

Phil Ballard improves office of Property Assessor

Term-limited John Whitehead running for same office again

By Focus Staff

As Phil Ballard sees it, the Knox County Property Assessor's race comes down to the old versus the new. Ballard is seeking his second term and squares off against opponent John Whitehead, who was term-limited and couldn't run in the last election.

Ballard emphasizes that he came to government service from a career in insurance. During that time he rose to the level of regional manager where he worked with an assortment of businesses and individuals in his 33-county area.

He points out that Whitehead's career spanned 34 years of drawing a County paycheck. In addition, Ballard adds



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Knox County Property Assessor Phil Ballard and wife Cindy pose for a picture at the Distinguished Citizens Dinner sponsored by the Great Smoky Mountain Council of Boys Scouts of America held last Friday evening.

that Whitehead's son-in-law Scott Moore, while on County Commission, submitted a resolution to allow Whitehead and other County employees

to change from the County 401K retirement plan to the State's retirement plan. Had the resolution been accepted by County Commission, Whitehead's

and the other County employees' retirement costs to County taxpayers would have skyrocketed by as much as a million dollars.

Ballard says that his main goal as assessor is to make sure the economic impact of the sputtering national economy is accurately reflected in the appraised

values of Knox County properties. To do that, he has provided training for members of his staff and many have received state certification. The 104 classes that Ballard has offered compares to the 13 that Whitehead made available during his tenure. Overall, Ballard's staff has so far received more than 3100 hours of training; Whitehead's employees received 390 hours over his two terms. Ballard says that the better trained folks are, the better prepared they are to provide fair and accurate appraisals.

Ballard is also proud of the upgrades in technology that he's overseen while Property Assessor.

"I've worked to bring the office into the 21st century. Before I got here, the system being used was twenty years old, and it hindered the effectiveness and efficiency of services that the public received," he said.

One aspect of the new

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PHOTOS BY DAN ANDREWS.



Scout hold annual Distinguished Citizens Dinner

The Great Smoky Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America held their 2012 Distinguished Citizens Dinner on Friday, February 17. In addition to recognizing Senator Bob Corker as the 2012 Distinguished Citizen, the Great Smoky Mountain Council recognized Eagle Scout Caleb Branum. Pictured top: Knox County Property Assessor Phil Ballard

and wife Cindy; County Commissioner R. Larry Smith; Senator Bob Corker; State Representative Bill Dunn; Sharon Smith; Bud Armstrong; and Police Chief David B. Rausch. Above, Troop 949 strikes a tent at the Knoxville Convention Center. Left, UT coaching legend Phil Fulmer addresses the assembly.

Meeting on Fulton Bellows Redevelopment Area Tonight

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation has scheduled a public meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 20, on the proposed Fulton Bellows Redevelopment Area. The meeting is at the KCDC office building at 901 N. Broadway. The developers of the proposed University Commons project will discuss their plans for a retail center in the area south of Cumberland Avenue. A part of the presentation will relate to traffic impacts.

University Commons LLC has proposed redeveloping the old Fulton Bellows manufacturing and distribution site near the University of Tennessee campus into 200,000 square feet of retail space, which would be anchored by a Publix Super Market and a Walmart. The developers have asked for public participation in this project in the form of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to build new public infrastructure. For a project to be eligible for this type of financing, it must be located in a redevelopment area administered by KCDC.

In early January, the Knoxville City Council directed KCDC to review and make a recommendation on designating a redevelopment area at this location. As a part of that review process, KCDC is hosting this public meeting in which the developers will explain their project and its potential impact to the area. There will be another public meeting and an official public hearing in March.

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Visiting Abe Lincoln in Kentucky

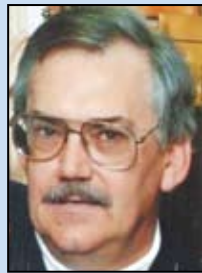
As children we were all told that President Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin, so it's a bit surprising when you visit his birthplace just south of Hodgenville, Ky., to find a classic Greek-type temple. But don't fret, the reproduction of his log home is inside the structure.

The Abraham Lincoln National Park is 116 acres on what was Thomas Lincoln's Sinking Creek Farm. If you look between the parking lot and the birthplace atop the hill you'll see the sinking spring coming from the base of the Hill, flowing a few yards, and then disappearing again. Hundreds of visitors have tossed coins into the spring.

Tom Lincoln was a wanderer, much like the other men of his generation, folks like Daniel Boone. Tom's father, Abraham, was a Virginia militia captain who was killed in an Indian raid. Tom's eldest brother inherited his father's estate and Abe's father was on his own. Abe's mother, Nancy Hanks, moved as a child with her parents to Kentucky. Tom Hanks, the popular movie star, is a descendant of the Hanks family.

Tom Lincoln moved to Kentucky, married Nancy, and joined a church that opposed

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

slavery. He did pretty well, bought several farms, served in public offices, but lost all his land in 1816 because of faulty land titles. Baby Abe was born in 1809 and would have been 7 years old, surely remembering that hardship.

Opponents of Lincoln, especially during the Civil War, called him a bastard son of Nancy Hanks, who they claim was a indentured servant of Tom Lincoln.

They claim he was born out of wedlock in Virginia before the family moved to Kentucky

Abe Lincoln recalled that he did not remember living in the birthplace cabin but did recall living a few miles away at the Knob Creek Farm when he was two years old and older. It was at the Knob Creek farm that Abe saw his first black slaves, being taken south for sale.

You can visit the Lincoln Knob Creek farm U.S. Highway 31.

The Lincoln family continued to move, going to Spencer County, Indiana, where Abe grew up, educating himself, hunting, farming and learning about life.

Inside the Sinking Creek birthplace monument it seems the little cabin is squeezed between the marble walls. Built of logs, some for the period on the site, it is only

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Every early pioneer site needed fresh water and at the base of the monument that houses a replica of Abe Lincoln's birthplace is a sinking spring. It comes from the hill, flows a few yards, and disappears. Many, many visitors have tossed coins into the spring waters.

Could 'perfect storm' lift Santorum?



By Richie Beeler

The Catholics are angry. They have a right to be.

The Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church last week expressed their

official position of displeasure with certain aspects of Obamacare, in what amounted to an unofficial declaration of war against the current administration.

Their complaint centers on a piece of the Behe-moth of a health care bill that was passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in 2010. It has become more widely known

by its nickname, "Obamacare." It was alleged - most likely correctly - that many lawmakers voted for the 2,300-page bill without even reading it. The bill passed the House without a single Republican vote.

The particular page that has the Bishops upset is the one that requires employers to pay for birth control for their employees as part of their health care plan. The Church, of course, has always held a religious position that prohibits birth control. When Catholic leaders, along with much of the rest of the country, began to discover what was really in Obamacare, a standoff appeared inevitable.

But never fear, the President has stepped in to

make everything alright. He has recently retreated from his hard-line position on the birth control requirement and has instead said that not the employer but the insurance provider must pay the costs. There's just one problem. The Catholic Church, like many large entities, is self-insured. Either way you cut the pie, they're still paying the bill.

So needless to say, the Bishops didn't exactly buy Obama's first token gesture of goodwill. But they had no need to worry. He had many more where that one came from. Now he is retreating even further, making all sorts of promises to keep the Catholics at bay. Well, of course he is. After all, he's not just the President. He's running for President. And as fate would have it, he may just have a new and rather unexpected challenger.

Who just happens to be a

conservative Catholic.

You already know why the Catholic part is important. Now let me tell you about the conservative part. Rick Santorum, the former Senator from Pennsylvania, has taken the Republican Primary season by storm in a matter of a few days. Just when it looked like Newt Gingrich's momentous surge in South Carolina had fizzled and Mitt Romney had once again seized control of the nomination, Santorum swept three western primaries. And he didn't just win. He won HUGE among Evangelical Christians. One of those victories was in the crucial swing state of Colorado, which Romney won in 2008. Santorum now leads the polls in the upcoming primaries in Michigan and Ohio. Some surveys show him leading Romney by as much as 12 points nationally. Romney apparently leads in Arizona. And that

may be telling in itself.

Arizona is a modern western state. That is, it used to be solidly in the "red" category, but its growing population of transplants has shifted it toward the "in play" column. It's not as conservative as it used to be. It also borders Utah, which is 70% Mormon - an obvious advantage for Romney. But in Michigan and Ohio, Santorum appears to be the pick. Both states have large blue-collar, conservative Catholic populations. You know, those people that cling to their Bibles and their guns.

And then there's the all-important South, the region that may ultimately decide the GOP nominee. Romney, while he did capitalize on his superior organization and finances to score a big win in Florida, was soundly defeated in more conservative South Carolina. And there's a lot more of the conservative South still to be decided. The blunt truth is, Romney's Mormon religion will be an obstacle in this traditionally Protestant region. But historically, so should be Santorum's Catholicism. But perhaps not this time.

It seems there are two very robust Protestant organizations that are chomping at the bits to join the Catholic Bishops in their war against Obamacare. The Southern Baptist Convention and the National Association of Evangelicals have both indicated their willingness to join the Catholic Church in fighting Obama's mandated birth control funding. Make no mistake, the thought of such a convergence of religious

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That Scrabble Game

When I was a young girl we played board games such as Candyland, Monopoly, and Chinese checkers. Then I got married and didn't have much time for games until the children were old enough to play. After they got married a good friend of mine and I used to play scrabble on many afternoons, especially on Sundays. We were not intellectually inclined but we did advance from three-letter words like cat and hat with no trouble at all. We had a scrabble book with all the two-and-three letter words, plus our own dictionary. There were quite a few challenges along the way, each of us thinking a word was a word when it wasn't. They looked good but were not spelled correctly.

As we all know, the arrival of the electronic age has changed our lives in many ways. I know of people who sit at their PCs for hours playing various games but I don't have time for that. However, I do like to sit for about an hour in the evenings and play my favorite game. Playing scrabble on the computer



is nothing like the old board game. With the touch of a finger and a click of the mouse a word magically appears in seconds. Plus you can play with as many people as you desire.

There are words on the computer used in scrabble that no one ever uses in everyday language- words such as suq, yoni, qat, thraldom, izar, and vatu. I could go on and on. Can you use these words in a sentence?

Well, let's see. "I went to the suq (Persian market) with some vatu (money) to buy an izar (muslin garment), but the thraldom (serfs) started a riot and the yoni (life) I knew ceased to be."

Of course, it stands to reason that these words are from other nationalities and are not used in our daily life, but they do exist in the Scrabble game. Oh, I forgot to add that a qat is an Evergreen shrub.

Some words are recognizable, such as knar (a knot in a tree) mool (money), Quin (one of five quintuplets), fluor (rite), bot (bottom), and vill (a). Did you notice what they

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I was just thinking It's good to be home

In the early years of marriage, I wasn't much of one to want to take a vacation. The whole thing seemed to be more trouble than it was worth. Before long, my wife Amy showed me the error of my ways.

Over the years, we've taken some good vacations. When the kids were little, the family packed the car and aimed it toward Florida. For hours we drove bottom-numbing miles on Interstate highways to arrive at the mecca for all children—Disneyworld. We spent a week ferrying ourselves between hotel rooms and the park. All the while, we spent what could have gone toward a good down payment for college on motel rooms, disgusting park food, and souvenirs.

As Lacey and Dallas grew older, we skipped the trips to Disneyworld. Most of our activities centered around the beach at New Smyrna. An extra day trip might take us to Sea World, but for most of the time, we lay on the beach and played in the waves. An efficiency kitchen made those weeks a bit more affordable.

Little did we know that that beach would later become infamous for shark sightings and attacks. The kids left for college and their lives, and Amy and I began spending a week on the beaches at Charleston, SC. It's easily our favorite place to travel and relax. Each year we tried to make a trip, and one year we spent our anniversary there, even though it was December. Just being in one of the oldest cities in the south and away from the grind of daily life made any cold weather or rain almost bearable.

Only a couple of years ago, we spent a week with our daughter's family and in-laws in Florida. Each of us had our own efficiency rooms, and we met on the beach sometimes to play with grandson Madden, who was at the time a year old. At other times we babysat so Lacey and Nick could have some time to enjoy the beach. On occasion, we decided to stay in and napped or read books, anything that brought relaxation.

Friends told us how wonderful cruises were, so we booked one. It was an escape from the cold weather in Knoxville. Two days before boarding, we booked a room on Miami's South Beach. Then we shuffled through lines to board our ship bound for the Bahamas.

Yep, vacations are great, but they aren't necessarily all they're cracked

up to be. One trip to Charleston started fine, but by Thursday, we were ready to pack up and head home. Our mistake was renting a small house a couple of blocks from the beach. What's the use in traveling if the ocean can't easily be seen out the front window or porch?

Our big voyage proved to be a flop. Miami experienced its coldest winter in ten years. Deserted beaches because of cold temperatures were an oddity for the area. We suffered through and looked forward to warmer temperatures on the cruise. However, few people ever took a dip into the pool or braved strong winds and temperatures in the sixties.

No matter what vacation I take or how much I enjoy the time, I'm always excited to return home. There's nothing like the routine of daily life. Nothing compares with a night's sleep in my own bed. And I look forward to seeing my dog Snoop, who must be boarded during our absences.

All this it to say that I've been on an extended vacation from the Knoxville Focus. During the time, I met lots of wonderful people and enjoyed plenty of exciting events. Still, I was always a bit homesick. The vacation is over. Now, my goal is to stay where I belong and where I always feel welcome.

It's good to be home!

Dan around town

PHOTOS BY DAN ANDREWS.

The Knoxville Stars were bright last Thursday night for Star 102.1's "Dancing with the Knoxville Stars." The event raised more than \$87,000 for East Tennessee Children's Hospital. Those taking part included: Kris Budden, WBIR-TV Sports Anchor; Lorena Estrada, WVLT Volunteer TV; Missy Kane, Covenant Health Fitness Expert; Lorgan Murrell, Singer/songwriter; Robert Peace, Former University of Tennessee football player; Jame Satterfield, News Sentinel; Shaffer, Star 102.1's D.J.; Renita Stinnett, Knoxville Expo Center/ Graham Corporation; Janet Testerman, Former First Lady of Knoxville; Jay Teter, Dixie Stampede; and Bo Williams, WATE.



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FOCUS ON Seymour



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Congressman Phil Roe visited constituents at Seymour High School last week.

Seymour gets to know Congressman Phil Roe

By Tasha Mahurin
Mahurint@knoxfocus.com

Congressman Phil Roe, who represents the First Congressional District of Tennessee, was present last week at Seymour High School to meet new constituents from the Seymour community. A portion of Seymour was previously under the representation of Congressman John Duncan Jr. Due to recent congressional redistricting, however, Sevier County, including Seymour, now has one Congressman.

"You live in one of the best districts in the country," Roe told the crowd who had gathered in Seymour High School's library.

Roe is a resident of Johnson City and serving his second term in Congress. A native of Tennessee, Phil was born on July 21, 1945 in Clarksville. He earned a degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Austin Peay State University in 1967 and went on and to earn his Medical Degree from the University of Tennessee in 1970. Upon graduation, he served two years in the United States Army Medical Corps.

As a Congressman, Roe serves as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions and also serves on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on

Health. As a physician, Congressman Roe has also become an active player in the effort to reform our nation's health care system. He is a member of the Physicians' Caucus and the Health Caucus.

Widely touted among his peers as "Dr. No," Roe explained the four questions he asks himself before voting on a piece of legislation.

"I ask four questions when considering a bill," Roe explained. "It is congruent with the Constitution? Does it lend itself to the expansion of freedom? Does it shrink our government? Does it protect our nation?"

Prior to serving in Congress, Phil served

as the Mayor of Johnson City from 2007 to 2009 and Vice Mayor from 2003 to 2007. As a physician, Phil ran a successful medical practice in Johnson City for 31 years, delivering close to 5,000 babies.

"You're going to see me a lot," Roe told the community. "I believe in being present, and I believe in being engaged."

Phil and his wife Pam have three children: David C. Roe, John Roe, and Whitney Larkin. They are proud to have two grandchildren. Phil and Pam are members of Munsey United Methodist Church.

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South Knox Cash Mob boosts sales

The first-ever "Knox Cash Mob" was a big success, with an estimated 700 to 800 people taking part in the event all day Friday, February 10. The inaugural cash mob was held at Emery's 5 & 10, a longtime local business that holds the distinction of being the oldest family-run 5 & 10 in the country.

"The show of support from this community was unbelievable," Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett said. "Knox County is full of people willing to step up and help out, and I am proud to have been a part of this effort to help promote local business."

Mayor Burchett organized the "Knox Cash Mob" after hearing about a similar event that took place in Ohio. With the impact of the recent Henley Street Bridge closure, and following the mayor's tour of several affected businesses (see February 6, 2012 Focus), South Knoxville became the obvious choice to plan the first mob.

Ron Emery of Emery's 5 & 10 said that he had more



Commissioner Jeff Ownby waits his turn in line at Emery's 5 & 10 during the Cash Mob held Friday, February 10. Emery's 5 & 10 is located at 4014 Chapman Highway.

than 500 sales Friday and estimated at least 700 to 800 people took part in the cash mob on Friday alone. He said that cash-mobbers continued to come in over the weekend.

After organizing the first few cash mobs to benefit South Knoxville businesses, Mayor Burchett plans to hold cash mobs in various areas of Knox County.

You can keep up with

latest "Knox Cash Mob" by "Liking" the "Knox Cash Mob" Facebook page. information by following @KnoxCashMob on Twitter or

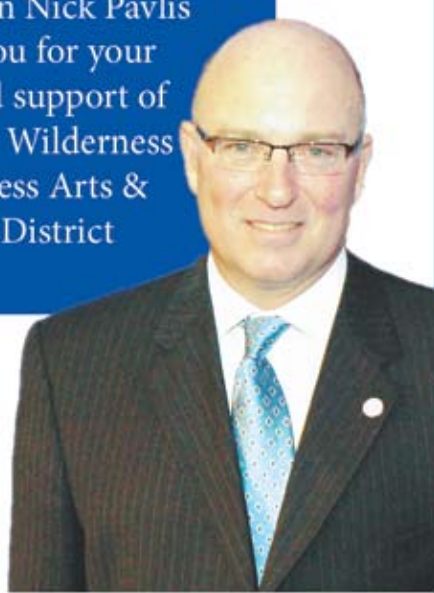
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Commissioner
Mike Brown



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Kibitzing our lives away

We've become a nation of kibitzers. A kibitzer is a spectator, a non-player who loves to watch and make unsolicited comments but doesn't

actually play. The term is often applied to bridge or chess, but it can really be applied to anything. You know what I mean, a back-seat driver type, but not just with driving, with everything. I love the word kibitzer. I love

the Yiddish sound of it, the way it sounds like it should be sung in a song in "Fiddler on the Roof," and I love the very existence of the word for what it means and how applicable it is to the world we live in.

I am as guilty of being kibitzer as the next guy and that bothers me because the kibitzer is the close cousin to one of my least favorite people, the poser, but we'll get around to him in another column. Have you ever been lying on the couch engrossed in an episode of "NCIS" or "The Bing Bang Theory" and thought to yourself how boring you yourself would be to watch? After all, you're just sitting there. Sure, your comments about how Mark

Harmon is so much hotter and interesting now than he was in the 80s are true, but how interesting and hot are you sitting in front of the TV with a bowl of Ramen noodles in your lap, huh? Maybe your insight into the dynamic of Penny and Leonard's on and off again courtship is brilliant, but when was the last time you went out with an awkwardly adorable physicist? How many times have you been watching a reality show and the people on the show were watching a reality show? Hmmm... that's because that would be a pretty boring reality. Uh-oh.

As a non-athlete, I get a big kick out of listening to those professional kibitzers known as sports commentators.

Now, I realize that many of them actually used to be athletes but come on! Don't you think it's funny to hear them analyze what Tiger Woods should have done on that hole or how much better guys like Ray Allen or Tim Tebow could have played? I think about these commentators when I go to an online news source and find comments about how teachers don't work hard enough and what a great schedule we have. Whenever I see hurtful comments like that, I just remind myself how many people made a living criticizing Michael Jordan.

Facebook, of course, is the kibitzing arena for the world. We can all sit in the comfort of our own homes and speculate about our friends' lives. I use the word "friends" loosely when referring to Facebook, of course. If you judged my social life by the number of friends I have on Facebook, you'd be way, way off base. You know

the saying-if a tree falls in a forest and no one is there, does it make a sound? Well, if I go on vacation and don't upload the pictures to Facebook, did I really go?

Films like "Wall-E" and "The Matrix" are amazing commentaries on our capacity to live life without really living it. I know I have spent way too much time as a kibitzer, observing other people's lives instead of doing things that would enrich the one I've been given. I've spent way too much time thinking about how I can't wait to upload a picture of this moment onto Facebook instead of just really being in the moment and relishing it and the company I'm having it with. God grant me the serenity to unplug the television and the computer, the courage to get up off the couch, and the wisdom to know the difference between the neon world and the real one.

Could 'perfect storm' lift Santorum?

Cont. from page 2

conservatives already has many on the left shaking in their boots.

You could call this a somewhat unlikely political alliance. But it might be something even more. For Rick Santorum and the Republicans, it might just be the perfect storm. Isn't it curious that just when the Catholic Church is starting to turn antagonistic toward Obama, the Republican race is shifting in the favor of a conservative Catholic.

This is no flash in the pan incident; no blip on the radar screen. Pollster Scott Rasmussen has recently stated that the current trend in the polls indicates that "Santorum could be Romney's worst nightmare."

If the trend continues, Barack Obama may not be sleeping too well either.

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Visiting Abe Lincoln in Kentucky

Cont. from page 2

16 by 18 feet and may be smaller than the original little house. It has only one door and one window, a fireplace and a dirt floor. President Teddy Roosevelt

spoke at the cornerstone dedication.

The park also contains information and an exhibition center near the cabin, with a gift shop.

The Lincoln Birthplace

National Historic Site is open every day, 8 a.m. until 6:45 p.m. You can call the park at 270-358-3137.

To reach the park you can take I-65 to Exit 81 at Sonora, go east on KY 84 to KY 61, turn right onto US 31E and drive about 10 miles. There's also a picnic ground there.


While in that part of Kentucky you might also want to visit the Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville and the Lincoln Jamboree of country music every Saturday night on Lincoln Farm Road.

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Roger Woods, Chaplain of the Tennessee VOLS

He could be a professional singer. Or, he could be a full-time minister. But, he is a chaplain to student athletes, because God called him. Behind the hoops and



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

come to fill the pulpit that day and sounded like he could. Nick is the son of famed UT and NFL field goal kicker Fuad Reveiz. I can still see the image of Nick on the field after that dreadful LSU

checkboard end zone is a strong spiritual leader. The recent turbulent times in Tennessee athletic programs make his job all the more important. When Wallace Memorial's Senior Pastor, Dr. Mike Boyd, introduced him, he mentioned that Coach Dooley once called him the best chaplain in the country. After listening to the chaplain for only a few minutes, it was clear that Coach Dooley had made the right call.

Chaplain Roger Woods, whom students call "Chap," was the guest speaker on Super Bowl Sunday at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church. Chap has become a familiar face at Wallace. When Dr. Boyd invited him a couple of years ago, I had the privilege of meeting him and his family. On that day, he brought with him three outstanding young men from the Tennessee football team: Chris Walker, Nick Reveiz, and Anthony Anderson. It was a joy to hear each of them give a word of testimony during the service. Actually, Chris was dressed as though he had

loss—the one where UT was the winner for two minutes. I was anxious to meet Anthony. I remembered that Sam Anderson, Anthony's father, played quarterback at Gibbs High School. He later coached several high school championship football teams and served as Knoxville's Director of Parks and Recreation for many years. I enjoyed meeting these young men after the service, and they were eager to autograph the CD I bought. From talking with them only a few minutes, it was clear they realized that football was only one element in the game of life.

On this recent Super Bowl Sunday, Chap was to be joined by former UT player Inky Johnson. Johnson has endeared himself to fans as the player who suffered a permanent career-ending injury. But, Inky and his wife were treated to an all-expense paid trip to the Super Bowl by another former UT player, Jerod Mayo, a member of the New England Patriots. I have never met Mayo, but he has elevated himself in my

mind by remembering a talented Johnson who will never have the opportunity to play football again. We are still waiting at Wallace to hear this inspiring story from Inky himself. The absence of Johnson left Chap on his own, but there was no need to worry. Chap never missed a beat—he sang, talked, and preached as though it had been planned that way. My pen could barely keep up with his spoken words.

Woods serves as Chaplain for football and men's basketball. Previously, he has traveled only with the football team. This year, however, Coach Martin has requested he be with the men's basketball team not only at home games but travel with them as well. It is no secret that the Big Orange has taken some beatings

lately in the athletic arenas. However, on their most recent trip to Gainesville, Coach Martin's VOLS beat Florida when many did not think it was possible. There is no one better to have in a student's corner than Chap. With his upbeat personality, UT's student athletes are in good hands. Of particular interest to me was his approach to each new day. Chap describes them: "Super Sunday, Marvelous Monday, Terrific Tuesday, Wonderful Wednesday, Thankful Thursday, Fabulous Friday, and Sensational Saturday"! He can quote scripture just as easily, starting with Ephesians 5:15-16: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Woods ended with

wonderful words for athletes or anyone to live by in Ephesians 6:10-18: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil..."

The next time Rocky Top fills the air or the sound of a buzzer leaves UT in defeat, know that behind the heartache or celebration there is a man of God giving guidance and spiritual leadership to those young athletes in the spotlight. This Chaplain serves as Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Campus Director which encompasses all the athletes. Chap encourages the players to go to church on a Sunday morning after the game; he is in their midst on a long ride

home after a defeat; and he is there to celebrate their success, also. I applaud the coaches who recognize the needs of student athletes outside the games and use this Chaplain's spiritual gifts and over twenty years of experience working with young people to minister to them.

Chap is the author of a book entitled, "Chap's Truths, Affirmations, and Prayers." It is simple in format, but powerful in content. A quick glance reveals some great scripture verses chosen by Chap to inspire readers. To learn more about Chaplain Roger Woods, visit www.rogerwoods.org and for bookings, call 423.322.1378.



Dr. Mike Boyd, Senior Pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, wearing a Peyton Manning jersey and Chaplain Roger Woods of the University of Tennessee with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), taken by Ralphine Major.

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Letter to the publisher

Reader praises Mike McMillan

After reading the articles in your paper on the 8th district school board race, it was hard not to make a response. It is no mystery how former and current school administrators group together like a cult at election time in support of their favorite candidate. Mostly they are looking out for their own best interest whether it be pay, pension or plain old greed. Most likely the candidates name as been passed down to them from the superintendent's office. The superintendent is looking for the candidate

who can be most easily influenced or is most likely to join the cult.

It is a mystery how former US senators, former state senators, former mayors turned governor, newspaper editors, PTA presidents, preachers, so-called community leaders and other lay people become authorities on public education. Although they have no training nor experience in the field of education, they seek to promote idealistic ideas that any long time educator knows is not practical for

the public schools. These individuals need to leave education of our children to the professional educators who have spent many years preparing for the positions they hold.

I have known Mike McMillan for many years as an experienced professional educator. With his broad knowledge and experience as a classroom teacher, I know that the students, their teachers, their parents/grandparents, and the tax payers can be assured of proper representation on

the school board.

With his experience in funding while serving on Knox County commission, he will continue to be an asset to the school board and to the communities of the 8th district.

A comment or two about our current superintendent: Dr. Jim McIntyre was hired for his so-called expertise in school budgeting. So far, that expertise hasn't been much help. His ideas of school closure, outsourcing custodial services and renting out school buildings are old hat

to Knox County.

We went through all of those items about 20 years ago. With that, I suppose our school system is far ahead of the Boston City Schools.

Perhaps he should look at cutting administrative costs. This could easily be done by eliminating one assistant principal in each high school and middle school. Restructuring central office by eliminating and combining supervisory positions is a good place to look when cutting the budget.

In our current economy, taxpayers do not need a tax increase. Many senior citizens are now struggling to pay property taxes at the current rate. If the school budget is not gotten under control, you can bet we will see a tax increase come the 1st of July.

Sincerely,
J. Max Houser
Retired teacher/counselor

Phil Ballard improves office of Property Assessor

Cont. from page 1

system is that residents can now check on appraisals of their properties online. It also streamlines the process of filing appeals of appraisals. In fact, Ballard's office has worked with more than 1600 individuals in an outreach program that educates them about appeals.

"We want people to file appeals. If they feel something is incorrect, our job is to check into it to make sure that everything is correct," he added.

In answer to Whitehead's assertion about yearly spikes in appraisals, Ballard says that appraisals are done on four year cycles. The present four year appraisal was put into place during Whitehead's time as assessor. The next one will go into effect in 2013. He adds that he strives to run an office that is open and transparent.

Phil Ballard sees himself

as an individual who pulls department employees together and gets things accomplished through teamwork. With term limits in force, one of his major goals is to continue to build a solid property assessor's office so that any person who is elected in the future can hit the ground running. Ballard labels this approach as being a leader and then comments about his opponent:

"John Whitehead served in the days before term limits. He needed to accomplish little and then just count on being re-elected with each election cycle. That's being a caretaker. I think it's more important to manage and lead."

During his term, Ballard's budget grew only 4.7 percent. In contrast, Whitehead's budget grew 12 percent from 2005-2008. Ballard says the dramatic cut of almost 200 thousand dollars can be traced to the

more efficient and better supervised system that he's introduced.

Phil Ballard is a native east Tennessean. He's lived in the Carter community his entire life. He and wife Cindy have been married for 35 years and have three children, five grandchildren, and two more on the way. He was named by the Tennessee Assessors Association Officers as the East Tennessee Property Assessor of the Year (2010) and was given leadership awards in 2010 and 2011.

Ballard is excited about a second term as the Knox County Property Assessor. He has more plans to make the office the most responsive of its kind and one that continues to keep the welfare of Knox County residents at the forefront. He says Whitehead's goals are different: "My opponent is running because he doesn't like me personally. I'm running for the people."



Photo submitted. At Mount Olive Elementary School...WE BACK PAT!



Happy Birthday!

Harrison Lee Andriopoulos celebrated his first birthday on February 3, 2012 with a Teddy Bear party. His parents are Tom and Cindy Andriopoulos. His sister is Marinna Andriopoulos. His grandparents are Leon and Connie Wyrick and Harry and Maria Andriopoulos.

That Scrabble Game

Cont. from page 3

are doing here? They leave off the last letter of a word. Is that legal? Evidently it is because it's done all the time. That's the only quarrel I have with playing that game on the PC. Mool is actually Moola; knar is really knarl, et cetera, et cetera. Well, no matter. I've learned a lot of new words

and although I won't use many of them in my daily life, they are still fun to use when playing a game.

There is still something to be said about sitting around a table with family and friends, screaming, giggling and slapping each other's hands in high fives. Nothing can take the place of that, but when friends

or family are not available, that scrabble board on the PC is there to give us a few minutes of relaxation.

Thought for the day: whoever enjoys his life is doing the Creator's will.- Jewish proverb

Send comments to: rosemerrie@att.net or ph: 865-748-4717 Thank you.

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In Perspective

Perhaps the most important thing I learned from my tenure in South Knoxville is that small businesses should never underestimate the power of community. Those of you who reside on the 'other side of town' may be wondering what in the world is going on 'over there'?

When the Henley Street Bridge closed just over a year ago for much needed repair, nearly 35,000 vehicles a day were re-routed through town. The impact left on a small section of businesses along Chapman Highway was substantial. Rather quickly, the community began to ban together in an effort to promote the business district for the betterment of all. For those of you in other areas of town who may be facing geographical or situational challenges, here are 5 things (in no particular order) I observed that greatly contributed to the success of the business community's revitalization efforts:

- 1.) They organized themselves. They quickly formed an organization, leadership was elected, and monthly meetings were scheduled. Through this process they were able to brainstorm and eventually develop a series of promotions such as a loyalty card program-good at a variety of participating local businesses.
- 2.) The group identified the problem and laid aside competition in order to work for the good of the whole. While there are various types of businesses represented in the area, the major issue at hand was a decrease in traffic. The business community used their collective knowledge in order to work together in an attempt to solve this problem.

Continue on page 4t

Pellissippi State hosts discussion among political party reps

With candidates busily slugging it out in anticipation of the presidential election, the country is focused on the differences among politicians and their parties. Come November it will all be over, but the need to find common ground will be as great as ever.

In the spirit of bringing people together, Pellissippi State Community College invites the public to "Civil Rivalry in the Political

Landscape: A Panel Discussion." The free event is 1-2:30 p.m. Feb. 29 in the Student Lounge of the Division Street Campus, 3435 Division St.

"The topic is our current political landscape, and the discussion is bound to be interesting," said Mike North, the campus' assistant dean, "but the goal is to foster dialogue rather than debate between the parties."

Representatives of the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian points of view will join two Pellissippi State faculty members on the panel.

Doug Veum, vice chair of the Knox County Democrats; Ray Jenkins, chair of the Knox County Republicans; and David Kerns, representing a Libertarian position, will submit some of their own questions as well as take questions from the

audience.

Marsha Hupfel, who mediates for the Knox County Juvenile Court and is an adjunct faculty member in sociology at the Division Street Campus, moderates the discussion.

The event is part of Pellissippi State's Civility Series. The series was launched to create opportunities for students, faculty and the community to come together to discuss

ideas in a safe environment. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information contact Marcia Coleman at (865) 971-5200. To request accommodations for a disability, contact the executive director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action at (865) 694-6607 or humanresources@pstcc.edu.

Open for business

South Knox Salon, Powell Boutique ready to serve



By Sarah Baker
bakers@knoxfocus.com

Emily Ballantine and Tabatha Lyon have been friends since they were girls. For eight years they worked together at another hair salon, and now their dream of owning their own salon has come true. Rock*Paper*Scissors Salon is now open for business at 7419 Chapman Highway in the same shopping center as The Chop House.

Rock*Paper*Scissors is not your grandmother's hair salon. Sure, Ballantine and Lyons are glad to have customers of all ages, but this place doesn't have a grandma or a shopping mall vibe. Step inside Rock*Paper*Scissors and you will feel like you've been transported to Soho in New York or Little Five Points in Atlanta. There is definitely an urban motif going on up in there and you will love it! This is especially true if you want your hair done by folks who are on the cutting edge of fashion. These girls are definitely in the know and they have definitely got skills. So do their employees Donna Walker and Joy Parks. "It's the only place I'll come to get my hair cut," said Jennifer Williamson. "I follow Tabatha wherever she goes. She's been doing my hair for years."

They offer the usual services: Adult cuts-\$15 Kids and Seniors-12 *Shampoo included free with all cuts Bang Trim-\$5 Beard Trim-\$5 Color and Perms- Start at \$50 *cuts only \$10 with chemical service Shampoo-\$3 Blow-dry-\$3 Eyebrow wax-\$10 Chin or lip wax-\$5 Shampoo



PHOTO BY SARAH BAKER.

Owners of Rock*Paper*Scissors, Tabatha Lyon and Emily Ballantine.

style-\$15. Still, this is not your usual salon. See for yourself.

Another thing you'll love about Rock*Paper*Scissors is that you'll be treated like a friend. Feel free to bring your kids with you. Each of these fine ladies has three kids of her own and they understand the need to feel comfortable bringing your kids in with you. Rebecca Ellis has just started getting her hair done there, but she was inspired by Emily's hair and went on and on about how friendly all the ladies are. She said she felt comfortable bringing her kids and explaining to Emily what she wanted.

I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention that they only use organic hair care and color products. All their products are 100% vegan. Ballantine explained that means that your color will last longer and that you won't have to endure that horrible smell during the process. Did I mention they have the widest range of hair color I have ever seen? You need to get yourself over to Chapman Highway and check this place out. For more information visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/RockPaperScissors-salon.

SEE LITTLE BELLA BOUTIQUE ON PAGE 2

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PHOTO BY SARAH BAKER

Samantha Miller of Little Bella Boutique with her daughters, Kayelei and Olivia.



By Sarah Baker
bakers@knoxfocus.com

Little Bella Boutique is now open in Powell. This place is really something special. Owner Samantha Miller is more than meets the eye and so is her boutique. She and her husband Doug live in Powell with their three kids: Kayelei, Tyeler, and Olivia. When Olivia, nicknamed Bella, was a baby, Miller started designing and making her clothes. She realized she had a knack for it and started selling them online. Next thing she knew she was selling so many she had to hire other people to help her make them. Then she had to get a manufacturer. Currently Samantha Miller's clothing line, Lil Miss Muffin, is sold in 40 to 50 boutiques across the country.

Now this gorgeous designer/entrepreneur has opened a boutique in Powell. Lucky for us! Miller's designs may be the piece de' resistance in her boutique, but they are not all you will find. Miller seems to have a classic artist's eye and she is not only good at designing interesting pieces, but she is obviously good at selecting them. Many goods you will find at Little Bella Boutique are created locally. Corrina's Closet is one other local designer Little Bella carries. Another is D. Wallace, a local artisan who combines antique jewelry with modern metals to make one of a kind jewelry.

Don't get Little Bella Boutique confused with one of those places that sells pageant dresses. They have a few formal dresses that would be appropriate for a pageant, but most of the outfits have a more timeless or artsy feeling. The outfits are girly and unique but not pretentious. The store itself is sweet and cozy. While you're picking out precious and distinctive outfits for your favorite little girl, you may find a few things for yourself. The boutique has ladies boots and accessories that are really cool too. Miller also carries a few classic little boys' clothes and some hand-painted furniture that she painted herself. Is there anything this woman can't do? You're going to love her handiwork!

Little Bella Boutique has been open since Monday the 13th, but the grand opening is Thursday, February 23. The first 10 customers will receive 20% off their entire purchase. The second will receive 15% off, and the rest of the day customers will receive 10% off their entire purchase. They are located about a quarter of a mile from the Emory Road exit across from the air strip. This is the perfect time and the perfect place to start your Easter shopping. I can't think of a better place in the Knoxville area to buy the perfect Easter dress. Happy shopping!

McNabb Center to honor local businessman

Annual Spirit Award Dinner to honor Will J. Pugh and the late Henrietta Pugh

The annual Helen Ross McNabb Center Spirit Award Dinner will honor Will J. Pugh and his late wife, Henrietta, for their extraordinary involvement and contributions to their community on Tuesday, March 6.

The special evening will take place at the Knoxville Convention Center with Will's friend, UT President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson, serving as Master of Ceremonies.

Throughout his career and as Chairman of Pugh & Company, Will has worked tirelessly to advance his profession and invest in its future generations. Alongside Henrietta, he has enriched his community through philanthropy and community service. Will's

involvement with the Helen Ross McNabb Center and Foundation boards of directors helped raise millions of dollars so that the Center could better serve the community. He was also instrumental in the conception of the Center's current administrative offices and adult services building in North Knoxville. His knack for identifying key connections – on and off the books – has resulted in profitable relationships for his business, profession and community. Bill and Henrietta's skills and passions have tremendously impacted East Tennessee by creating opportunities that improve lives.

The Spirit Award Dinner began in 2004 to recognize individuals who have

supported the efforts of the Helen Ross McNabb Center and have worked selflessly to improve their community as a whole. For tickets or more information, please contact Beth Farrow at 865-329-9030 or Beth.Farrow@mcnabb.org.

Sponsors of the evening include Pugh & Company, Jim & Natalie Haslam, AT&T, Cherokee Distributing Company, Hank & Sandy Bertelkamp, Home Federal Bank, Dr. and Mrs. Joe Johnson, Stowers Machinery, Proffitt and Goodson and White Realty.

Since 1948, the Helen Ross McNabb Center has provided compassionate and quality mental health care services. Over the years the Center has grown into a regional not-for-profit, integrated system of care providing mental health care, addiction and co-occurring treatment, and recovery and social

services for nearly 11,000 children, adults and families. As we begin our 64th year of providing services

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Tennessee's Forgotten Senator

Tom Stewart

Part 2

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

After having served as District Attorney for sixteen years, Tom Stewart was drawn into one of the fiercest political wars in Tennessee's often-tempestuous history. Governor Gordon Browning had incited open warfare inside Tennessee's Democratic Party with his brazen assault on the Shelby County political machine headed by E. H. Crump. Browning had never been close to Crump's political partner and ally, Tennessee's senior United States Senator Kenneth D. McKellar. McKellar disliked Browning and had helped to feed Crump's distrust of the governor at every opportunity. With the death of the junior U. S. Senator from Tennessee, Nathan L. Bachman, just three months into a new term of office, Browning had the right to appoint a successor. There was no lack of interest in the Senate vacancy with several Volunteer State Congressmen expressing some desire to move up; Sam D. McReynolds of Chattanooga and Fourth District Congressman John Ridley Mitchell were both eager for promotion. Former Governor A. H. Roberts actually made a formal application to Browning to replace Bachman. The most formidable possible appointee was Cordell Hull, Secretary of State in the Administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Hull had been plucked from the United States Senate by FDR to become Secretary of State, but the taciturn Tennessean was reportedly unhappy at the State Department. Roosevelt preferred being his own Secretary of State and Hull found plenty to resent in FDR's cavalier attitude. There were rumors circulating in both Washington, D. C. and Tennessee that Hull would welcome a return to the Senate.

Governor Browning was able to bask in the reflected glory of the immensely popular Franklin Delano Roosevelt when he was invited to the White House to discuss the Senate vacancy. FDR later claimed he didn't intend to tell Browning whom to appoint, but rather who not to appoint. President Roosevelt didn't relish the idea of losing Cordell Hull as Secretary of State. The crafty old Tennessean might resent largely being ignored by FDR, but Hull commanded enormous respect, especially from the Congress. With a strong isolationist sentiment in the Congress as war was brewing in Europe and the increasing aggression by the Japanese Empire in Asia and that of German dictator Adolf Hitler in Europe, Roosevelt was fully aware of just how important Hull's personal prestige was to his foreign policy.

Only Gordon Browning and Franklin Roosevelt knew what was discussed between them and neither apparently made any record of their conversation, but when the governor returned to Tennessee, he did not offer a Senate appointment to Cordell Hull. Instead, Browning made a rather unusual selection, choosing George L. Berry of Rogersville to serve as Tennessee's new junior senator. Despite having been deeply involved in national and Tennessee Democratic Party politics for many years, Berry was a curious choice for such a prestigious assignment. Berry was the longtime President of the International Pressmen's Union and Tennesseans had never been especially fond of labor leaders. Berry had come within a few votes of winning the vice presidential nomination in 1924, a fact he never hesitated to repeat on every possible occasion. Berry had again received a handful of votes for the vice presidential nomination in 1928 and had even been endorsed by the powerful publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst. Hearst, who published twenty-four newspapers and eleven magazines at a time before the advent of television, was not one to be ignored.

Berry held several lesser offices under the auspices of FDR's New Deal, serving on the National Labor Relations Board and had been very active in raising huge sums of cash for Roosevelt's 1936 reelection campaign, much of which came from labor sources.

George L. Berry had frequently been mentioned for high office in Tennessee; in fact, it seemed a regular feature of quite nearly every election cycle Berry was rumored to be a candidate for either governor or the U. S. Senate. Despite the continual discussion of a prospective Berry candidacy every election year, his strength with the voters was unknown, as he had never been elected to any office outside his own union. Berry also had the disadvantage of coming from heavily Republican East Tennessee, which was hardly helpful in a statewide Democratic primary. Perhaps the most significant political liability for George L. Berry was his continuing feud with the Tennessee Valley Authority, an agency not surprisingly revered by most Tennesseans. In addition to being the President of the International Pressman's Union, Berry owned several successful business enterprises, which included the Rogersville Review newspaper and a bank. Berry also personally owned the largest color label printing plant in the United States, as well as a 30,000-acre farm, the largest in the Southeast. Berry's dispute with the Tennessee Valley Authority involved his having secured the mineral rights for thousands of acres in Tennessee, which had subsequently been flooded by the TVA. Berry insisted the marble deposits and other mineral rights were worth millions, a claim hotly disputed by the TVA leadership. Dr. Arthur Morgan, Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority,



PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Senator Tom Stewart

thought Berry's claims were not only preposterous, but also criminal. Morgan darkly suggested Berry should be prosecuted for making unwarranted claims against the TVA. Berry's fight with the Tennessee Valley Authority had not yet reached its zenith when Governor Gordon Browning appointed him to the United States Senate on May 7, 1937, but the growing publicity about Berry's claims against TVA would further weaken his chances for winning reelection.

Immediately following his appointment by Governor Browning, Berry chose Browning's older brother F. L. to serve as a his Secretary, or Chief of Staff, and promptly departed for Washington, D. C.

Unlike the expansive George L. Berry, Tom Stewart was an unassuming and a genuinely kindly man. A very good trial lawyer, Stewart was a family man, an avid bird hunter, a strong Methodist, and loved baseball. Stewart was from strongly Democratic Middle Tennessee and had been a firm supporter of Senator K. D. McKellar. It was McKellar who urged Stewart to run for the United States Senate and the senator induced E. H. Crump to offer his own support. The McKellar - Crump combine soon lined up behind Stewart's candidacy.

The Tennessee Senate race was rounded out by the entry of Congressman J. Ridley Mitchell of Cookeville. Mitchell had been secretary to Congressman C. E. Snodgrass before graduating from the Cumberland School of Law in 1903. Mitchell had lived in Crossville before moving to Cookeville to commence the practice of law. Mitchell moved up the ranks of the Democratic Party, becoming Attorney General for the Fifth Circuit and later was elected a Judge of the same Circuit

Court. Mitchell was first elected to Congress in 1930, making an impressive showing in his first Congressional campaign. Two years later when Tennessee lost a Congressional seat after redistricting, Mitchell, a freshman legislator, was put into the same district as veteran Congressman Ewin L. Davis. Davis had first been elected to Congress in 1918 and reelected every two years since that time. Each man carried the old parts of his particular Congressional district, with Mitchell getting bigger majorities in those areas he had represented, allowing him to defeat his better-known colleague. It was an impressive showing and clearly J. Ridley Mitchell possessed considerable political skills. Following his defeat in the 1932 Democratic primary, Congressman Ewin L. Davis was consoled with an appointment to the Federal Trade Commission, an appointment made by President Roosevelt at the urging of Senator McKellar. Davis remained on the Federal Trade Commission

until his death in 1949.

Albert Gore, Sr. succeeded J. Ridley Mitchell as the Congressman from the Fourth District and Gore puckishly described Mitchell as the sort of politician who could promise every constituent a new post office and still make one happy when the promised post office was never built.

Mitchell's most notable moment in Congress came in 1935 when he made a motion to eliminate the mileage allowance paid to Congressmen. Mitchell's motion was roundly defeated in a voice vote by his colleagues. Mitchell had also proposed a motion to forbid members of Congress to hire kinfolk, which met a similar fate. Mitchell surely knew his motions had no chance of passage, but the publicity he garnered from his efforts certainly kept him popular at home, which was his objective in the first place.

With Berry being the appointee of Governor Browning, the new senator

could expect the support of the state machine. Tom Stewart clearly had the support of the McKellar - Crump axis, while Ridley Mitchell did not enjoy the support of any particular machine. Mitchell likely thought his opportunity to win the senatorial nomination would come from those Tennesseans tired of both sides.

Senator Berry clearly enjoyed serving in the Senate and announced he would be a candidate to succeed himself. Berry had not been in Washington long before he ran afoul of his senior colleague, K. D. McKellar. Berry had suggested to Senator McKellar a division of the Federal patronage in Tennessee, which was enormous due to the ever-expanding largesse of Roosevelt's New Deal. McKellar, one of the more senior members of the United States Senate, already controlled virtually all such patronage and shortly notified his new colleague he could not agree to Berry's proposal. Berry rapidly undermined his own position with the President Roosevelt himself. Berry had been appointed as the Senate was considering FDR's extremely controversial proposal to enlarge the United States Supreme Court and had been expected to be a certain vote in support of Roosevelt. Berry, although inside the Senate chamber at the time of the roll call, failed to vote at all, a fact Senator McKellar delighted in promptly sharing with a very angry FDR. McKellar, who had loyally supported the President, had shrewdly taken advantage of Berry's mistake to actually solidify his control over Federal patronage in Tennessee. Berry repeatedly demonstrated he was inept in the area of appointments and patronage at a time when many Tennesseans were dependent upon the Federal government. Berry made needless enemies in many instances, while McKellar added to his legion of followers and friends as he easily outmaneuvered his junior colleague at every turn.

The cast of colorful characters was set for one of the hardest fought campaigns Tennessee had ever seen.

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From State Representative Harry Brooks

After lengthy discussion on the House floor, House Bill 2638 (commonly called "Occupy Nashville") passed on a vote of 70 to 26. This bill prevents people from living on publicly owned property that is not designated for residential use. Those bringing the bill were careful to emphasize that the bill does not infringe on anyone's rights to protest or demonstrate any cause. But, since October, tents, stoves, chairs, and other camping equipment were set up on the Legislative Plaza of the War Memorial Building, and protesters were living there on a 24 hour basis.

It was pointed out that there had been many problems, ranging from brawls and lewd acts to general desecration of the area, causing non-protesters, as well as legislative employees, to avoid the area altogether. As of this morning there are still a good number of tents in place, but it does appear that some have been removed. Hopefully this legislation will solve the issue.

We received some great news for the state of Tennessee concerning the state's financial situation. On February 15, the state sold \$449,070,000 of General Obligation Refunding Bonds. The goal of this refinancing was to achieve debt service savings over the life of the debt equal to 4% of the present value of the refunded bonds. The State surpassed this goal, actually achieving 7.46% present value savings totaling \$34,031,900. The savings will be realized by the state over the life of the bonds that were refunded. Any time we can save the state millions of dollars, it is good news.

I continue to receive responses to the questions I asked in previous articles, and I greatly appreciate those. Those that regard local or federal issues, I refer to the proper agency. Last week I asked about the greatest educational issue, and overwhelmingly, the response had to do with the Governor's proposal regarding class size. Most people opined that there was a direct correlation between class size and student performance. Due to many concerns that the Governor has heard, he decided not to pursue the change this year. He is really committed to doing the right thing, and I think he will spend this next year talking to those involved as he works to consider the best policy for all concerned.

Another educational bill, which I have introduced, requires the State Board of Education to allow a rule permitting the length of the school term to be calculated by instructional hours as well as the current number of instructional days. Tennessee, like a majority of states, requires 180 days of instruction each academic year. At least seven states, though, require a minimum number of instructional hours, not days. And a few states offer school districts the option of meeting the minimum number of instructional days OR hours. By creating this option, a district could evaluate its goals, resources, and communities to ensure that the students are receiving the best possible education. This change would provide flexibility to districts and create opportunities to provide additional instructional services through potential savings with operational costs.

Different representatives perceive their role in the Legislature differently. Personally I feel my greatest responsibility is to care for the needs of my constituents. To that end, I work hard to try to solve problems that a constituent might have. It is here that I receive the greatest satisfaction. By the time someone comes to me with a problem, they have exhausted other sources and look to me as a last resort to help them. I will try my hardest, but unfortunately some problems are beyond my scope of ability. To this end, the question I have for you this week is "How can I best serve you?" Along that same line, "What do you feel is the most important role of a Representative?" I look forward to hearing from you. It is both an honor and a privilege to be your representative.

If you would like to receive updates by e-mail, you can sign up at <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/lyris/h19s.html>.

In Perspective

Cont. from page 1

3.) They thought 'outside the box.' Not every idea formed by the group was an earth shattering success and some of them never even got off of the ground, however, through continued communication and trial-and-error, the group was able to develop what would eventually become known as the Urban Wilderness Arts and Trade District.

4.) They solicited the support of their elected officials. From www.southknoxisopen.com to the recent Cash Mob at Emory's 5&10, this community vocalized the challenges they faced and were able to engage everyone from Vice Mayor of the City of Knoxville Nick Pavlis, who represents the district on City Council, to Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. These leaders were able to use their influence to affect dramatic change.

5.) They remained consistent and continue to do so. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. The South Knoxville community is notorious, if not occasionally infamous, for its tenacity. This resilient spirit continues to serve them well during this challenging time as they continue to develop, brand, and promote one of the most unique areas of the City of Knoxville.

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UT athletics taking a turn for the better

I was erasing some text messages from my cell phone's outbox recently when I ran across one that had I sent to my daughter, who lives in London, England, about this time four years ago.

The text read: "Headline on sports page: Vols on Rocky Top"

I was so happy, I still remember sending that message and where I was when I sent it. I just had to share the historical moment.

If you haven't guessed, the message was in reference to Tennessee's 66-62 win at Memphis on Feb. 23, 2008. Memphis came into the game ranked as the No. 1 college basketball team in the nation and the Vols No. 2. It marked the first time since 1991 a road team had won in a battle of No. 1 vs. No. 2.

The victory vaulted UT to No. 1 in the national rankings for the first time ever.

Pulling up that text message

got me to thinking what a special time that was in UT athletics. When you consider the university's five highest profile sports as a whole – football, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball – it was among the best of times in school history.

Bruce Pearl's team went on to capture the SEC regular season championship for Tennessee's first title since 1967, won a school-record 31 games and reached the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA tournament.

Pat Summitt's Lady Vols were on their way to repeating as national champions.

What a basketball season for UT fans!

Tennessee football, under Philip Fulmer's direction, had just won the SEC East before losing to eventual national champion LSU 21-14 in the conference title game, and finished 10-4 with its Outback Bowl win over Wisconsin.

Monica Abbott had put Tennessee on the national softball map the year before. After finishing second in the 2007 College World Series, the Lady Vols were moving into their new

home, Sherri Parker Lee Stadium, ranked No. 6 nationally.

Baseball, well, we won't go there.

Still, overall, a very successful period in Big Orange athletics. Particularly if you were to consider what was lurking around the corner.

I'm not going to rehash the bad news. If you're a UT fan, you know what's happened over the past four years. You have suffered enough.

For the record, athletic department members who were with us in February of 2008 but are now elsewhere include Fulmer, Pearl, baseball skipper Todd Raleigh and AD Mike Hamilton. (Lane Kiffin wasn't here long enough to qualify for this list, but if the movie "Tough Times in Tennessee" is ever made, Lane will have a part.)

I have a feeling good times are ahead for UT athletics.

Skinning the Gators in Gainesville the way Cuonzo Martin's Vols did Feb. 11 and the Lady Vols' 91-54 romp past Kentucky two nights later were very encouraging signs for basketball fans.

At first, I thought Bruce must

have left behind the recipe for beating Florida and Cuonzo found it and used it. But that's not what happened. Coach Martin doesn't use gimmicks. His formula is defense and toughness. Some are saying it's the style of play that will take a team deep into the post-season.

I hope it wasn't just a red-hot shooting night that propelled the Tennessee women to their impressive win over Kentucky. I hope it was more about pride in the program and the name on the front of the jersey.

Dave Serrano has a coaching resume that excites Vol baseball fans. He is one of only 11 coaches who have guided two different programs (Cal Irvine and Fullerton) to the College World Series. Serrano made his first trip to Omaha as a UT assistant in 1995. In a preseason poll, Tennessee was picked to finish last in the SEC. I have a feeling such a forecast will light a fire under this team.

The Lady Vols' softball team already has a big-time win in the books, having beaten defending national champion and pre-season No. 1 Arizona State 3-0

to move up to No. 7 in the national rankings.

As for football, next season has the potential for a lot of excitement, particularly on the offensive side of the ball. A big-time passing attack was revved up even more on National Signing Day, with the addition of several standout receivers, including the nation's top junior college prospect. Quarterback Tyler Bray and offensive coordinator Jim Chaney have to be licking their chops.

This could be a make-or-break season for head coach Derek Dooley, who is in his third year at UT. Dooley appears to have done a good job rebuilding his coaching staff since the end of last season. Sal Sunseri, plucked from Alabama, is the new defensive coordinator.

If Dooley's Vols beat North Carolina State in the season opener at the Georgia Dome and topple Florida in the home opener, expect victory-starved UT fans to tear down a goalpost.

I'm looking forward to sending my daughter a text message about it.

Special bond keeps Lady Spartans rolling

Cont. from page 1

she still wanted to help her team anyway she could.

Fellow senior starters Kelsey Brown, Jane Romano and Anna Hurdle began picking up the pieces. Brown is a 5-7 point guard/wing, Romano a 5-8 post/wing and Hurdle a 5-7 wing.

Other starters are standout freshman point guard Molly Melton and 5-10 sophomore post Madison Davis.

Sophomore wing Imani Smith, junior post/wing Kelly Vittitoe and freshman wing Katie Collier have contributed significantly.

"When you face adversity it really shows the character of your team and who you really are," said Coach Collier. "Your best player, your best leader goes out, and now you've got two choices.

"They (teammates) have a huge amount of respect for Marjorie and she cares very much for them and wants to do good by them as well, as a leader from the sideline.

"But they have something to prove. They have something to give. They can play the game. I've been real pleased and real proud of how they have responded to adversity and pulled together.

"As a coach, you hope your team is close. That doesn't (just) happen.



Freshman point guard Molly Melton has stepped up big in Marjorie Butler's absence on the court this season.

You can't make that happen. But this team has a special bond. And they've pulled together for each other and for Marjorie. We've had a good season."

Collier, a former UT Lady Vol, is in her 14th season as head coach at Webb. Two of her teams (2007 and 2009) captured state championships and two (2008 and 2011) were

state runners-up.

How this season ends remains to be seen. But, if nothing else, the 2011-12 Lady Spartans have already won their coach's respect and admiration.

Some Vols fans need a wake-up call

Cont. from page 1

can't spell "Traitor" without "T(ee)".

@Young_Slade @Tee Martin17 Did you know you were Trending? I hope its not cus you joined that bastard Kiffin. Not only is that betraying UK but also UT.

@Red_Doe @TeeMartin17 I don't like you anymore.

Those are just a sampling. Those folks are not the majority, but as the minority, they certainly weren't silent.

The problem is this... and this is where these so-called fans need a reality check. Exactly when has Tee Martin turned his back on the University of Tennessee? He has maintained his connection with the University since he played his final game for the Vols.

Martin has spoken highly of UT in the past, and has expressed a desire to one day return to Knoxville.

This off-season Tennessee had a coaching staff in turmoil, with six assistant coaches leaving the program. With the "retirement," or "resignation" or "firing" or "whatever you want to call it" of UT receivers coach Charlie Baggett, there was an opening for Martin to finally make that return to Tennessee a reality.

Instead, Vols head coach Derek Dooley moved Darin Hinshaw from quarterbacks coach to receivers coach. Hinshaw, like Martin, is a

very good recruiter, and one that has made a difference on Signing Day the past couple of years.

By all accounts, Martin was never given serious consideration by Dooley for a spot on his coaching staff.

If that is the case, how can Martin be a... well... what did @cnoah22 say again? That's right... #traitor.

Remember when former Maryville high school basketball standout Lee Humphrey was offered a scholarship by University of Florida coach Billy Donovan? Tennessee coach Buzz Peterson told Humphrey he could be a walk-on player for the Vols.

Humphrey passed, took the Florida scholarship, won two national championships, and become the NCAA tournament's all-time leading three-point shooter.

But still, some Vols fans took to the airwaves (this was pre-twitter) to say some unflattering things about Humphrey, a fairly quiet kid that is involved in his community, and committed to his faith.

Humphrey, like Martin, simply wasn't wanted by Tennessee. So there is no reason any sane individual can begrudge them for making the most out of their situations.

Look, people are passionate about the Vols. And the past few years have been especially rough for the UT fan base.

And there is a really good chance that if Martin took a job anywhere else in the country except for Southern Cal, this wouldn't be as big of a deal.

That being said... let's recap what Tee Martin did for the University of Tennessee.

In 1998, he led the Vols to their first consensus National Championship in 47 years. He was a four-year letterman, an All-SEC first team player, had a 22-3 record as a starter, and never lost a game inside Neyland Stadium.

If nothing else, shouldn't that paragraph keep even the most absurd Tennessee fans from embarrassing themselves?

Down the Lane

WEEKLY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR TUESDAY, CLUB 55, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--MALE

257 GENE ALLMON

246 GARY WILSON

228 JOHN FISHER

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE

639 GARY WILSON

585 GENE ALLMON

583 ED BEATTY

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--FEMALE

183 LINDA WORTH

181 LORETTA HARRINGTON

172 SHERRY VAN METER

172 MARY MATLOCK

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALE THURSDAY NO-TAP:

505 MARY MATLOCK

501 LINDA WORTH

476 MARIA MILLS

WEDNESDAY CLUB 55:

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--MALE

269 GENE ALLMON

267 BARRY MCGILL

257 BILL BYRGE

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE

686 GENE ALLMON

647 ED BEATTY

635 BILL BYRGE

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--FEMALE

220 KATHY CATE

200 BARBARA GRUBB

196 CAROLYN MCGILL

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALE

524 KATHY CATE

498 CAROLYN MCGILL

496 MARGARET MYERS

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--MALE

300 BILL BYRGE

300 BILLY MAJORS

287 J.C.PILANT

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--MALE

867 BILLY MAJORS

768 J.C. PILANT

752 BILL BYRGE

HIGH GAME SCRATCH--FEMALE

297 KIMBERLY OWENS

243 BETTY PHILLIPS

234 MARIA MILLS

HIGH SERIES SCRATCH--FEMALEAE

726 KIMBERLY OWENS

622 BETTY PHILLIPS

584 BEULAH ARMETTA

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Picture (Left to Right): Knoxville Falcons Football Commissioner Larry Cox; Buck Coatney holding plaque; Buck's wife Tern; Falcons Board Member and Emerald Youth Foundation Executive Director Steve Diggs; and Falcons Coach Tony Kyle.

Buck Coatney Recognized

The Knoxville Falcons Youth Athletics honored Buck Coatney, former Fulton High School Football Coach, at their Homecoming Bowl for his service to the Fulton Community and their organization. Buck was the Head Football Coach at Fulton from 1993-2010 and guided the Falcons to three State Football Championships in 2003, 2004, and 2006 and State Runner-ups in 2002 and 2007. He grew up in the Fulton Community playing for the Baby Falcons, Christenberrv Junior High School, and the Fulton Falcons where he made All State his senior year. After graduation from Fulton in 1980 he played football at Furman University where he made All Southern Conference and All American Honorable Mention his senior year. He was saluted for his years of hard work and dedication to the Fulton Football Program and the young lives he touched along the way.

By Ken Lay

The Central High School baseball team will enter the second phase of rebuilding in 2012.

The Bobcats, who went 6-24 last season and missed the District 3-AAA Tournament for the second consecutive year, will look to return to the postseason.

"We want to play well enough to make the district tournament," said coach Brian Lovett, who will begin his second season after inheriting a squad that went 0-34 in 2010. "If we do that, we can continue to move forward."

"We want to keep this thing going in the right direction. The guys are working hard for me."

The 'Cats, who open the campaign against the Knoxville Ambassadors at Inskip Park on March 12, return five key players from last year's squad. Four of the top returners can pitch.

"One of our strengths is our experienced pitchers," Lovett said.

Top returners, according to the coach, include seniors Garrett Beard (pitcher/infielder), Ian Morris (pitcher/infielder); Brandon McFarlane (outfielder). Junior Tyler Jones returns and is a pitcher and utility player. Sophomore Dalton Searcy is back and he'll pitch, catch and play in the infield.

Lovett noted that Beard and Morris will compete for the No. 1 starting pitching spot on the Bobcats' staff.

"Garrett will have the chance and go out there and earn it," Lovett said. "Morris had a better year last year. Both of them will eat up a lot of innings for us this year."

"Our pitchers can play in the infield and they'll all get the chance to do that."

Central must replace seven seniors and some underclassmen who left the program.

"I look for us to struggle early because we lost about 10 guys,"

said Lovett, who returned to his alma mater after a stint as an assistant coach at Bearden. "A guy is going to have to come out of nowhere for us this year because we're going to have some new faces on the field. Our lineup may be different in each of our first few games."

Key newcomers for the Bobcats include: Michael Benusch (sophomore, infielder/pitcher); Brandon Turner (junior, infielder); Skyler Keener (junior, infielder/pitcher); Hunter Hatcher (sophomore, catcher/infielder) and Brian Daigmeault (sophomore, outfielder).

The 'Cats may be young but Lovett has been pleased with what he's seen both on and off the field.

"We're a close-knit group and our team GPA for the first semester was 2.99," he said. "They're working hard in the classroom and they're doing what it takes to get better."

West High aims for Murfreesboro

Cont. from page 1

the State," Rebels senior point guard Osmond Robinson said after the top-seeded Rebels routed the Panthers Friday night before a packed house at Bearden High School. "I remember last year and I remember going to State and losing."

"I remember how that felt. We want to go back to State and finish."

West, one of the top teams in Knox County, certainly had no problems finishing the semifinal game Friday night. The Rebels had three players post double figures in the scoring column. Senior forward Carson Brooks led the way with 29 points. All-District forward JayJuan Mitchell (a star wide receiver on coach Scott Cummings' football team that has also enjoyed

its share of success over the past two seasons) added 19 points while District 4-AAA Most Valuable Player Calvin Walker finished with 10 points.

"This is a special group of athletes and this is the first group of seniors that I've had for four years," said Kesler, the 2011-12 District 4-AAA Coach of the Year, who previously coached the Lady Rebels.

West, which dethroned longtime district power and rival Bearden as district regular-season champion this season, will get its chance to capture a tournament title Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Bearden. The Rebels will have a tough test against Maryville. But as the top-seed, West will be a slight favorite in a battle of Rebels. Maryville, a 58-51 winner

over Farragut in Friday's other semifinal, handed the Rebels one of their losses this season.

Kesler said the role of the hunted is different than being an underdog.

"We just have to remember how important it is to do the little things," he said. "We can do the big things. We just have to do the little things and that what we preach as a

(coaching) staff.

"It's different (being the favorite) but this group of seniors has been in our program since they were freshmen and they understand what we're looking for and they know what we expect."

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Arts & Entertainment



Above, Host Griffin Saunders thanks Dylan Holland for his performance as Jimmy James Hunter tunes up. Below, Dylan Holland.

Having a ‘hoot’ in Nashville

When I first started covering “Nashville Hootenanny” it was held in a small studio with about 50 people in attendance. On Saturday, February 11th, 2012 “Hoot” turned one year old. The show was billed “Teen Hoot” because of the focus on young talent. The event sold out a day in advance with over 1500 people buying tickets. The live online video telecast was watched by over 10,300 unique viewers. The “Hoot” has become so successful that the next event will be held in

summer and will be a two day festival. More important than the raw statistics is the personal impact Hoot has made on the performing artists.

“Hoote-nanny is

the modern day 'Grand Ole Opry' for the new generation of young musicians trying to reach a broad audience," stated Dylan Holland, a musician who was performing at Hoot for the fourth time. Mr. Holland went on to explain how the Hoot Youtube competition that he had won has grown into a global competition with hundreds of applicants all vying for a spot on the Hoot stage.

Mr. Holland has recently been assigned to a record label. While on stage performing that night, Mr. Holland took a brief moment to soak just how far Hoot has come. A humbled Mr. Holland looked into the crowd of 1500 people and reflected on how when he started performing at Hoot the crowd had about 50 people total. He spoke about how Hoot has done so much for his career.

Also in attendance backstage was Country singer Jordyn Mallory who was recently on American Idol. After getting three yes votes in the San Diego audition, she competed on Hollywood Week reaching the final top 100 before ending her run. A very impressive accomplishment.

considering approximately 100,000 people tried out.

In an interesting way, things had gone full circle that night. It was Ms. Mallory who first introduced me to Hootenanny while in its infancy. I met Ms. Mallory at the Country Music Association Festival and wrote a feature profile on her back in June 2011. When I asked her for advice on where to find talented undiscovered artists, Ms. Mallory told me about Hoot. Ms. Mallory's career, as I had predicted, has continued to steadily progress.

During the show I spoke with Ms. Mallory and she mentioned how she loved playing Hoot. I said to her that she "had graduated from Hoot." She asked me what I meant and I told her that by getting so far on American Idol and by getting significant national TV air-time she has made it to the next level by breaking into the mainstream.

With her passion and talent, I am positive we will see more big things to come in the future for Ms. Mallory.

At the February Hoot, we saw artists such as the multi-talented Peyton Sanders, Jimmy James Hunter and Austin Mahone. The always impressive Skylar Dayne continues to amaze me in her strong growth as a performer. I highly recommend you check out the amazing vocals of Alyssa Shouse. Payton Rae is an artist who has created a huge following due to her strong depth of talent. Kiya Lacey also did an awesome job as well as others who performed. At the end of the night one thing was abundantly clear, the future of music sounds amazing.

As the talent level continues to grow and former artists take their act to the next level, Hoot continues to grow and climb to new levels also. Many people often ask "what is the future of music?" The simple answer is "www.teenhoot.com." With such an amazing young crop of talent, the future can only get greater.

The overwhelming fan favorites at the February 11 edition of Hootenany were undoubt-



By Stephen Hunley
Guest Correspondent

mostly of girls ages 12-18. The crowd “hooted” (pun intended), hollered, and cheered on the two singers seemingly every five notes they sang. Holland and Mahone seem to have that special combination of looks, style, talent, and charisma that allows them to grab and hold the attention of their audience.

Although Holland and Mahone were the crowd favorites, I couldn't help but be equally impressed by a couple of the other acts. One was Jimmy James Hunter. The raw talent of this young man is phenomenal! He is an excellent guitar player, singer and writer. To me, he has the talent crucially needed to succeed in the music business.

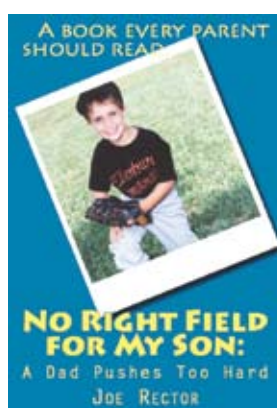
I couldn't help but be impressed by a young man named Peyton Sanders. He had a wonderful stage presence, He interacted with the crowd beautifully, and his delivery was exceptional for a young up and comer. I think you'll hear this young man's name either as a performer or a producer down the line.

Finally there was a young lady by the name of Payton Rae. She was country through and through. She had complete command over the stage and her vocal delivery was spot on. When you watched her, it looked like she had been there before. In other words, she had it together. Payton Rae is another talented young artist to come out of Hootenany that I believe you'll be hearing more out of in the very near future.

Another female artist with a strong future is Alyssa Shouse. With her strong vocals and dynamic range I highly suggest you check her out.

Now on Shelves
By Focus Columnist
Joe Rector

Have you ever seen a parent or coach flip out at a kids' sporting event? If the answer is yes, this is a story for you and every parent whose child participates in organized sports. A dad wants his son to succeed in baseball. To make sure it happens, he pushes, prods and coaches his son from the beginnings of t-ball through his high school career. The son's ambitions aren't as strong (he simply wants to play the game for fun), and the battle of wills strains their father-son relationship and also places tensions on the entire family. The dad knows the sting of not being good enough to play and with the best of intentions mistakenly pressures his son so that he won't experience the same thing. I know this



story is true because I am
that dad

“No Right Field for My Son: A Dad Pushes Too Hard” is now available at:

- Joe Rector Books
(www.joerectorbooks.com)

- Amazon.com
- Createspace

(www.createspace.com/3742912)

- Kindle books (www.amazon.com)

Bringing People Together at the FC Art Center

By Sylvia Williams

If we were asked what one thing makes the Fountain City Art Center so special, so indispensable in the lives of its members, we would have to say that it is all about the people. Some are enrolled in classes, some help plan events, some help enter their artwork in exhibitions, some help open the door, for whatever reason, for whatever warmth are immediately felt, and many frequent visitors, certainly for the art, but

A good example of a recent event that brought people together to have a wonderful time is the annual Valentine's Dinner and Dance. Homemade food, 1950s decorations, live music, and dance pictures took everyone present back in time to high school dances. Some dressed in poodle skirts, some in jeans and leather jackets, and one came as a science "nerd" with the glasses, suspenders, and pocket protector. One couple who attends every year told us how much they looked forward to this dance and said that there was "just something indescribably special and romantic" about the event.

The Art Center is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday for viewing professional quality exhibits. We also have classes in every art media you can think of year round. Five special events like the dinner and dance are held every year. Best of all, you will feel welcome, and you will meet some of the warmest and most enthusiastic people you have ever encountered. Maybe it's a little bit of magic. It is also a little slice of heaven if you can join in the fun!!!

Our next exhibition is an open theme show, "Connections." The reception will be held on Friday, February 24 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. If you would like to enter the show, contact us by email: fcartcenter@knowledge.net or call 357-ARTS.



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The Patient

February is a cold and mean month. And winter is hardest on the weak, like animals in the wild that are injured or sick. Many of them don't make it until spring. Darwinian philosophs call this *natural selection*, and I agree that it is nature's way, even if this seems cruel to us humans.

Punxsutawney Phil apparently saw his shadow recently and his agents predicted six more weeks of winter. I'm dreading the dark and cold weeks ahead, but not because of winter's chill, but because in the last two weeks I've had to tell five patients they have terminal cancer. I don't have the luxury of Phil, the groundhog, who can

scurry back into his hole and wait for the spring.

Relieving a patient's fear is a part of being a doctor, just as is delivering the truth when things look bad. In the thirty-six years that I've practiced medicine it's never gotten any easier. Our science is better, and this affords patients more hope when they develop a catastrophic illness like cancer. Fortunately, for Americans statistics show cancer survival is better than in England, Canada and other places.

We are now engaged in a great debate in our country about what we can afford regarding medical care. In just the last year we've heard arguments that screening

mammograms and prostate blood tests, used to detect early and potentially more treatable cancers, aren't necessary or "cost effective." This term was developed by statisticians with ethicists and policy makers. These experts have come up with a formula called the quality-adjusted life year. The QALY is based on the number of years of life that would be added by an intervention such as a screening test or therapy. This may sound technical, but you will read numbers that say it's not worth the intervention if the expense is more than \$100,000 per year of extended life. Some now argue that cost and politics have begun to influence even the National Institute of Health whose funding comes from the government funds.

I realize that it's dangerous to talk about certain issues like abortion *the mother of all* conundrums, but it's a part of the unwanted pregnancy debate that has again surfaced and can't be ignored. Few would argue that it's best to prevent an unwanted pregnancy,

but now we argue about who should pay for contraception and whether the government infringes on 1st Amendment rights with its mandates. It's obvious that the societal costs of an unwanted pregnancy are huge, even if we ignore the rights of the unborn. In my opinion Bill Clinton may have struck a balance when he said, "Abortion should be not only safe and legal, it should be rare." An abortion to prevent suffering in a baby with a severe birth defect or to save the life of the mother may be justifiable.

The core of the issue is what makes a human, human? We post-moderns believe that the essence of humanness is our ability to reason to an extent that we "wonder as we wander out under the sky." And we Americans say that we believe "All men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

So, when does an unborn child begin to think? I asked a new-

born nurse if she thought her tiny patients think. She said she could see their thoughtfulness in their eyes. Can anyone define that moment when *thinking* begins? Does an elderly lady with a debilitating stroke lose her rational thought and become less human because of a damaged brain? When does a patient with Alzheimer's disease cross over from rational thinking to an animalistic existence and lose his *unalienable Rights*?

These are tough questions which each of us must consider and can't be deferred to bioethicists like Ezekiel Emanuel, the President's advisor on such matters. And our conclusion must be the guiding principles of our actions. I personally believe we must protect the weak and the frail at the extremes of life and humanity, because there are no good definitions for the limits of the wonder we call life.

Today, I will surrender some of my power and become a patient... again. I'll turn my body over to experts and hope they

are kind and have my best interests at heart. I'm thankful that I live in a society that can provide me expert care. And I'm thankful that society affords me a premium value, perhaps because I'm still productive. My concern is for those who might be deemed unimportant and ultimately denied care because they aren't worth the expense.

Do you find this hard to believe? This has happened many times in history so my concerns are valid ones. The philosopher George Santayana once said, "He who doesn't learn from history is doomed to repeat it." We must not.

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.

Actress, AIDS activist Sheryl Lee Ralph to speak

Knoxville Appearance Part of National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

Acclaimed actress and AIDS activist Sheryl Lee Ralph is the keynote speaker at "Sisters Aware: Women of FAITH Respond to HIV" in Knoxville on March 4 from 4-7 pm at the Beck Cultural Exchange Center. Tickets for the event are \$10. Sponsor tickets are \$100. For ticket information call 215-5170 or visit knox-county.org/health for a ticket order form.

Sheryl Lee Ralph is a veteran of film, television and the Broadway stage. Her award-winning work includes the legendary Broadway musical, "Dreamgirls," and the television series "Moesha."

For 30 years Sheryl Lee Ralph has used her celebrity to give voice to those who society would rather not hear from: those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Understanding that silence equals death, Ralph created the DIVA (Divinely Inspired

Victoriously Anointed) Foundation. The organization focuses on generating resources and coordinating activities to create awareness of and combat HIV/AIDS using the arts.

"We need to demonstrate to the world and the public that we have the power to make healthier choices and take charge of our own health care as well as the health of our communities," said Sheryl Lee Ralph.

The Knoxville event is presented by Knox County Health Department and the FAITH Coalition (Faith Based Approaches and Initiatives To help reduce HIV/AIDS). The FAITH Coalition is a local coalition of people of faith concerned about HIV/AIDS whose mission is to create and foster positive community relationships that promote and enhance HIV/AIDS awareness and education through faith-based and other initiatives. The event kicks off local commemoration of the National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.

Because of the stigma



Sheryl Lee Ralph

and silence surrounding HIV/AIDS, many people do not realize that the disease affects people right here in Knoxville. HIV is an illness that they believe will only affect some other group of people. In fact, more than 1,000 Tennesseans from every county in the state become infected each year. More than 25 percent of those

diagnosed with HIV are women and girls. Black women have been particularly hard hit by the disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that black women are 18 times more likely to become infected in their lifetime than white women. AIDS is now the third leading

Continued on page 2

Turkey Creek Medical Center first in Knoxville to perform knee resurfacing procedure

Minimally invasive procedure for early to mid-stage osteoarthritis may provide quicker recovery and more natural feeling knee post-surgery

Turkey Creek Medical Center has performed the very first MAKOplasty® partial knee resurfacing on Veronica Erwin of South Knoxville. MAKOplasty is a minimally invasive treatment option for adults living with early to mid-stage osteoarthritis that has not yet progressed to all three compartments of the knee. The procedure is less invasive than traditional total knee surgery and is performed using RIO®, a highly advanced, surgeon controlled robotic arm system. Turkey Creek Medical Center is the first and only hospital to acquire this technology in Knoxville.

MAKOplasty potentially offers the following benefits as compared to total knee surgery:

- Reduced pain.
- Minimal hospitalization.
- More rapid recovery.
- Less implant wear and loosening.
- Smaller scar.
- Better motion and a more natural feeling knee.

"MAKOplasty allows us to treat patients with knee osteoarthritis at earlier

stages and with greater precision, said Gregory Hoover, MD, board certified orthopedic surgeon with Family Orthopedic Clinic, who performed the first MAKOplasty procedure at Turkey Creek Medical Center. "Because it is less invasive and preserves more of the patient's natural knee, the goal is for patients to have relief from their pain, gain back their knee motion, and return to their daily activities."

Through its innovative use of technology, MAKOplasty takes partial knee resurfacing to a new level of precision.

The RIO® system enables the surgeon to complete a patient specific pre-surgical plan that details the technique for bone preparation and customized implant positioning using a CT scan of the patient's own knee. During the procedure, the system creates a three-dimensional, virtual view of the patient's bone surface and correlates the image to the pre-programmed surgical plan. As the surgeon uses the robotic arm, its tactile, auditory and visual feedback limits the bone preparation to the diseased areas and provides for real time adjustments and

Continued on page 2

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Faith

A Time for Spiritual Focus

By Pastor Laura Rason

I think it's helpful that the season of Lent comes in February which is the time when those new years resolutions start falling by the wayside. Lent can provide another jump start, helping us to re-center ourselves on those things we need to do for our health and well-being. In fact, we will be more likely to succeed if we connect those changes we are seeking to make with our spiritual health and life. Prayer is a lot more powerful than just our will power.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is February 22. Ashes have been used from our earliest religious roots as a sign of repentance and devotion. The sign of the cross placed on our foreheads is a reminder that we need God's grace and mercy.

During this year's Lenten season the members and guests of

Colonial Heights United Methodist Church will have an ample opportunity to deepen their own personal spiritual journey. I will begin a six week study on the "Final Words from the Cross" this will be an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' seven last words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Each week will stand alone, so you can attend a few or as many as you would like too..

Pastor Rason will be using a resource from Adam Hamilton who is the pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas and author of many books including "The Journey, 24 Hours that Change the World, When Christians Get It Wrong and Why? And Making Sense of God's Will.

The Study will begin on Wednesday February

29th and will end April 4th on Holy Wednesday hours will be from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. with dinner starting at 5:45 p.m., a nursery will be provided for all who attend.

Lenten Bible Study Also being offered will be a Bible study group on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. I will use the resource called "Mosaic: When God Uses All the Pieces", by Shane Stanford. This study will examine how the God of the universe uses the broken pieces of our lives to reframe our purpose, turning our discarded hopes and dreams into something beautiful and useful. The study will begin February 20th and goes through April 2nd., 2012.

The season of Lent lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday through Easter. If you count up, you'll find there are actually 47 days. That's

because Sundays are not included. Every Sunday is supposed to be a "Little Easter" when we are renewed by the gift of life and hope rather than focusing on our sin and need for redemption. Of course, 40 days also reminds us of the 40 days of rain in the story of Noah and the flood, the 40 years that the Israelites spent in the wilderness as they made their way to the Promised Land and the 40 days that Jesus spent being tempted by the devil.

The members of Colonial Heights United Methodist Church would like to invite everyone to attend either of the Lenten studies above.

For more information on these and other programs at CHUMC please contact the church office Monday – Thursday from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM or visit our website www.chumcknox.org.

Guiding the blind

Why did Jesus come to this earth? He came due to His love and because He saw that we were lost and in danger.



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

In many respects, we were like a blind person trying to navigate through life and in constant danger of death. This reminds me of a story from "Chicken Soup for the Soul."

"I was driving to a business appointment and, as usual, I was planning in my mind what I was going to say. I came to a very busy intersection where the stoplight had just turned red...My mind and car were on autopilot, ready to go when suddenly my trance was broken by an

unforgettable sight. A young couple, both blind, were walking arm-in-arm across this busy intersection with cars whizzing by in every direction. The man was clutching the hand of a little boy, while the woman was clutching a baby sling to her chest, obviously carrying a child. Each of them had a white cane extended, searching for clues to navigate them across the intersection.

Initially I was moved. They were overcoming what I felt was one of the most feared handicaps – blindness. "Wouldn't it be terrible to be blind?" I thought. My thought was quickly interrupted by horror when I saw that the couple were not walking in the crosswalk, but were instead veering diagonally, directly toward the middle of the intersection. Without realizing the danger they were in, they were walking right smack into the path of oncoming cars. I was frightened for them because I didn't know if the other drivers understood what was happening.

As I watched from the front line of traffic, I saw a miracle unfold before my eyes. Every car in every direction came to a simultaneous stop. I never heard the screech of brakes or even the peep of a car horn. Nobody yelled, "Get out of the way!" Everything froze. In that moment, time seemed to stand still for this family.

Amazed, I looked at the cars around me to verify that we were all seeing the same thing. I noticed that everyone's attention was fixed on the couple. Suddenly the driver to my right reacted. Craning his head out of his car, he yelled, "To your right!" Other people followed in unison, shouting, "To your right!" Never skipping a beat, the couple adjusted their course as they followed the coaching. Trusting their white canes and the calls from some concerned citizens, they made it to the other side of the road... I was taken aback by the emotionless expressions on their faces and judged that they had no idea what was really going on around them. Yet I immediately sensed the sighs of relief by everyone stopped at that intersection... Here were human beings stepping outside of themselves for a moment to help four people in need" (284-285).

We are all blind and headed to certain death. But Jesus came urgently pleading, "Turn to the right!" Daily listen to His voice and turn to Him for salvation.

Church Happenings

Eusebia Presbyterian Church

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m. Create your own custom pancake with toppings delight, sausage, bacon, fruits, drinks and much more. Donations are appreciated and will benefit C.R.O.S.S. www.eusebiachurch.org

KFL Outreach Ministry Presents

The Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon

will meet Tuesday, February 21 at the Golden Corral on Clinton Highway at noon. Becky Booker will be the guest speaker.

South Knoxville Church of God

February 26th at 10:45am we will have a free concert with Justin Terry (formally with Cross4Crowns). Justin just released his first solo CD "Inspired". We invite everyone to

come, invite a friend, and fellowship with us!

The South Knoxville Church of God is located approximately 1 mile off Chapman Highway at 5623 Magazine Road. For further information on upcoming events, church activities, or directions, please call our church office at 573-4141, or visit our website at SKCOG.COM.

Sheryl Lee Ralph to speak

Cont. from page 1

cause of death for African-American women in their 30s and 40s.

Ralph's book "Redefining DIVA" is scheduled for release by Simon & Schuster this March. Autographed copies will be on sale at the event.

No stranger to television, Ralph's credits include "It's a Living," "Designing Women," "ER," and most notably, "Moesha" for which TV Guide named her one of TV's best Mom's and was nominated for seven Image Awards. Sheryl has shared the big screen with some of Hollywood's award-winning leading men with film credits that include "The

Mighty Quinn" with Denzel Washington; "Mistress" with Robert de Niro; "The Distinguished Gentlemen" with Eddie Murphy and "To Sleep With Anger" with fellow AIDS activist, Danny Glover for which Ralph picked up a win for Best Supporting Actress at the Independent Spirit Awards for her critically acclaimed performance.

Gold Sponsors of the event include:

Knox County Health Department, Knoxville College, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Covenant Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Women's Health.,

Silver sponsors include: Helen Ross McNabb, Walgreens, Pilot Corporation, Samaritan Ministries, AME Zion Church, Knoxville District, Smoky Mountain Hospice, and the Beck Cultural Center

Funding for this project was made possible in part by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Women's Health. The views expressed in written materials or publications and by speakers and moderators at HHS co-sponsored conferences, do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; nor does the mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Turkey Creek Medical Center first in Knoxville to perform knee resurfacing procedure

Cont. from page 1

more optimal implant positioning and placement for each individual patient.

"Precision is key in planning and performing partial knee surgeries," said David Hovis, MD, board certified orthopedic surgeon with Hovis Orthopaedic Clinic. "For a good outcome you need to align and position the implants just right. Precision in surgery, and in the pre-operative planning process, is what RIO can deliver, for each individual patient."

The opportunity for

early intervention is important as OA is the most common form of arthritis and a leading cause of disability worldwide, according to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Other board certified orthopedic surgeons that will be performing MAKOplasty at Turkey Creek Medical Center include William Johnson, MD, with Blount Orthopedic Associates,

Thomas Koenig, MD, with Tennessee Valley Orthopedics, Mark MacNaughton, MD, with Family Orthopedic Clinic.

Turkey Creek Medical Center will be sponsoring two free educational seminars on MAKOplasty:

February 15, 2012
Gregory Hoover, MD
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Lunch will be provided

February 22, 2012
David Hovis, MD
5:30 – 7 p.m.
Dinner will be provided

Both seminars will be held at Turkey Creek Medical Center in the Johnson Conference Center, 10820 Parkside Drive.

3rd Annual Honor Emergency Services Personnel Day

In appreciation for all you do to help our community!
SUNDAY, FEB 26 | 10:45 A.M.
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GUEST SPEAKER:
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Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
Bus Ministry -
For transportation call 546-0001.

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

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Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Where Christ is Making a Difference in Our Lives and in Our Community



Michelle Goldsberry, from the Neighborhood Watch of the Knoxville Police Department, was recently the guest speaker at the Fontinalis Club meeting. She emphasized the importance of being alert of one's surroundings when out and about, making your home safe and secure, watching out for con artists, and getting involved in the community.

UT Retail, Hospitality Department to Honor Heartland Series' Bill Landry

Longtime actor, director and producer Bill Landry will be honored on March 31, at the 10th-annual Appalachian Spring gourmet dinner and auction being hosted by the University of Tennessee's Department of Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Management.

The student-led event will be held at 6 p.m. in the ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel downtown. The evening will include a wine-and-beer reception, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and a four-course banquet with wine pairings.

Tickets are now available for

\$150 each. Participants also can sponsor a table and pay \$1,000 for eight tickets. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 12.

Students are seeking auction items and sponsorships that range from \$50 for a "Wall of Thanks" in the program to \$5,000 for one full-page advertisement and two sponsored tables. The deadline for donations to the silent auction and sponsorships is March 1.

UT hospitality students will manage the event from developing the program to designing the menu with the

help of several distinguished local chefs. Retail students will manage the silent auction.

Landry, during his 30-year career, has written and performed in numerous plays around East Tennessee. The Heartland Series, for which he is most known, has aired more than 1,400 short features and about 150 half-hour length historical programs on East Tennessee. Landry has been awarded four Emmy Awards and six Iris Awards from the New York International Film and Television Festival. He also received the Theodore Roosevelt Award for

"Best Outdoor Documentary." Landry recently wrote a book titled "Appalachian Tales and Heartland Adventures," which further explores the beloved stories first showcased in the Heartland Series.

Landry will autograph the book at the dinner. It will be available for purchase.

Money generated from the event will be used for student scholarships, industry trips and internship support.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Ann Fairhurst at 865-974-6614 or fairhurs@utk.edu.

Knox Heritage calls for nominations of most endangered historic places in Knox County

Deadline for 2012 "Fragile Fifteen" Nominations is March 9

Knox Heritage invites the general public to submit nominations of Knoxville's and Knox County's most endangered places or structures to be included in the 2012 Fragile Fifteen. The deadline for nominations is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 9.

Each May during National Preservation Month, Knox

Heritage announces its list of the Fragile Fifteen to educate the public and local leaders about the plight of significant historic resources. The 2012 Fragile Fifteen will be announced on Tuesday, May 15. The list provides a work plan for the non-profit organization for the next twelve months. Preservation strategies

are developed for each site on the list and can include working with current property owners, government officials, citizens and/or potential new owners to preserve these important parts of our community's heritage.

Eligible nominations should include the following information:

- . Street address of the endangered property, and name if applicable
- . Nature of the threat to the property

. 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.)

. Name and contact information for the current property owner (if available)

A nomination form is posted on the Knox Heritage web site and must be used to submit nominations to the 2012 Fragile Fifteen. Completed nomination

forms can be sent to Knox Heritage until Friday, March 11 via the following ways: by mail to: Knox Heritage's Fragile Fifteen, P.O. Box 1242, Knoxville, TN 37901; by email to hcook@knox-heritage.org; or by fax to 865-523-0938.

Knox Heritage advocates for the preservation of places and structures with historic or cultural significance. For more information, visit www.knoxheritage.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1967 Carter High School Reunion

Any 1967 Carter High School graduate who has not been contacted concerning the reunion please contact Mike Harkleroad at 865-933-3775 or at mike-harkleroad@att.net.

Basketball Tournament

Boys and Girls 9U through 13U AAU and Youth teams. Call 865-686-8284

Fountain City Easter Egg Hunt

This year's event will be

Saturday, March 31 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Fountain City Park. Volunteers and vendors are to arrive at 8:00 a.m. The Fountain City Business and Professional Association still has a great need for volunteers to help work this event. Volunteers or vendors interested in participating can e-mail Beth Wade at info@fountaincitybusiness.com.

Halls Business and Professionals meeting

Halls BPA will meet Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at

Beaver Brook Country Club at noon.

Lunch will be offered by Beaver Brook for \$10 per person, payable at the door.

Our speakers this month will offer a glimpse into a couple of upcoming Knox County election races. First will be the candidates vying for the office of Knox County Law Director. They are incumbent Joe Jarrett and challenger Bud Armstrong. Additionally, the gentlemen running for the office of Knox

County Property Assessor, Phil Ballard and John Whitehead, will be sharing insights about their race as well.

The Chairs of the B & P's various committees will tell us what they are up to and any volunteer opportunities that they might have in the future.

Halls Republican Club

The next Halls Republican Club meeting will be Monday night, February 20, 2012, at QQ Pizza (formerly Mandarin House)

at 6:15 p.m. if you plan to dine or 7:00 p.m. for the meeting. The guest speaker will be Tom Walker from the Knox County Sheriff's Office, who will be speaking on gang activity in the area.

KMA Showing of "The Last Mountain"

The local group of the Sierra Club in conjunction with United Mountain Defence, and Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM) are sponsoring the showing of "The Last Mountain" at the Knoxville Museum of Art on Sunday, March 18 at 2 p.m. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. Admission is Free for the movie and to the KMA that day.

Knoxville Writers' Group

The Knoxville Writers' Group meets Wednesday, February 22, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Naples Italian

Restaurant, 5500 Kingston Pike.

Edward Francisco, Professor of English at Pellissippi State Community College, will speak about his recently published book of poetry, "Only the Word Gives Us Being" (2011). All-inclusive lunch, \$12.00. RSVP by Feb. 20, 865-983-3740.

LeConte Photographic Society

On Saturday, February 25 at 10:00 a.m., the LeConte Photographic Society will present "Using a Project to Improve Your Photography: The 100 Strangers Project" at the King Library in Sevierville. This is a free class to the public.

Sterchi Elementary news

March 12 - PTA Meeting
April 13 - Family Fun Night 5:30 - 8:30

Cont. on page 4

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Cannellini Bean Hummus

2 garlic cloves, peeled
1 can (15 ounces) white kidney or cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
1/4 cup tahini
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1-1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
Pita breads, cut into wedges

Place garlic in a food processor; cover and process until minced. Add the beans, tahini, lemon juice, cumin, salt and pepper flakes; cover and process until smooth.

Transfer to a small bowl; stir in parsley. Refrigerate until serving. Serve with pita wedges. Yield: 1-1/4 cups.



PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization – Executive Board Meeting, February 22, 2012.

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, February 22, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Topics to be considered: Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program; Long Range Mobility Plan Update; TPO Certification Review; Public Comment, and other business.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cont. from page 3

Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble to hold auditions

The Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble will hold open auditions for new members of the Ensemble at 2:30 p.m. on Sun., February 26, at Dancers Studio, 4216 Sutherland Ave., Knoxville. Any Tennessee resident between 8-14 years of age is eligible to compete at this very basic audition. Each participant needs to prepare an original one-minute dance composition without music demonstrating modern dance and ballet techniques. Members are chosen without regard to race, creed or gender.

For more information, see the website www.tcdedance.org or contact Irena Linn, artistic director of the TCDE, or Amy Renée Wilson, associate artistic director, at 865-584-9636.

VOLUNTEER Volunteer Opportunity at STAR

STAR is looking for volunteers to help special needs children and adults with their therapeutic horse-back riding lessons for the Spring Session 2012. Lesson Vol Training (Ages 13 and up) is Saturday,

February 25, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Junior Vol Training (Ages 10-12) is Tuesday, February 28, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Horse experience is not necessary. For more information, call Melissa Suadi at 865-988-4711 or visit our website at www.rideatstar.org.

Volunteer Opportunity at UT Hospice

UT Hospice, serving patients and families in Knox and 15 surrounding counties, conducts ongoing orientation sessions for adults (18 & older) interested in becoming volunteers with our program. No medical experience is required. Training is provided. For more information call Penny Sparks, Volunteer Coordinator at 544-6279

UT Hospice Adult Grief Support Group is for any adult who is suffering loss. Our group meets the first and third Tuesday of every month from 5-6:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the UT Hospice office at 2270 Sutherland Ave. A light supper is served. For more information or to reserve your spot, please call Brenda Fletcher, Bereavement Coordinator @ 544-6277.

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