Farragut and have five children ranging in ages from 16-28. Although born and raised in Michigan, he has since lived and served in the ministry in six different states.

"Even though I've been gone from Michigan for many years, I'm still a fan of the Detroit Tigers, Lions, and Pistons. My favorite college team has always been the University of Michigan, but I have room in my heart for the VOLS. In fact, I already sport an orange license plate," Green told *The Focus*.

Green came to the Christian faith shortly after his tenure in the

United States Air Force. He holds a B.A. from Southeastern University as well as a Masters of Religion and a Masters of Divinity from Liberty University. Since completion of ministerial school, Green has served as youth pastor, associate pastor, and senior pastor at various churches.

"My ministerial experiences include large urban areas (New York City and Newark, NJ), as well as, rural and suburban pastorates. In the process of time, I have collected a large bag of personal illustrations and anecdotes that tell a story about what God can do when a person, any person, puts their full trust in Him," Green added.

In addition, Green and his family love the Farragut community and enjoy the many restaurants, shopping, the blend of cultures, and especially enjoy the friendliness

and hospitality of the South.

"The congregation at Christ Connection Church has made us feel as if we are part of their families and we couldn't be happier," he said.

As for the future of the church, Green intends for Christ Community Church to be a more integral part in the life of the community and to be even more intent and purposeful about proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and sharing His words and compassion.

Christ Connection Church is located at 416 N. Campbell Station Road. Sunday morning services begin at 10:30.

For more information visit [www.christconnectionchurch.com](http://www.christconnectionchurch.com).

## Church Happenings

### Grace Baptist, Seymour

Tuesday, Dec. 11th – 9:00 a.m. Senior Breakfast – Pastor Kelly assumes the Master Breakfast Chef position for this event.

Sunday, Dec. 16th – The Adult Choir will give an inspiring presentation of "Emmanuel" for the morning worship service. Come early for better seats.

Wednesday, Dec. 19. A group is going caroling to visit those who cannot join us. There will have two Caroling teams; one led by Choir Director Danny Jett and the second, led

by Asst. Choir Director, Tom McCarter. The youth will be joining both the caroling teams. We will leave the church at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Come and join in this very happy and reverent event.

Tuesday, Dec. 24. The Christmas Eve candlelight service starts at 5:30 p.m. The short service will end with singing carols outside the church with candles glowing. If your church isn't having this service, come and join us.

All of December – The youth led by Shane and Lauren

King will be studying the Advent. The Youth Program is very active. Come and enter the Underground and explore the depths of God's love.

### Mountain View Baptist Church

Everyone is invited to "The Christmas Bells . . . What's So Great About Christmas?" on Sunday, December 16, 2012.

The Youth Christmas Party will be at 10 a.m. The Christmas Play is at 11 a.m. Come see three fast talking siblings, Taco Bell, Silver Bell and Liberty Bell, who have set up near the church and plan to rob the folks. Do the Bells get what they want or what they REALLY NEED?

The play will be followed by a dinner of Ham, Baked Spaghetti, Sides, Bread, Drinks and Apple Fritters at noon. This is a free event; however, donations would be greatly appreciated. Donations received will be used for youth activities in 2013. Mountain View Baptist Church is located at 2974 Cecil Avenue.

### Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon

The Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon (KFL) meets at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway at noon every Tuesday. Tyler Lynde will be this week's speaker.

### Reformata Baptist Church

Reformata Baptist Church will be distributing laundry detergent, bleach and dryer sheets to anyone in need on Saturday, December 15 from 10 a.m. - noon.

Reformata Baptist Church is located at 500 Maryville Highway, Suite B and C, in Seymour.

### Seymour United Methodist Church

This Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m., there will be a couple of the final rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata, "I Hear the Prophet Callin'." Dress rehearsal is Saturday, Dec. 15th at 10 a.m.

This Wednesday, the weekly Fellowship Meal is at 5:30 p.m. Reservations need made either Sundays or by noon on Tuesdays.

Following the Wed. meal at 6:30 p.m. is the church-wide Christmas caroling outing. ALL are invited to help brighten up the lives of shut-ins.

On Saturday, Dec. 15 at 9 a.m., the Groundskeepers ministry will meet for

some outdoor gardening and other "fun-in-the-dirt."

Further on Saturday, December 15, the Children's Ministries will hold their annual "Birthday Party for Jesus" at 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, the Chancel Choir and other volunteers will present their Christmas Cantata at the 8:45 a.m. worship service. That afternoon, the Youth program will hold its annual "Thieves Christmas" fun-filled night of fellowship.

A Christmas Concert with Youth and Children is scheduled for Sunday, December 16, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Further general information are available by calling the church office at 573-9711.



**Meridian Baptist Church**  
6513 Chapman Hwy., Knoxville, TN 37920  
865-577-6617  
[www.meridianbaptist.org](http://www.meridianbaptist.org)  
E-mail: [webmaster@meridianbaptist.org](mailto:webmaster@meridianbaptist.org)

**Sunday Schedule**  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship  
Wednesday Schedule  
6:15 p.m. Prayer Meeting

**Holiday Schedule**  
Sunday, Dec. 2nd – 6:00 p.m. Hanging of the Green Service  
Sunday, Dec. 9th – 10:50 a.m. Young at Heart Choir Christmas Music  
Sunday, Dec. 16th – 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Christmas Music  
Sunday, Dec. 23rd – 4:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

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# House to Home

## Farmers market boot camps to be offered in 2013

**Training opportunities will be designed specifically for farmers market vendors**

**SPRING HILL, Tenn.** – For many producers, selling their produce and farm-based products at local farmers markets is, pardon the pun, their bread and butter. To help vendors better understand how to market their produce and how to address certain business issues, the University of Tennessee Center for Profitable Agriculture and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture are offering farmers market “boot camps” in February and March 2013. Many of the sessions are designed to help vendors understand marketing techniques that can help make their booths more profitable. For example, the boot camps will include presentations and discussions on effective signage, understanding and connecting with customers and the subtle messaging involved through word and

wardrobe choices. On the business management side, additional discussions will center on understanding sales tax requirements and exemptions, expanding sales through market-wide electronic payments and insurance applications and limitations. Workshops will also feature time for attendees to interact with other market vendors and with scheduled speakers. Organizers of the boot camps emphasize that the sessions will focus on issues for farmers market vendors. Production-related sessions are not planned for these training opportunities. Educational sessions for producers, farmers market managers and board members are available as part of the Tennessee Horticultural Expo. For details, see the expo website <http://www.tnthe.com> The day-long sessions

are free to attend and sessions are scheduled in each of the state’s grand divisions. The entire program will be repeated in each location, so there is no need to attend multiple workshops. Boot camps are scheduled for the following locations and dates: Bolivar, February 11 Dresden, February 12 Cookeville, February 18 Spring Hill, February 19 Knoxville, March 4 Kingsport, March 5 The workshops will begin with registration at 9 a.m. local time and teaching sessions will begin promptly at 9:30. The workshops will conclude around 2:30 p.m. Complete details can be found online at the Center for Profitable Agriculture website: <https://ag.tennessee.edu/cpa/> Note that pre-registration is required at least five days prior to the workshop. Please pre-register by contacting Nancy Austin in the UT Food Science and Technology Department at [naustin@utk.edu](mailto:naustin@utk.edu) or 865-974-7717. When

registering, please provide your: (1) name, (2) phone number and (3) e-mail address. Due to space limitations, registration is limited to 50 participants at the Kingsport location. The farmers market boot camp curriculum is a collaboration of the UT Center for Profitable Agriculture and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. The Center for Profitable Agriculture is a joint effort of UT Extension and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation. UT Extension provides a gateway to the University of Tennessee as the outreach unit of the Institute of Agriculture. With an office in every Tennessee county, UT Extension delivers educational programs and research-based information to citizens throughout the state. In cooperation with Tennessee State University, UT Extension works with farmers, families, youth and communities to improve lives by addressing problems and issues at the local, state and national levels.

## ETPA Calls For Nominations

The East Tennessee Preservation Alliance invites the general public to submit nominations of endangered historic places or structures to be included in the 2013 “East Tennessee’s Endangered Heritage” list. Nominations are accepted for places in Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, and Union counties. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, January 11, 2013. Each year the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance releases its list of endangered places to educate the public and local leaders about the plight of significant historic resources across the region. Preservation strategies are developed for each site, which range from buildings to landscapes, to include working with current property owners, government officials, local citizens, and/or potential new owners to preserve these important parts of our community’s heritage. Eligible nominations should include the following information on the attached form: . Name and/or address of the endangered property . Nature of the threat to the property . Name and contact information for the current property owner (if available) . Name and contact information for the individual or group submitting the nomination . Any known historical information about the property (year built, architect, past owners, etc.) . Photos of property Nominations can be sent to East Tennessee Preservation Alliance until Friday, January 11, via the following ways: by mail to East Tennessee’s Endangered Heritage, c/o Knox Heritage, P.O. Box 1242, Knoxville, TN 37901; by email to [egarlington@knoxheritage.org](mailto:egarlington@knoxheritage.org); or by fax to 865-523-0938. More information is available at [www.knoxheritage.org](http://www.knoxheritage.org).

### ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

## The Prince’s Feather: A Southern Masterpiece

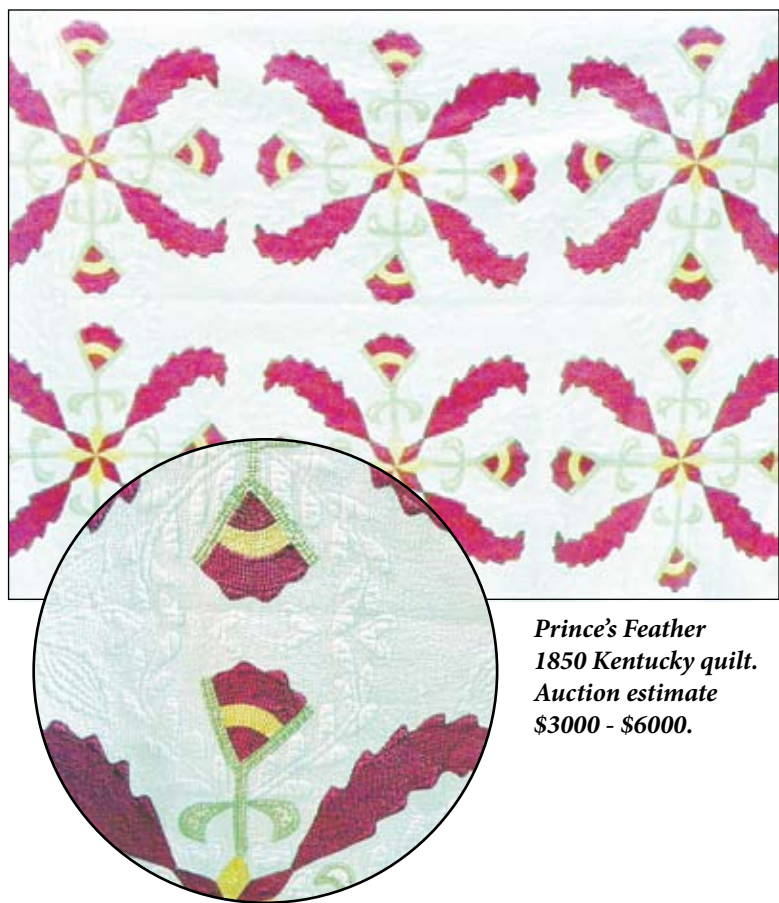
Recently two quilts were consigned along to Fountain City Auction for me to handle and I have to say both are extremely fine and beautiful examples. These museum grade Southern 1850s quilts are absolutely reference examples to be sure and one is hands down the finest handmade quilt I have ever seen outside of a museum and certainly the best I have ever had the to handle in thirty years. Both are appliqué quilts, meaning cut out patterns are sewn onto the quilt. The first one dates around 1850 and is a cross pattern within a circle with leaf flourishes on angles. Although it is a remarkable quilt and quite valuable,



By Carl Sloan

the second one will simply take your breath away. It is a Prince’s Feather pattern, which in itself is one of the most highly sought after, with large feather patterns swirling in a circle. What makes this quilt amazing is the over quilting that is astounding to say the least. It is like fine music to the eyes to behold this masterpiece of art as a complete and intricate sub pattern is quilted in the field with hundreds of puffed out repeating shapes and swirls that are made to perfection and all exact without errors. To hand sew a quilt with such fine and numerous over stitching yet to puff out the pattern and get all to match not only requires mathematics but a complete understanding that each puffed out design takes up extra cloth to come out in a uniform pattern by hand is amazing and the number here on this quilt boggles the mind as to precision and planning.

Fine quilts such as these were typically made as wedding gifts and treasured and meant to be preserved by the recipients. I would say both of these were meant as presents as the art factor greatly supersedes the utility aspect of a quilt and I would guess these could have taken a quilting bee a good year to have sewn these by hand. Both of these masterpieces will be offered without reserve in January at Fountain City Auction. I will be campaigning to have these on display as far in advance as possible for the public to view and enjoy. As always I am most happy to talk with you about your items that you are wishing to sell and how these quilts came to be available. Please call Fountain City Auction at (865)604-3468 for a quick and free assessment by phone, mail or in person by appointment.



*Prince's Feather  
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Auction estimate  
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## Pineapple Cake

2 cups flour  
2 cups sugar  
2 sticks butter  
(melt and put one in batter and one in pan)  
1 20oz can crushed pineapple  
2 eggs  
Mix all ingredients and bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes. Frost with 1 can of cream cheese frosting.

## Spinach Dip

1 can water chestnuts, drained and finely chopped  
1 pkg frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained  
1 cup sour cream  
¼ cup green onion, chopped  
1 cup mayonnaise  
1 pkg Knorr Swiss vegetable soup  
French Bread  
Mix ingredients well. Refrigerate overnight. Serve with French Bread.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Fontinalis Meeting

Fontinalis Club will meet on Thursday, December 13, 2012, at Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, 5364 N. Broadway. The Board will meet at 9:30 a.m., Coffee Hour at 10:00 a.m., and General Meeting at 10:30 a.m. The program will feature recognition of past presidents along with a musical program featuring Hugh Livingston, Jr., organist.

### Fountain City / North Knoxville Republican Meeting

The Fountain City / North Knoxville Republican Club will have their annual Christmas dinner on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at Louis Restaurant on Old Broadway. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. and a cake auction will begin at 6:00 p.m.

### North Knoxville Business and Professional Association meeting

The North Knoxville Business and Professional Association will have their Christmas program at 7:45 a.m. on December 14, 2012 at Northgate Terrace, 4301 Whittle Springs Rd.

### United Daughters of the Confederacy Meeting

The Captain W. Y. C. Hannum Chapter #1881, United Daughters of the Confederacy will meet at the Old Gray Cemetery in Knoxville on December 22 at 2:00 p.m., in commemoration of the birthday of Captain W.Y.C. Hannum. Members will gather at the gravesite to lay a wreath. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Charlotte Miller, 865-448-6716.

### Upcoming Civil War Talk

On Tuesday, December 11, 2012, the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable will host historian Jim Ogden as its speaker. Mr. Ogden is Chief Historian for the Chickamauga/Chattanooga National Military Park. At 8:00 p.m. Mr. Ogden will speak on the topic: "The Battle of Arkansas Point; January 1863." 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, call (865) 671-9001 by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 10.

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