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POLL: Knox Countians Don't Believe McIntyre's Contract Should Have Been Extended

By Focus Staff

Almost two thirds of Knox County voters don't believe the Board of Education should have extended Superintendent James McIntyre's contract. Likely voters were asked, "Do you approve or disapprove of the Knox County School board's decision this week, by an 8-1 vote, to extend Dr. McIntyre's employment contract for four more years through December of 2017?" The poll also

told voters that McIntyre's annual salary is \$222,800, although that does not include his benefits.

65.35% of those polled said they do not approve of McIntyre's employment contract being extended. Only 34.65% of those polled believed McIntyre's contract should have been extended.

Interestingly, the heavy majority of both city and county voters disapproved of McIntyre's contract being

extended. Two districts did post majorities for McIntyre's contract extension, the Fourth and the Fifth.

Both the Fourth and Fifth Districts are in West Knoxville; the Fourth is comprised of Sequoyah Hills and points west. The Fifth District includes most all of Farragut and far West Knox County. It would shock no one to learn that a lot of Knoxville's elite live in the Fourth and Fifth Districts. Support for McIntyre's

contract extension proved to be unpopular in every other district.

Fully 76% of voters inside the First District disapproved of extending McIntyre's contract, which cannot be good news for Board member Gloria Deathridge, who is up for reelection next year.

The Second District, represented by Indya Kincannon, posted more than 67% of voters disapproving of McIntyre's contract being

extended, despite Kincannon's insistence she was deluged by parents urging the superintendent's contract being extended.

More than 60% of residents polled in the Third District said they did not believe the superintendent's contract should be extended.

A bare majority, 51.85%, of Fourth District voters said they felt the superintendent's contract should

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FOCUS Weekly Poll*

Knox County Superintendent of Schools Dr. James McIntyre's annual salary

is \$222,800 per year.

Do you approve or disapprove of the Knox County School Board's decision this week, by an 8 to 1 vote, to extend Dr. McIntyre's employment contract for four more years through December of 2017?

APPROVE 34.65%

DISAPPROVE 65.35%

Survey conducted December 12, 2013.

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

INSKIP REZONING HITS A SNAG

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Supporters of the Metropolitan Planning Commission's plans to rezone the remainder of the Inskip Neighborhood will have to wait a bit longer. The City Council considered the first of two readings last week, to move the current R-2 zoned section to a more restrictive R-1 and R-1A category, but learned that one more property owner there wanted to remain zoned in the less restrictive R-2.

That, and three opponents to the rezoning who spoke to assure they were included in the exemptions, saw the council put the matter off for at least two more weeks and probably until January. Two attempts to either pass it or refer the change back to MPC failed.

Much of Inskip, the second most densely populated second of Knoxville, has already been rezoned to the R-1 and R-1A, which prohibits new apartment buildings and condos. The Inskip Neighborhood Association supports the rezoning and the idea of their fellow home and property owners requesting to remain R-2.

The less restrictive R-2 zoning may not be the same as is currently permitted, according to MPC Executive Director Mark Donaldson. He said that while R-2 is less restrictive the new ordinance would require a "Use on Review" to permit building apartments.

While Anita Case and Betty Jo Mahan of the Inskip Neighborhood Association said they have no problem with some home owners remaining R-2, three property owners spoke to make

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The 4th Annual Gibbs Christmas Parade



Bob Slagle walks beside the Clear Springs Baptist Church float in the 4th Annual Gibbs Christmas Parade.

By Ralphine Major

Mother Nature may have dampened the day, but she did not dampen the spirits of those who weathered the rain to see the 4th Annual Gibbs Christmas Parade. Under cloudy skies and a cold rain, the Rural Metro fire truck's siren signaled the start of the parade. Marching behind the fire truck was the Gibbs ROTC Color Guard, the first of many units to hand out candy to parade watchers. The red Farmalls and green John Deere tractors looked festive despite the rain. The red Farmall is the brand of tractor our father had on his dairy farm. Larry Lett and Robert Lett brought the Farmalls down Tazewell Pike. Grady Lett's John Deere tractors were driven by

Charlie Wright, Richard Wright, Julie Goldstein, and B. J. Blankenship. It was great to see our United States Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr., and State Representative Harry Brooks brave the weather. Knox County Sheriff J. J. Jones was also represented. Huge trucks from Brabston Trucking & Excavating, Claiborne Hauling, and Armstrong Air joined the parade route.

With all the fun floats, there was one with a serious message. "The Clear Springs Baptist Church float was the idea of Charley McDaniel who passed away recently as the result of a traffic accident," Jim Kirk told me. "Several church members worked together on the float to fulfill Charley's dream." McDaniel was well known in the

Gibbs Community. He was a 1965 graduate of Gibbs High School in the same class as some of the legendary basketball players that are appearing in my Focus column series. Charley was married forty-four years to the former Cathy McGinnis, a 1968 Gibbs graduate. The McDaniel family has strong ties to the Gibbs Community. Their daughter, Jill McDaniel Brooks, is a 1993 Gibbs graduate. Their grandchildren attended Gibbs Elementary and will be attending Gibbs High School, too. Charley was the Director of the Mission House located at the entrance to the future site of Clear Springs Baptist Church. The float, pulled by Argil Vineyard, was filled with lots of laughter and

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Emory Church Road Apartment development to be discussed today

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission last week moved much of their workshop agenda on to their regular meeting scheduled for today without discussion or with no recommendation.

Facing action today are items that could include a discussion and decision on the rezoning of about 100 acres for a large apartment complex at Emory Church Road and Pellissippi Parkway. The Metropolitan Planning Commission had recommended rezoning from Agricultural to Planned Residential for five apartments there but several local home owners have objected to the decision. The regular meeting today may see an audience of those opposed to the development.

The workshop did move along and vote for to recommend \$256,000 to Barber McMurry Architects to design and engineer a new Regional Forensic Facility on Sullins Street. Commissioner Mike Hammond asked why the project was not put up for bids and was told the state required fast movement

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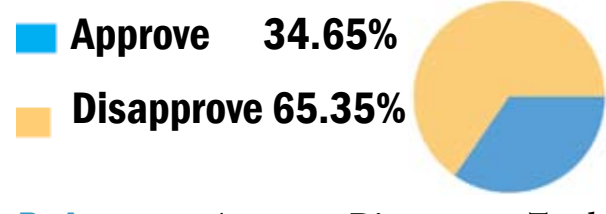
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Deb House and Focus columnist Sharon Frankenburg collected toys to give to Toys to Tots last week. This is the 8th year the two have worked together to brighten children's Christmas. Photo by Dan Andrews.



FOCUS Weekly Poll

Knox County Superintendent of Schools Dr. James McIntyre's annual salary is \$222,800 per year. Do you approve or disapprove of the Knox County School Board's decision this week, by an 8 to 1 vote, to extend Dr. McIntyre's employment contract for four more years through December of 2017?



By Age	Approve	Disapprove	Total
18-29	[None]	100.00%	2
30-49	40.82%	59.18%	49
50-65	21.43%	78.57%	112
65+	40.37%	59.63%	218
Total	34.65% (132)	65.35% (249)	381

By District	Approve	Disapprove	Total
1	24.00%	76.00%	25
2	32.69%	67.31%	52
3	39.47%	60.53%	38
4	51.85%	48.15%	54
5	53.85%	46.15%	39
6	36.84%	63.16%	38
7	22.45%	77.55%	49
8	26.09%	73.91%	46
9	20.00%	80.00%	40
Total	34.65% (132)	65.35% (249)	381

By Gender	Approve	Disapprove	Total
Unknown	26.67%	73.33%	15
Female	35.83%	64.17%	187
Male	34.08%	65.92%	179
Total	34.65% (132)	65.35% (249)	381

Survey conducted December 12, 2013.

POLL: Knox Countians Don't Believe McIntyre's Contract Should Have Been Extended

Cont. from page 1 — Severance. It is hard to see how Severance can parlay her support for McIntyre into a second term on the Board of Education. 73.91% of voters inside the Eighth District said they did not believe McIntyre's contract should be extended and Board member Mike McMillan was the only one who opposed extending the superintendent's contract. 80% of those polled in the Ninth District, which is South Knoxville, said they were against extending McIntyre's contract. South Knoxville posted the highest number of voters opposed to McIntyre's contract extension, which is very bad news for Board member Pam Trainor. The general consensus is Trainor is likely the most vulnerable incumbent going into next year's elections and the poll numbers seem to confirm Trainor's own prediction she may have only a few more months to serve.

Board Chair Lynne Fugate represents the Fourth District and a bare majority of her constituents supporting McIntyre's extension may mean trouble ahead as she approaches her own reelection campaign. Slightly more than 63% of residents of the Sixth District said they did not think the Board of Education should have extended McIntyre's contract. Incumbent Board member Thomas Deakins has said he will not be a candidate for reelection, although he supported extending McIntyre's contract. A whopping 77.55% of voters inside the Seventh District say they did not believe McIntyre's contract should have been extended, which is dire news for Board member Kim Sepesi

Focus on the Law Cemeteries

"Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."



By Sharon Frankenburg, Attorney at Law

Benjamin Franklin, 1789

In East Tennessee culture, we typically bury our dead. We have been doing it for hundreds of years. My church, First Presbyterian Church, has the oldest graveyard in Knoxville where territorial Governor William Blount was buried in 1800. There may be unmarked graves of early pioneers there going all the way back to the building of James White Fort in 1786. The term "graveyard" is older than the term "cemetery" and usually refers to a burial ground adjacent to a church. The word "cemetery" is derived from the Greek koimeterion meaning "dormitory, resting place." Cemeteries developed after

the old graveyards filled up and people moved burial sites further away from the churches in the urban centers. And whenever people and money are involved, unscrupulous practices eventually develop. Burial plots have been sold and resold. Multiple bodies have been buried in the same plot. Cemetery grounds have not been maintained properly. Grave markers and decorations have been stolen and vandalized. Human remains have been disturbed and disinterred without permission. Bodies destined for cremation have been stacked and scattered.

The legislature has tried to respond to these problems by criminalizing these activities and regulating the business to prevent problems. Among the many regulations, all cemetery companies must be registered with

the commissioner of commerce and insurance every year. Each cemetery company must "establish and forever maintain" an improvement care trust fund for each separate cemetery and for each geographic location of each cemetery owned and operated by the cemetery company. They must file annual financial reports and submit to audits by the commissioner or the commissioner's representative every two years.

The state also regulates the use of land for cemeteries. Under current law, a cemetery company may purchase land not to exceed 200 acres to be used as a cemetery provided that this use must be approved by the governing body of any town or city where the land is located. When this land has been developed and subdivided into lots suitable for graves, monuments and vaults, each contract for the sale of burial space or the conveyance of interment rights must be executed in duplicate and a copy given to

the purchaser. Interestingly, burial lots sold to purchasers are protected from creditors since they shall "forever be free from attachment or the levy of an execution."

Family burial grounds are protected by state law. A deed for real property should indicate the presence of a grave site or crypt containing human remains on the property. This obligates the buyer to protect the grave site or crypt from disturbance. A grave site may not be disturbed in an area of ten feet surrounding the perimeter of the grave site and a crypt may not be disturbed. The owner of the property may also take action to have the remains moved under very specific circumstances. A court order is required. Obviously, this article does not cover every applicable statute. You should consult an attorney if you have any questions regarding your individual situation.

INSKIP REZONING HITS A SNAG

Continued from page 1

sure they remained in that category.

Nancy Jane Webb, who said her family has lived in Inskip since the 1940s, said, "We just want to be left alone." She seemed not to like the "Use on Review" that might apply. She also told the council that she had no prior notification of planned zoning changes until she received a newsletter from the Association.

After learning that one property owner wanted to be added to the exceptions the council decided to delay discussion until their next meeting.

Employee Retirement

The council also voted, on an emergency motion by Finbarr Saunders, to amend provisions in the City Employment Pension System to be in line with Internal Revenue Codes. George Wallace said the language and calculations would reflect that retired employees

are living longer or may designate a spouse as a recipient of their retirement.

Marshall Stair questioned if the changes would cost the city more money over the long haul and Nick Della Volpe said the adoption of the resolution would "reflect what already is."

Small Breweries

Passed on first reading, on the MPC recommendation, was a motion to amend the city codes regarding the establishment of small breweries, wineries, and distilleries in commercial and industrial areas. Lynn Redmon of the Norwood Homeowner's Association spoke against the idea for his area.

"It's the last thing we want," he said, adding "It's just not appropriate."

Mark Donaldson of the MPC told the meeting the code revision reflects

"what is already going on in the city."

UT and City Owned Streets

With only one vote against, the council also voted to transfer all the city owned streets on the UT campus to the university. UT is requesting the change. Council Member Brenda Palmer was the only NO vote, which she made clear with each and every street that was to change ownership.

Also, in a split 5-4 vote, the council voted on first reading to create a new CO-1 Overlay District ordinance. Overlay districts are special zones placed on top of existing zoning and planning regulations. The districts designation would supplement or replace underlying regulations and would permit the city to revitalize a particular area without more extensive amendments.

See B1 for related story on UT and City Owned Streets.

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Publisher's Position

Double, double, toil & trouble



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

I think the thing I like least in any human being is hypocrisy. I don't doubt for a moment my attitude is uncommon. It seems to me most people really dislike hypocrisy, especially in our public officials. It is increasingly apparent that there is a huge double standard in our media in assessing our school administration and every other aspect of government.

It has become increasingly obvious that the McIntyre administration has urged school principals to rally around to promote an extension of his contract. Communication

has apparently flown back and forth, utilizing taxpayer resources and time. Keep in mind, McIntyre has the sole authority to appoint every principal in Knox County. Would anyone be surprised to see President Obama praised and endorsed by any member of his Cabinet? Would anyone be shocked were Governor Haslam to be praised and endorsed by any member of his Cabinet? These are virtually political appointments and why anyone should be impressed to see a political appointee hailing the accomplishments of his or her benefactor is beyond me. It should be expected.

I realize some folks in Knox County are deluded and living in Wonderland, believing that politics inside the school system was exterminated when we switched from an elected superintendent to an appointed superintendent. Yet there is example after example of what is commonly referred to as the "good ol' boy" apparatus

occurring inside our school system. Evidently one can be a graduate of McIntyre's Leadership Academy and still be a good ol' boy or girl.

Not a single reader or citizen of this county has ever heard one of the local TV stations, much less the Knoxville News Sentinel point to this political cronyism. Had it occurred in the Courthouse or City County Building, all of them would have been on it like a shark on a wounded seal. There would be calls for investigations and resignations. Yet the school system is exempt. We pretend it is not happening, never has happened since the last elected superintendent departed, and assure ourselves we live in a perfect world. The local media does its best to maintain this fantasy and passes around the Rainbow Stew for consumption while Dr. McIntyre gives orphans free rides on unicorns.

Why is there a double standard with our local media? Because too much

of the local media has an incestuous relationship with the powers that be. Anyone who doubts that has merely to look at the ties between the do-nothing Chamber of Commerce and the school system. The Chamber poobahs tell us they "care" about education and how important it is, but what they mean is they care about running our school system. They, like just about every other special interest group in the world, have an agenda. They like a superintendent who is responsive to them and they've got one who is ultra-responsive. It was Mike Edwards, president of the do-nothing Chamber of Commerce, who made the motion as a member of the State Board of Education to eliminate the tie between teacher pay and furthering a teacher's education. Yet these people say they believe in fairness and incentives. Another example of hypocrisy run rampant.

There should be no double standard in our

community. The school budget is far and away Knox County's biggest expenditure, amounting to more than half a billion tax dollars annually. The schools consume almost two-thirds of every tax dollar spent in Knoxville and Knox County. One would do well to remember the school system and the Sheriff's Department account for almost three quarters of every tax dollar spent, meaning every other service provided by the county - - roads, health, parks, courts, libraries - - are operated out of the remaining quarter of tax revenue. Many of those same entities have been left to starve by mayors and county commissions while shoveling more and more money into the maws of the school system and Sheriff's Department.

Local media take advantage of every misstep by just about any public official outside of the school system, hoping citizens will be outraged by any misuse or loss of taxpayer dollars, yet that same standard is

not applied to the school administration. Some tens of thousands of dollars were spent by Dr. McIntyre on an investigation of former security chief Steve Griffith that amounted to nothing. Clearly a waste of taxpayer dollars, yet nobody was on McIntyre's door step and only ONE member of the Board of Education, Mike McMillan, was bothered by that blatant waste of taxpayer resources.

The News Sentinel's persecution of Mayor Tim Burchett occurred precisely because the lords of the Sentinel were infuriated Burchett refused to significantly raise taxes to accommodate Dr. McIntyre's grand agenda and expansion of the school bureaucracy.

The local media has become like Shakespeare's three witches, concocting a poisonous brew. Instead of eye of newt and toe of frog, they use hypocrisy and a double standard that is becoming more and more obvious to just about everyone.

McIntyre contract extended, promises to listen to teachers

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

By an 8-1 vote, the Knox County School Board voted last Monday to extend Superintendent James McIntyre's contract for another year, despite objections from some teachers and parents. Forty-five speakers addressed the packed house; many county and county officials and some citizens and teachers praised the superintendent and some teachers and parents called on the elected board to either postpone a decision or vote against extending the agreement.

Indya Kincannon, who had raised many of the questions that concern teachers in previous meetings, said their mass appearance at the board meetings "has been a huge positive" but went on to say "I thank them everyone, they're not going to like how I vote tonight."

"(McIntyre's) done what the Board asked him to do. We're not where we want to be but we've made progress. The Board has not made it a priority to support teachers," she said.

She said teachers are "tired

and stressed and we need to do something about that. My vote is not against teachers."

The public forum took up some four hours, with speaker after speaker taking five minutes or so to address the board. McIntyre spoke following the forum and said, "I think the teachers do a terrific job. I need to make sure the teachers feel supported."

In the days preceding the Board of Education decision, McIntyre and Board Chairperson Lynne Fugate announced they would work to create an advisory group that would include teachers. Fugate said at the meeting the group would meet three times before the end of December but would not continue. McIntyre told a Joint Education Committee meeting the week before the Board meeting that teacher surveys were mailed and announced at the Board meeting that he would give up more than \$5,000 in a cost-of-living increase to the Board to create a teacher appreciation fund.

Karen Carson said that McIntyre has done this every year, noting that this year is the first time it has become

public knowledge.

Several of the Board members recognized the communication problem between the superintendent and the teachers and pointed to the advisory group as a good step, although one board member suggested that the group be made permanent instead of being active for less than one month.

Pam Trainor said the conflict has caused "the entire Board to be attacked and mentioned an internet posting that portrayed them and the superintendent as 'Hitler and the 3rd Reich.'" She aimed a comment at fellow Board member Mike McMillan for passing on the posting, saying that she had received it, passed it to the Board but wanted the sender to her to remain unidentified.

McMillan, the only member to vote against the extension, responded by saying that if Trainor had wanted the sender to remain unidentified she should have deleted the name.

Trainor said, "My vote tonight could end my friendship with teachers. This is not just about McIntyre." She went on to add that she had

heard that there may be opponents in the election primary, a threat by opponents of the Board's decision.

"He is listening, we're all listening. Don't judge us because we make a decision you don't like," said Board member Gloria Deathridge. "It may be a surprise to some, but I support the extension."

"I'm impressed by the number of people who spoke on Dr. McIntyre's behalf," McMillan said. Noting that most of the supporters were administrative colleagues, he added, "It's like asking the mayor's staff to testify for him."

"I will not vote for the extension. We're not voting to fire Dr. McIntyre. The biggest thing now is the anxiety level of the teachers. Maybe there will be something done in the next 60 days to alleviate that," McMillan said.

"Our job is to help guide and direct, to hire a leader to execute our plan, and we've done that," said Chair Lynne Fugate. "We live in a sports town. If Butch Jones asked for an extension (and it was turned down) what does that say?"

Opinions given at School Board meeting

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Last Monday's Knox County Board of Education meeting saw about four hours of speakers addressing the board on the extension of Superintendent James McIntyre's request for an additional year of employment. The vote gives the embattled school leader four years to implement the state and federal requirement of Common Core teaching and testing methods.

Forty-five speakers included public officials, central office staff, citizens, teachers, and education administrators.

The speakers were, in order: Bob Rider, David Rausch, J.J. Jones, Randy Nichols, Tanya Coats, Diane Jablonski, Sandra Rowcliffe, Gina Mashburn, Buzz Thomas, Sarah Bellah, Julie Webb, Phyllis Nichols, Stephanie Anderson, Renee Kelly, Phil Claxton, Robert Taylor, Susan Espiritu, Tod Evans, Luzette Slough, Beth Blevins, David Lufkin, Susan Weaver-Jones, Sherry Morgan, Amber Rountree, Mark Taylor, Kristin Wampler, Jennifer Nagel, Judy Pickering, Karen Loy, Rebekah Carson, Kellie Keener, Lynn Schneider, Joan Grim, Bob Savery, Lance McCold, Lauren Hopson, Carolyn Greenwood, Carrie Perkinson, Karla Fultz, Xavier Pressley, Denis Cross, Larry Proffitt, Russell Byrd, Annie Haston and Amy Crawford.



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New Year's Eve at Candoro Celebrating 90 Years: 1923-2013

The Candoro Arts & Heritage Center will be presenting a New Year's Eve Dinner through their Candoro Dinner Series to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Candoro Marble Building at the former Candoro Marble Company in South Knoxville. Candoro was the largest importer and exporter of marble in Knoxville and was the largest producer of the highly prized pink marble in the United States. The Candoro Building was designed by Charles Barber and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"We are so excited to host this New Year's Eve Dinner for Knoxville," notes Paula Johnson of the Knoxville Food Tours, dinner chairperson. "It is fantastic that the Candoro Building and Grounds are still here for us to be able to share with the public the history of the great marble industry that helped build Knoxville."

Dinner will be a Knoxville 1920s theme prepared by local favorite Holly Hambricht. Hambricht graduated first in her class at

the Baltimore Culinary Arts Institute and has had much success in Knoxville with her catering, Holly's Eventful Dining in Bearden, and her new venture Holly's Corner in Old North Knoxville.

Music will be provided by Devan Jones & the Uptown Stomp, described as "a musical aesthetic from another time." This up and coming hot swing band has a repertoire from Charlie Christian to Elmore James, Fats Waller and Muddy Waters.

The Candoro Building and Grounds will be decorated in a 1920s style by South Knoxville resident April Burt, whose "Three Parties in Three Days" was featured in Southern Living Magazine. Guests are encouraged to dress in the style of the 1920s. The building will open at 7:00 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Dinner will begin at 8:00.

All proceeds go to the restoration and maintaining of the Candoro Marble Building. Tickets are \$100 per person and may be purchased at candoromarle.org.



Seymour Intermediate School CAC: From left, Seymour Middle School Vice Principal Mary Manners; Seymour Intermediate Principal Peggy Oakes; Autumn Galyon and Shirley Clepper of U.S. Cellular Authorized Agent Network Technologies; and U.S. Cellular Agent Sales Manager Martin Burgess celebrate Seymour Intermediate School winning \$25,000 from the U.S. Cellular Calling All Communities campaign. Brickey-McCloud Elementary School and Powell Elementary School also won \$25,000. Since the contest began in 2008, U.S. Cellular has awarded more than \$1 million among 14 Tennessee schools, including this year's winners.

Emory Church Road Apartment development to be discussed today

Cont. from page 1 — and the bid was less than the state required.

The commission, in a related matter, voted to consider a 13 month renewal of the current forensic center's lease of 8,786 square feet at UT Medical Center until the new \$5 million Sullins facility can be ready for use.

A resolution to subpoena former Trustee employee Johnny Haun was pulled from the agenda by Hammond and resolutions to move

ahead with solar panels for Knox County Schools also disappeared from the agenda after some questions arose outside the meeting about the lack of a bidding process and TVA's recent announcement to cut back on the amount paid to buy back energy produced by solar panels.

The commission did move ahead with an idea of charging \$25 for a cremation permit for the Office of Knox County Medical Examiner,

whether the cremation takes place in Knox County's one crematory or outside the county for the service for Knox County residents.

Also postponed was a discussion regarding the Joint Education Committee because commissioner Sam McKenzie was absent. The committee has been meeting monthly, with appointed members of the commission and city council, to discuss matters with a mediator.

The 4th Annual Gibbs Christmas Parade

Cont. from page 1 — happy faces. Its message of Christmas was prominently displayed along the side: "Jesus---The Only Gift that Lasts Through the Ages!" The float was more than an entry in the parade, however. It was in memory of Charley. The back of the float carried the mission house sign along with a picture of Charley. It was a fitting tribute to one who worked tirelessly for such a worthwhile cause. Sadly, Charley was not here to see

the float become reality in the 2013 Gibbs Christmas Parade. But, his work lives on. And so does Charley. Snow may be what they are accustomed to at the North Pole, but the rain did not appear to bother Santa and Mrs. Claus. They arrived on a float pulled by Grady Lett's pickup truck. I would not have been surprised to see one of Grady's green "Deeres" pulling Santa!

come to an event, contact parade organizer Larry Dougherty at 898-3532. He has a direct link to Santa and will be happy to put you in touch with him. Merry Christmas from the 4th Annual Gibbs Christmas Parade and their sponsors: Home Federal, Tazewell Pike Animal Clinic, Twister's Shakes & Sundaes, Henry's Deli & Bakery, Peppers Grill & Pizzeria, Exxon, Walgreens, CVS, and IGA!

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Tennova clears last hurdle

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Tennova's proposed medical center, a large hospital and medical office complex on Middlebrook Pike, cleared the last local hurdle last week. Although the proposed complex still faces opposition from some neighborhood homeowners the only remaining step is the state's certificate of need process.

center site have pledged to continue their effort to stop the project. He spoke to the Metropolitan Planning Commission last Thursday, along with Shirley Bunting and Jerry McMannis, during MPC's "Use on Review" hearing. But the hospital came away with only one "No" vote from the planners.

Swingle called for a comprehensive traffic study, said the seven-story building is too high, and said

traffic there would be too heavy. McMannis said that helicopters coming into and leaving the hospital would disrupt the neighborhood and a 40 signature petition was presented to the planners.

Bunting said the land beneath the proposed complex may not be stable enough to hold the facility, mentioning that there are caverns in the area.

Melanie Robison spoke for Tennova saying "We

made multiple changes including a greenway, moving the emergency room and helicopter pad and set aside 44 acres on the south side of the creek that will remain protected."

She also said the hospital corporation will conduct a comprehensive traffic study and design the entrance "rather than bring traffic through the neighborhood."

The MPC approved the

"Use on Review" with only one "No" vote from Charles Lomax, Jr.

In other action the planners voted to rezone the old Moses School, now owned by the Boys & Girls Club, from low density residential to Office. The history school, like the Old Knoxville High School, is to be used for senior independent living when purchased and renovated. That decision now goes to City Council for

discussion.

They also passed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would allow home office use in low density exclusive residential districts, and postponed until 60 days a request for rezoning a small vacant lot on Chapman Highway for use by a car sales lot, asking the planning staff to come back with a plan for a buffer zone between it and the homes nearby.

Should the City turn over UT area streets?

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville City Council voted last week, on a first of two readings, to turn over city owned streets on the University of Tennessee campus to UT. Several questions came up before and after the meeting regarding how that would affect public access, police and fire protection, security at frat houses, and whether or not the college could close or rename the streets.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission requested the city council consider the transfer of streets. Currently the city owns and maintains several streets and UT does the same for other streets. MPC's message to the city was that "staff has received no objections from reviewing departments to this closure." Closure simply means giving the streets to UT.

The city council's workshop last month considered the UT request and passed it tentatively but will not take up the matter again until their first January meeting. Several council members had questions about the matter but only Brenda Palmer voted "No," and did so strongly and vocally each time the various streets were considered in voice votes.

"There are several things that concern me (such as) the wholesale turning over of the streets to another entity," she told the Focus.

She pointed to the transfer of Melrose and said "I'm not comfortable with that."

"They (UT) can say this today," she said of a promise not to close the streets to public use, adding that a new UT administration may have a different view.

Currently the agreement for security of the campus has the City enforcing laws on City Streets and the UT Police enforcing laws on UT owned streets. It also allows either police force to arrest offenders anywhere on campus. Under the street transfer agreement only the UT Police would have jurisdiction.

Currently fraternity houses may hire off duty city police for security but, apparently, under the transfer, only UT Police would provide that security.

In the language of the transfer of streets to UT the MPC's language says "It does not necessarily mean the streets would be closed to traffic or the street names would be changed, but those decisions would become the responsibility of UT."

Continue on page 2



Pilot presents a check for \$8,376 to Emerald Youth Foundation. Pictured are l to r, Dan Fleming, Pilot vice president of operations; John Crooks, Emerald Youth communications manager; Rachel Hopper, staff member in Emerald Youth's JustLead program; and children Noel Vasquez and Faith Brown.

Pilot Customers Give to Emerald Youth Foundation

Pilot recently presented a check for \$8,376 to Emerald Youth Foundation following a customer donation campaign.

Emerald Youth, a ministry to more than 1,350 inner city Knoxville children, teens and young adults, will use the money to benefit its faith, education and sports programs. Dan Fleming, Pilot vice president of operations, presented the check at the Pilot Food Mart in the Mechanicsville community.

"Pilot employees do a great job encouraging customers to support organizations like Emerald Youth. It is a privilege to help Knoxville's youth become leaders and successful adults," Fleming said.

Pilot raised the money in its "Give a Buck for Emerald Youth" campaign held in Knoxville-area Pilot Food Marts. Pilot customers who donated one dollar to Emerald Youth received a buy one, get one free coupon for a 20-ounce fountain drink or ICEE.

"Emerald Youth appreciates the continued generosity of Pilot and its tremendous customers. This is the fifth consecutive year of the campaign, and the support we receive is a true blessing towards our work with urban young people," said Steve Diggs, Emerald Youth Foundation executive director.

Learn more about Emerald Youth online at www.emeraldyouth.org or call (865) 637-3227.

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Oddities in our area

If you've been to most of the commercial attractions within a day's drive from Knoxville you might want to take the back roads and see some of these places. Each is unique, some are on private property, but all are unusual or unexpected.

Ebbing and Flowing Springs near Rogersville.

Here, near one of the state's oldest homes on Big Creek a spring issues forth on a

regular schedule, ebbing and flowing back and forth. It's done so for eons. Nearby was once a one-room school house and it may still be there. Google it.

Indian Cave, on the river south of Blain between Knoxville and Rutledge. This old cavern was once commercialized and features a pre-historic shell mound at the mouth of the cave were Native Americans tossed their mussel shells to a height above your head. The cavern is privately owned now.

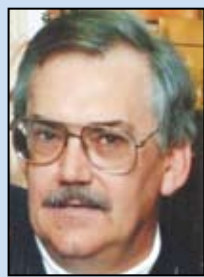
Lookout Mountain above Chattanooga. Did you know there was once human footprints in the cliff there? Aside from all the other things you can do there don't pass up the chance to walk to the cliff face overlook where Gen. U.S. Grant once stood.

Deep Creek Falls is near Bryson City, N.C., and has several camp grounds, a park, tube riding on a white water creek, and the falls. It's a great little stop if you're going to Cherokee by way of the Cherohala Parkway or the Dragon Highway. You can hike to the head of the creek on an easy pathway.

Dayton was not just the site of the Scopes Monkey Trial but, nearby and overlooking Chickamauga Lake, is the Hiwassee Garrison Cemetery. Buried there are many, many early settlers including Col. Jonathan Return Meigs, Indian Agent and Military Commander. In the bottom below the burial ground was Fort Hiwassee Garrison, now on TVA property but only reached via private property.

Old Washington, between Dayton and Decatur, was a ferry landing and on the south side of the lake you can still see the old landing. Buried in this old town is

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Judge David Campbell. Two other graves are next to his, one is his son-in-law, the other is the Judge's favorite horse. Or so the legend goes.

Parrotsville, east of Newport, has a natural arch that you drive across. You'd never know it was there unless you ask or Google it. You can park on the north side and walk down the way for a look at the wonder. Just

a little further to the north is another arch you can see from the highway.

Sevierville has a lot of attractions but I'll bet you pass up one of the oldest historic sites. Boyd's Creek, west of town, has a marker for the old Warrior's Trace and nearby was one of the meanest battles. John Sevier's forces caught up to Chief Dragging Canoe's warriors there and defeated the Cherokee. The chief escaped but it turned him away for the moment in his attacks on East Tennessee settlements.

Oliver Springs is worth mentioning because if you saw the movie "October Skies" you saw this little town depicted as a West Virginia coal mining town. Many of the buildings still carry the signs from the movie. Hey, it's just beyond Oak Ridge, so drop off the road and drive through the town.

Rockwood is often overlooked but has a surprise. Back in the days before statehood this place was firmly in the hands of the Native American. They operated a toll gate there to take a bit of money from travelers along the old trace that climbed Cumberland Mountain there. A treaty was signed with them and a historic old tree marked the spot. The tree is gone now but the "Treaty Oak" historic marker sits at the site.

Tate Springs is between Rutledge and Bean Station and was once a resort, then a school. The beautiful gazebo is still there and worth a quick drive for a photo.

There are lots of other interesting and odd places to visit in our area, all it takes is doing some library or internet research and getting in your vehicle and going.

UT's Latest Volume of Jackson Papers Exposes 'Most Lurid Year' in Presidency

A woman with a dubious reputation. Presidential cabinet members at each other's throats. A president with a conspiracy theory.

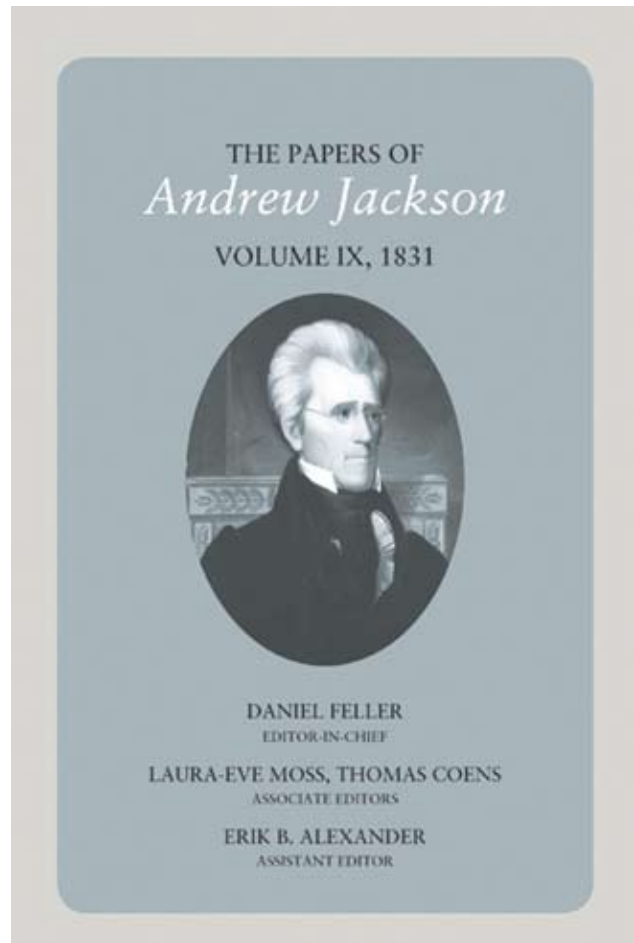
It's not a fictional story of political intrigue. It's real-life drama—detailed through the correspondence chronicled in the ninth volume of "The Papers of Andrew Jackson," recently published by the University of Tennessee Press.

This latest tome, which focuses on 1831, was compiled by Daniel Feller, editor and director of the Jackson papers and a professor of history at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Associate editors were Laura-Eve Moss and Thomas Coens.

The Jackson project is hosted by the UT History Department and sustained by two federal agencies, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Last year the project won a \$300,000 NEH—its largest ever—to complete this volume.

More than any previous entry in the series, this volume portrays the "unvarnished Jackson," Feller said.

"This is the most lurid year in Jackson's presidency and maybe any



presidency," he said. "He is more paranoid, more unbalanced than we've ever seen him before—and at the same time more shrewd, more calculating, more politically savvy. Jackson is a protean figure in American history. He's a subject of adulation and condemnation. He's right up there with the most controversial presidents we've had."

Correspondence

included in the volume reveals the dysfunction in Jackson's presidential cabinet. It tells the story of the infamous "Petticoat Affair."

Jackson's secretary of war, John Eaton, was married to Margaret "Peggy" O'Neale Timberlake—a woman who was disliked by most of Jackson's other cabinet members and their wives.

Continue on page 4



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

City Council members George Wallace, Brenda Palmer and Daniel Brown at last week's meeting.

Should the City turn over UT area streets?

Cont. from page 1

The streets, or portions of them on campus, include Johnny Majors Drive, Lake Loudoun Drive, Lake Loudoun Boulevard, Chamique Holdscaw Drive, Pat Head Summit Street, Fraternity Park Drive, Frances Street, Andy Holt Avenue, Twentieth Street, and Melrose Place.

UT proposes to take ownership and allocate \$ 147,000 annually for maintenance. More than

four miles of city streets on and around campus would be involved if the resolutions are approved.

There is also the question of how unannounced barricades and street closures would affect fire protection. UT would have authority to do landscaping, construction and road closures without city notification or permission.

Councilman George Wallace asked "Do we want UT to paint streets any color they want?"

What assurance do we have for access to these streets?"

"At no time would we ever restrict public access," Jeff Maples, UT Vice Chancellor, told the council.

Questions were asked of Maples by Palmer, Duane Grieve, Dan Brown, and Wallace.

The questions remain and despite Palmer's "No" votes there may be further public discussion at the City Council's

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Sergeant Alvin York

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

There was a time when virtually every Tennessean knew the name of Sergeant Alvin Cullum York. A highly decorated veteran of World War I, a genuine hero and the subject of a wildly popular and celebrated movie of his life, Alvin C. York was perhaps the most famous individual from Tennessee to participate in either World War. Sergeant York was a respected and well-loved figure in Tennessee for most of his life.

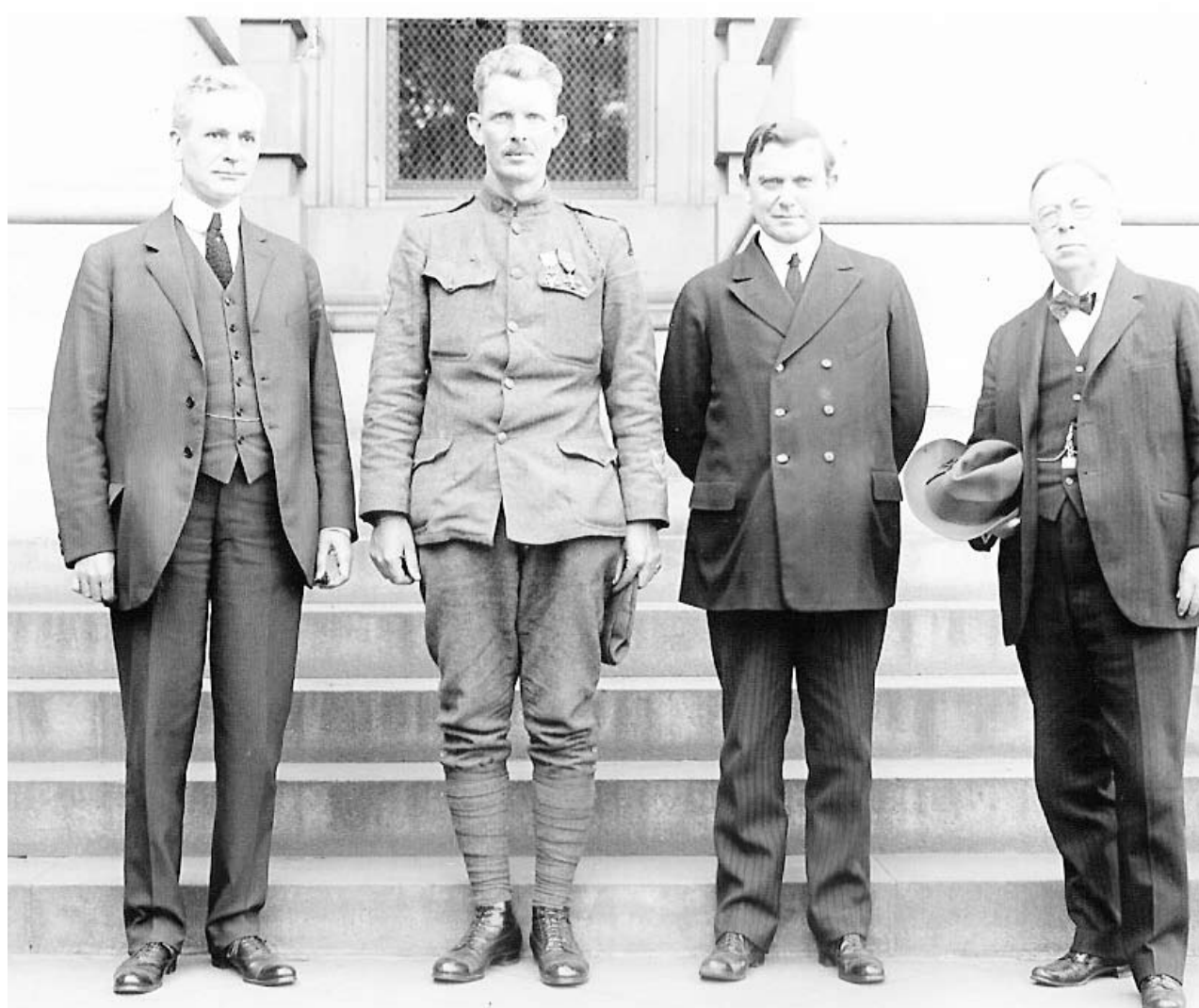
Alvin York was yet another of those almost mythical figures who really was born in a small log cabin in Pall Mall, Tennessee on December 13, 1887. One of eleven children, young Alvin suffered genuine hardship as a child and had only a rudimentary education. The York children helped to work the family farm, while the York boys hunted for game in the nearby woods. Alvin's father died in 1911 and he worked hard to try and help his mother raise and feed his remaining siblings. Alvin York was apparently a devoted family man and skilled tradesman who worked at various times as a blacksmith, logger and helped to build railroads. Yet young Alvin also evidently had a ferocious liking for alcohol and was not at all averse to saloon brawls, which caused him to be arrested on more than one occasion.

Alvin's mother was a deeply religious woman who belonged to a church with profoundly pacifistic beliefs. Mary Elizabeth York worked and prayed for her wayward son to reform his hard drinking ways. She was at least partially successful as Alvin did attend church and was an accomplished singer of hymns. Eventually Mary Elizabeth's prayers were answered and Alvin York experienced a conversion while still in his twenties. Mary Elizabeth's church, the Church of Christ of the Christian Union, had been formed just after the bloody Civil War and renounced all forms of violence.

Alvin, in keeping with the beliefs of his church, also rejected violence with his conversion and his deeply held beliefs would be a source of conflict with the outbreak of the World War being fought in Europe. York later recounted, "I was worried clean through. I didn't want to go and kill. I believed in my Bible."

Alvin York, as required by the law, duly registered for the draft, which applied to all men in the United States between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one. York himself was twenty-nine at the time. In accordance with his religious beliefs, when completing the draft registration form which inquired, "Do claim exemption from draft?" York answered, "Yes. Don't want to fight."

Being a conscientious objector in World War I did not mean one could not be



From left to right, Congressman Cordell Hull, Sgt. Alvin York, Senator K. D. McKellar and Oregon Senator George Chamberlain, 1919.

drafted and Alvin York was indeed drafted and reported to Camp Gordon, Georgia for duty. Conscientious objectors at that time were assigned duties, which were not supposed to conflict with their beliefs. York also did not take advantage of two opportunities that would have helped him to leave the military; York's mother had sent him documents stating that Alvin was the sole support of both her and his brothers and sisters, but he would not sign the papers. Likewise, Alvin refused to put his signature on documents given to him by his pastor to allow him to claim an exemption on religious grounds. York himself later denied that he had ever declared himself to be a conscientious objector.

Alvin York loved his country and still possessed profoundly strong pacifist religious beliefs. While stationed at Camp Gordon, Alvin talked with several superior officers in a genuine desire to resolve the conflicts within him. One officer, Major Gonzalo Edward Buxton, was also a devout Christian and provided scripture supporting the notion that God-fearing men could and should fight. Alvin York then obtained a leave and went home to Tennessee for a visit and returned to Camp Gordon believing that God would care for him and wanted him to fight for his country. And fight he did.

York and his men found themselves under withering machine gun fire from some of the Kaiser's crack troops near Chatel-Chehery. With orders to take the German positions, York recalled in his book about his war experiences, "They just stopped us dead in our tracks."

Corporal York was part of a group that included eighteen men commanded by Sergeant Bernard Early to sneak behind the German lines and obliterate the machine gun nests. Initially successful beyond their hopes, the Americans quickly captured German troops who were preparing an attack on American positions. Their elation was short lived as deadly machine gun fire found them and killed six of them.

Several others were wounded, including Sergeant Early, leaving young Corporal Alvin C. York in command.

York left his troops under cover, guarding the German prisoners while he stealthily made his way towards the machine gun nests. York later recalled, "You never heard such a racket in all of your life. I didn't have time to dodge behind a tree or dive into the bush."

Instead, York met the enemy head on; as the Germans directed machine gun fire at him, York raised his rifle and began to fire his own weapon. York was dueling with more than thirty Germans and they began dropping one by one. The lone soldier, badly outnumbered, demanded the enemy surrender, as York related, "I didn't want to kill any more than I had to."

Charged by six German soldiers with bayonets at the ready, York had emptied his rifle and whipped out his pistol and killed every man with his Colt before they could reach him.

The German commander, Lieutenant Paul Vollmer, drew his own pistol and emptied it, trying to kill York. Dismayed when Alvin York was unharmed, his own battalion dropping like flies, Lieutenant Vollmer surrendered to the Tennessean.

Eventually Corporal York and his seven standing soldiers marched one hundred and thirty two German prisoners back to the American lines. The machine guns, still smoking, had finally fallen silent.

Alvin York was rapidly promoted to Sergeant and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Some time later, once an investigation had been conducted and York's heroism under fire confirmed, the Sergeant was given the Medal of Honor. That highest of honors was pinned to the Tennessean's breast by General John J. Pershing himself, commanding officer of all the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe. York's bravery did not go unnoticed by America's allies, as Sergeant York was awarded both the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honor by the French government. York was also awarded the

Croce di Guerra al Merito by the King of Italy's government. All told, Alvin C. York was awarded almost fifty various medals and decorations.

It was an amazing feat, one that York himself explained, "A higher power than man power guided and watched over me and told me what to do."

Oddly, virtually nothing about York's heroism had appeared in the press in the United States. Even the Tennessee press had failed to note Alvin C. York's achievements. Finally, the story broke in the April 26, 1919 edition of the Saturday Evening Post.

York, a simple man of faith, plainspoken in the Tennessee style of the time, was astonished by the greeting he received in New York upon his return from the war. York sat through a lavish banquet in his honor, shook hands with President Wilson's secretary, Joseph Tumulty, and got a standing ovation from Congressmen while visiting the House of Representatives.

Once officially discharged by the army, Alvin York went home to Tennessee where the celebrations began anew. York married his sweetheart, Gracie Loretta Williams, with the ceremony performed by none other than Tennessee's governor, Albert H. Roberts.

Mr. and Mrs. York went to Nashville for a week, where Sergeant York was presented with a special medal for his war service from the State of Tennessee.

York's new found fame brought him many opportunities to better himself financially, if not actually make him wealthy. Offers flowed from companies anxious for him to endorse their products; movie studios bid on the rights for his story and York was offered handsome sums for lectures. Alvin York refused most every offer, preferring instead to use his fame on behalf of charities or causes he felt benefitted the general public.

The one offer Sergeant York did accept eventually led to profound embarrassment. The Nashville Rotary Club proposed to accept contributions to purchase a four hundred acre farm to

be given to Alvin York. York accepted the offer and soon discovered the representations made to him were something less than he had been promised. York found himself in the distressing position of having to borrow money to furnish the farm, buy equipment and the like. Worse still, the Nashville Rotary Club had been purchasing the property in installments and failed to meet their obligations, leaving Sergeant York responsible for further payments. To make matters even worse, York, like most farmers at that time, found it was almost impossible to make money farming in the depression that came after the war.

A proud man, York was humiliated by his increasing debt and the discussion of his finances appearing in the press. Rotary clubs across the country picked up the slack from their brethren in Nashville and York's debts were soon paid off.

York dreamed of helping Tennessee youngsters and providing educational opportunities for the children of Tennessee's hills and valleys. Ultimately it was a disastrous experience for Sergeant York, culminating in lawsuits and York found himself ousted as president of the enterprise in 1936. His Alvin C. York Foundation had started with glittering success and many prominent Democrats, not the least of which was Congressman Cordell Hull, lent their names and support. The State of Tennessee, which had promised financial support, found its coffers strapped with the onset of the Great Depression and once again Alvin York found himself hard pressed.

York was a thorough Democrat, announcing, "I'm a Democrat first, last

and all the time." He was a great admirer of Cordell Hull and a personal friend of Tennessee's senior United States senator, Kenneth D. McKellar. In fact, the old war hero, loyal to the bitter end, would attend the opening of the eighty-three year old McKellar's last Senate campaign in 1952. York was supportive of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and announced his support for interning Japanese-Americans during World War II. York would visit the White House to call on FDR, along with most of Tennessee's Congressional delegation and film producer Jesse Lasky. Lasky produced the film adaptation of York's life starring Hollywood legend Gary Cooper. Sergeant York remains a classic film today and is still entertaining. FDR himself praised the film, which certainly pleased Jesse Lasky.

Sergeant York was not only a critical success, but a highly commercial success as well, which brought Alvin York considerable financial rewards, but it also ignited a fierce dispute with the Internal Revenue Service that drained York's money once again. York used much of the money he got from the movie to build a bible school.

York's patriotism was as great as ever when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and he tried to volunteer to fight, despite the fact he was fifty-four years old and in poor health. York was given an assignment, promoted to Major in the Army Signal Corps and he crisscrossed the country raising money for the war during bond drives and visiting training camps. York usually paid his own way in his travels and worked hard on behalf of the Red Cross and other war charities.

Following the war, York's health worsened and he suffered a stroke in 1948, but managed to recover. Increasingly overweight, York suffered additional strokes and was unable to get out of bed for any sustained time after 1954.

Tennessee's most famous contribution to either World War lived another ten years before passing away in Nashville's Veteran's Hospital on September 2, 1964. Sergeant York and his wife, Gracie, had eight children, many of whom were named for famous figures from the pages of American history. Mr. and Mrs. York were the parents of Betsy Ross York, Woodrow Wilson York, Thomas Jefferson York, Sam Houston York, and Andrew Jackson York.

Alvin York was a genuine hero, which is quite something when there are so few today. He was a steadfastly loyal man of convictions, a simple man who lived in and was buffeted by an increasingly complicated world. Yet he remains a true hero to this day.

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Neiman Marcus vs Angel Tree

Even before Thanksgiving Day was over, shoppers flooded stores for "pre-Black Friday" sales. The following day, shops opened their doors to deal



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

hunters who'd spent the night in cold temperature for the honor of being first in line. Christmas shopping brings out the worst and best in most of us.

The 2013 Neiman Marcus Christmas book shows just how far some folks go to find the "perfect" gifts. The his-and-hers outdoor entertainment center is something spectacular. Who wouldn't want a television that rises out of the ground and opens

to a 211 inch screen with the most advanced sound system? It also features his and her mini iPads as remotes. The system is a steal for only \$1.5 million. Hey, no amount is too large to spend on a loved one.

Others might prefer the Forever Diamond Experience. Oh, it does start with a 2.5 carat Forever diamond, but that's only the beginning of this little gift for that special girl. Travel takes her to London to view the uncut diamond and to name it. Then a tour of the crown jewels is followed by a trip to Africa to see the place where the diamond was mined. The owner also

has the opportunity to see all the wonderful benefits that the workers, their families, and the community receive from the company. Then it's back to New York to meet with designers and to display the stone to the envious public. It's a gift that keeps on giving for only \$1.85 million.

For those on a tighter budget, the Neiman Marcus 2014 Aston Martin Vanquish Volante, one of only 10 in the world, will fit nicely. At only \$344,000, the "naturally aspirated 6.0-liter, V-12 engine produces some 565 horsepower and is tuned to deliver 457 pound-feet of torque," and has a 6-speed automatic transmission. With a top speed of 180 mph., this more modest Christmas

present will have its owner cruising down the highway as he quickly escapes the masses driving boring sedans and SUV's.

Neiman Marcus makes sure to share the wealth from each of its sales. From the sale of the diamond the company will give \$10,000 and from the vehicle it will donate \$3000 to the Heart of Neiman Marcus Foundation, which brings enriching art experiences to youth in communities nationwide. Hey, maybe it's not ten percent, but remember that it's the thought that counts.

On the other end of Christmas is the Angel Tree program. It brings just a bit of light to children. The Angel Tree provides much needed clothing items, special

needs gifts, and other wished-for toys to Knox County's neediest children. Approximately 140 names of senior citizens have been added to the trees this year to help out older folks with needs.

The tags on the trees located throughout the area list some items that these children request. Not one of them is much interested in a diamond or car or outdoor entertainment centers. More often, these little ones, instead, ask for socks or gloves or underwear. For toys, they request a doll or simple board game. When they open those presents, their eyes are filled with wonder and joy. Seniors are thrilled with some personal items or for things that offer a few

minutes entertainment. All appreciate the distractions from lives otherwise filled with pain and need.

We look forward to Christmas and dream of receiving those gifts that will fulfill those special wishes we harbor. Yes, most of us spend too much on things that lose their luster before long. Those whose wealth has no end struggle to find gifts that are "special" since they can already buy anything that they want.

I leave with this thought: I wonder how many Angel Tree wishes could be answered for the price of just one Neiman Marcus gift, or for the money the company donates to its own fund "for the children."

UT's Latest Volume of Jackson Papers Exposes 'Most Lurid Year' in Presidency

Cont. from page 2

"They thought she was a slut," Feller says bluntly.

The festering situation led Eaton and Secretary of State Martin Van Buren to tender their resignations—and that prompted Jackson to demand that the rest of his cabinet resign too.

In June 1831, with the situation still very raw, a Washington newspaper published an expose blaming the cabinet breakup on Mrs. Eaton.

The publicity nearly prompted a duel between two cabinet members—and caused one of them to pen a letter to Jackson charging that a gang of high

administration officers had tried to kill him.

The volume also points to the animosity between Jackson and his vice president, John C. Calhoun. It includes correspondence about Jackson's fury over an incident that had happened years earlier, when he was an army general and Calhoun was secretary of war.

Jackson had learned that Calhoun had wanted him reprimanded for attacking Spanish forts in Florida. Then-president James Monroe had decided to defend Jackson's actions—and Calhoun, despite his thoughts on the matter,

had agreed to publicly back Jackson.

"In 1830, Jackson found it convenient to reopen this old wound," Feller said. "Jackson went to great lengths to accuse Calhoun of conspiring against him.

"It was clear to Calhoun that Jackson was trying to drive a wedge that would sabotage his own presidential aspirations," Feller said. "Jackson got to the point where he blamed Calhoun for everything that went wrong in his administration. He said some of the nastiest things a president has ever said about his vice president, even comparing him to

Satan."

The volume also includes documents revealing public hysteria regarding the Nat Turner slave rebellion, documents detailing Jackson's infamous Indian removal policy, revelations that Jackson was anonymously penning newspaper editorials supporting his own policies, and letters that tell the story behind Jackson's hatred of Davy Crockett.

Feller said the new volume incorporates many documents never seen before.

In addition to printing documents housed in the National Archives and



Left to right, Laura-Eve Moss, Daniel Feller and Thomas Coens.

various libraries around the nation, "we found letters that are in private hands—owned by descendants

of historical figures who had never shown them to anyone until now."

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Perfect season gives Fulton claim to best-ever distinction

By Steve Williams

To lay claim to being Knoxville's best high school football team since the playoff era began in 1969, Fulton would have to go undefeated.

"I think so," said Rob Black, Falcons' head coach, after his team wrapped up a practice session in UT's indoor facility on Thursday night, Dec. 5, less than 48 hours before its state championship game against Giles County.

"I've heard a lot of people talk about that," added Coach Black. "I've asked this team several times this year, 'How are we going to be remembered? What's our story going to look like at the end? What will people say about us 10, 20, 30 years from now?' Still, a lot of that is unanswered, and I think a lot of that can be answered... with the outcome of this next game."

The answer was punctuated with an exclamation point.

On a freezing cold and overcast late Saturday afternoon (Dec. 7), when the Bobcats from Pulaski pulled to within six points of Fulton at the start of the second half in the TSSAA Class 4A title game, the Falcons responded like champions, scoring



STEVE MORRELL/FULCOM

Fulton's Xavier Hawkins, the game's Offensive MVP, passes Giles County defensive end Marcus Rhea (8) and crosses the goal line for one of his fourth touchdowns in the Falcons' state title victory. Fulton coaches watch the action in the background, with one signaling a touchdown.

34 unanswered points to pull away for an impressive 54-14 victory at Tennessee Tech's Tucker Stadium in Cookeville.

It was Fulton's first-ever undefeated state

championship team and the sixth in Knoxville in 44 years to hoist a gold football after finishing with a perfect record.

What makes the 2013 Fulton squad extra special

is how it dominated opponents throughout the season. Before its Mr. Football state honoree, running back Daryl Rollins-Davis, was sidelined with a leg injury 10 yards short

of the 2,000-yard rushing plateau in a second-round playoff game against Sullivan South, the Falcons had outscored their 10 regular season opponents 612 to **Continue on page 2**

Josh Malone Picks Vols, In-State Recruiting Key for Butch Jones

By Alex Norman

Former Tennessee coach Derek Dooley's lack of enthusiasm when it came to recruiting is now well known. It should have been evident by his failure to secure many of the state's top prospects during his three years in Knoxville.

If Butch Jones's first year is any indication, Tennessee's big time athletes are once again looking towards Knoxville.

Recently Josh Malone, a five-star (according to rivals.com) wide receiver from Station Camp High School in Gallatin, gave his verbal commitment to Tennessee. Malone has received offers from most of the nation's college football powers, and also had Georgia and Clemson on his short list.

Knoxville is about a three hour car ride from Gallatin.

"Tennessee... it is the home town school. It is a great place up there," said Malone. "I enjoy being around the coaches. I know most of the players up there so I already got bonds with them. Coach (Butch Jones) has an offense that likes to get the ball in wide receivers hands and it is an opportunity to play early. It is also a chance to compete, get on the field in the first game and later on hopefully start."

Malone added, "There is always in-state pressure. In Tennessee they are very proud about Tennessee football. There is a good amount of pressure to stay in-state."

According to 247sports, Malone certainly made the most of his senior season, catching 71 passes for 1404 yards and 19 touchdowns. He is listed at 6'3" and 190 pounds, and consistently runs a sub-4.5 40.

"They like my size, but they'd like me to get a little **Continue on page 2**

Lady Bulldogs use big third quarter to down HVA

By Ken Lay



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Hardin Valley's Brie Carter and Bearden's Madison Rice pursue a loose ball in Friday Night's District 4-AAA game at Bearden High School. The Lady Bulldogs beat the Lady Hawks 59-48.

Bearden High School's girls basketball team hung on to its share of first place with a 59-48 District 4-AAA victory over Hardin Valley Academy at home Friday night.

But it wasn't easy as the Lady Hawks matched the Lady Bulldogs punch for punch in the first half.

"I thought we were inconsistent in the first half," Bearden coach Justin Underwood said. "Our offense was good but I wasn't happy with our defense because they seemed to match us possession for possession."

The Lady Bulldogs, who led 18-10 after the first quarter, did just enough to hang on to a 32-28 advantage by halftime.

The third quarter, however, was a

different story as Bearden came out hot and scored the first 11 points of the frame to take a 42-28 lead on a basket by sophomore guard Holly Hagood midway through the period.

Despite a rough early stretch in the second half, Hardin Valley coach Jennifer Galloway didn't have much to complain about after her team dropped to 4-5 overall and 1-3 in District 4-AAA.

"I was really pleased with our effort and with our ability to execute our offense," Galloway said. "We had a stretch in the third quarter where we had turnovers and match-up problems but Bearden is a great team and they're well coached."

"I was also pleased with our point **Continue on page 2**

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UT could learn from our UT's mistake

As for making a coaching change, UT of the south-west could learn a lesson from what has happened to UT of the south-east.



By Steve Williams

Better leave your head football coach alone. He has been too successful over the long haul to be forced out. He will know when it's time to step aside.

It seems the universities of Texas and Tennessee have more in common these days than "UT" and orange in their school colors. They've also had football coaches with many similarities.

At the time of this writing, Texas still had its coach, although Mack Brown reportedly was fighting to keep his job. A 30-20 won-

loss record over the past four seasons, including a 5-7 mark in 2010, wasn't to the Longhorns' liking.

It could be worse. Tennessee is 21-28 the past four seasons after choosing not to rehire Phillip Fulmer. No offense to Butch Jones, who is doing his best to pick up the pieces, but the Vols are now on their third head coach since forcing out Fulmer and have had four losing seasons in a row.

Oh, you say, but that would never happen to a college giant like Texas.

Maybe, maybe not. Have you forgotten how many seasons Alabama struggled through before it hired Nick Saban?

By the way, if Texas had its eye on Saban, that

possibility ended Friday night with the news that the Crimson Tide coach and King of Tuscaloosa had signed a new contract with Bama.

In addition to their coaching careers, the similarities of Fulmer and Brown include their ages and hometown roots.

Fulmer is 63, Brown 62.

Both grew up in Middle Tennessee - Brown in Cookeville and Fulmer in Winchester.

Fulmer was Tennessee's head coach for a full 16 seasons. Brown just finished his 16th regular season at Texas.

Brown has a 158-47 record guiding the Longhorns. Fulmer was 152-52 with the Vols.

Brown has been 98-33 in Big 12 Conference games. Fulmer was 94-34 in SEC

play.

Fulmer's 13-0 Vols won the inaugural BCS national championship game at the conclusion of the 1998 campaign. Brown's 13-0 Longhorns captured the 2005 BCS title.

Brown has celebrated two Big 12 Conference championships (2005 and 2009) and four Big 12 South Division titles. Fulmer won two Southeastern Conference crowns (1997 and 1998) and four SEC East Division titles.

Fulmer's teams played in 15 bowl games, winning eight. Brown will be seeking his 11th win in 15 post-season games at Texas later this month against Oregon in the Alamo Bowl.

Fulmer had a four-year record of 45-5 from 1995 through 1998. Brown posted a five-year record

of 56-8 from 2001 through 2005.

While Brown has gone through his roughest patch the past four seasons - 5-7, 8-5, 9-4 and 8-4 this year, Fulmer was 5-6, 9-4, 10-4 and 5-7 in his last four seasons at Tennessee.

Mike Hamilton, then the athletic director at Tennessee, didn't stand by the Vols' longtime coach when the going got tough, and with three games still remaining in 2008, announced Fulmer wouldn't be retained for the 2009 season.

It's no wonder the shaken Tennessee team lost to Wyoming the Saturday that followed. Had Hamilton let the season play out, the Vols probably would have finished 6-6 and had a chance to win a bowl game and avoid a losing season. But even that scenario

probably wouldn't have saved Fulmer his job. Not with Hamilton in charge.

Texas hired a new athletic director in November, with Steve Patterson taking over for the retiring DeLoss Dodds, and Brown has acknowledged the effect of what a new AD could have on his job security.

That brings us to another similarity. Although a buyout is no problem at Texas, it is interesting that Brown's current contract ends in 2020, seven years from now. Fulmer had a six-year buyout.

Before doing anything drastic, Patterson would be wise to look at what's happened to the football program at the other UT since it fired a coach with Hall of Fame credentials. And for sure, don't call Hamilton for any advice.

Perfect season gives Fulton claim to best-ever distinction

Cont. from page 1

57 and beaten Volcoi County 74-0 in the opening round of the playoffs.

Fulton still went on to set a new state scoring record, totaling 862 points in 15 games, which also ranks fourth all time nationally.

The Falcons also did it against a tough schedule, which included three Class 6A opponents and one Class 5A foe. They overcame adversity with the injury to Rollins-Davis. They also took everybody's best shot, including Catholic's in a semifinal game that wasn't decided until the closing minutes.

Last Friday, Coach Black said he'd heard "the best-ever talk" many times since the title game. "It's a huge compliment from people out there who think that.

"This is a special team. I think (the compliment) shows a lot about who this team is and what they've accomplished."

What will be said about this team in the future?

"Obviously, the state championship and 15-0 record," said Black. "That's what they'll begin with ... Then the number of athletes on this team ... the speed of the defense and having so many people around the ball.

"And here's a telling number about this team - We had 17 different players score touchdowns in various ways."

Wide receiver/tailback Xavier Hawkins, who ran for two touchdowns and had two TD catches, was named the Offensive MVP in the title game. Linebacker Sidney Jackson earned the

Defensive MVP award as he totaled 11 tackles (3 solo, 8 assists), intercepted a pass, recovered a fumble and had two tackles for loss.

Fulton capitalized on the first of five Giles County turnovers, recovering a fumble, and took a 7-0 lead in the opening quarter on Hawkins' 1-yard run and Josh Coleman's PAT kick.

Early in the second quarter, Lennox Roper stopped the Bobcats with an interception at the Fulton 15. Another interception, this one by Jackson late in the quarter, led to the first of four TD passes by Penny Smith, a 29-yarder to Hawkins.

KJ Roper hauled in a 47-yard touchdown aerial from Smith with 36 seconds left in the first half to make it 20-0.

Giles County didn't quit. Quarterback Kenton Baker was a one-man show after halftime and scored on a 13-yard run out of the zone read attack. After a Fulton punt, Cameron Ordway broke a tackle and went 45 yards down the Bobcats' sideline to cut the gap to 20-14.

But a huge play by Smith got the momentum back for Fulton. After sophomore Kentel Williams returned a kickoff 42 yards to the Bobcats' 41-yard line, Smith, on a crucial 3rd-and-7, hit Domonique Williams over the middle for a 38-yard touchdown pass.

Giles County Coach Walt Smith said the Falcons' senior southpaw stepped up and showed what kind of player he is on that play. The Bobcats had come with a blitz and Penny took one on the chin. But he still managed to throw a strike to Williams, who was

heavily covered.

The clutch completion and score padded Fulton's lead to 26-14 with 3:43 left in the third quarter.

Giles County went three-and-out on its next possession as Michael Scates recorded a tackle for loss, DeOntay Tate sacked the quarterback and the Bobcats threw incomplete with Hawkins defending.

On the Bobcats' next possession, Kenny Marsh pressured the quarterback and 5-8, 254-pound lineman Tony Gunn picked off a screen pass and hauled it back 30 yards for a TD. Fullback DJ Campbell's 2-point pass to Smith surprised Giles County and made it 34-14.

Fulton's defense continued to make big plays as a hit by Hawkins forced a fumbled, which was recovered by Jackson at the Bobcats' 14. That led to Smith's 10-yard TD pass to Hawkins on the first play of the fourth quarter.

Following a Giles County punt, Hawkins took a direct snap and scooted 68 yards down the sideline, right in front of a jubilant Falcons' bench, to make it 48-14 with 10:11 remaining.

Hawkins' breakaway reminded many Fulton fans of the season's numerous blowouts. All that was lacking was a running clock for the mercy rule. It started ticking at 5:06, following a 22-yard TD run by Tate.

The final five minutes were used for subs to get in the game . . . and the Falcons to soak it all in and bask in the glory of what surely will become a most memorable season.

Defense spells victory for Central boys

By Ken Lay

For three quarters Central High School boys basketball coach Jon Higgins saw his team do exactly what he wanted it to do --- play stifling defense.

And that defense spelled victory for the Bobcats, who notched a 66-40 District 3-AAA victory over Gibbs Tuesday night in Corryton.

Central's defense was crucial early as the Bobcats (5-3 overall, 3-1 in the district) were mired in an early shooting slump. They finally broke out of their offensive funk when Brett Huffaker buried a 3-pointer to give

Central an 8-3 lead with 40.3 seconds left in the first quarter.

"I wasn't really concerned that we missed shots," Higgins said. "We missed a lot of close shots.

"What concerns me is our defense and I was pleased with our defense for three quarters."

Higgins certainly had plenty to be happy about early. The Bobcats, who led 10-6 after the opening frame, surrendered just three points in the second stanza and opened a 26-9 advantage by halftime.

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Josh Malone Picks Vols, In-State Recruiting Key for Butch Jones

Cont. from page 1

San Antonio. But after the more muscle on me going into college," said Malone. "But they like that I am big and fast. I just want to improve my speed a lot and improve my size and keep sharpening all my tools. I really just want to become a better player overall."

"He is a once in a lifetime student athlete you know... he comes around once in a lifetime. He has great instincts, runs great routes, and he is physical when he needs to be. I think he has all the skills to succeed at the next level," said Malone's HS coach Shaun Hollinsworth. "I think Josh will step his game up as the competition increases. I think he has the work ethic for that. I would be shocked if it went the other way. He has shown that he is willing to work by going to (national) camps. I don't think the competition is going to be any kind of shock he has gone against the best competition in the country."

Malone will play in the annual U.S. Army All American Bowl on January 4th in

the game he won't be returning to Station Camp High School. Malone will be an early enrollee at Tennessee next month.

"You already get acclimated, get classes out of the way and you get to go through spring practice," said Malone. "You can start working out and build chemistry with the guys. It is big from an enhancement standpoint, so you get time to adjust."

Malone is expected to make a major impact for the Vols, and could build on the "Wide Receiver U" tradition at Tennessee. Malone, Marquez North, Alton Howard and incoming JUCO receiver Lavon Pearson will give the Vols quarterback (whomever that will be) many options.

Still, Malone realizes that the hard work is just getting started.

"College is a different beast, a different speed," said Malone. "The players are bigger, and there are a lot more expectations up there."

Jones secured most of Tennessee's top prospects for the Class of 2014, including Malone, four-star lineman Derek Barnett (Brentwood Academy), five-star running back Jalen Hurd, (Beech HS), four-star safety Todd Kelly Jr. (Webb School) and four-star lineman Charles Mosley (Brighton HS).

Can this class, which likely will be ranked in the top 5 nationally when all is said and done, help Tennessee return to the SEC elite?

Only time will tell... but it looks good so far.

Lady Bulldogs use big third quarter to down HVA

Cont. from page 1

guard, Taylor Bishop. She did a good job with our offense and she runs our team well."

After Bearden (10-1, 4-0) opened its big lead in the third quarter, HVA junior forward Lacy Cantrell came alive for the Lady Hawks. She scored six of her team's eight points in the third stanza and kept Hardin Valley within reasonable

striking distance. Bishop had the Lady Hawks' other two points of the frame.

"We did a good job getting the ball to our wings and our wings did a good job getting the ball inside to her," Galloway said.

While the Lady Hawks have struggled in early district games, Cantrell took some positives from this game.

"I think we can play with

anybody if we come out and play the way we did in the first half," she said.

Bearden got a game-high 25 points from senior guard Erin Walsh. Hagood finished with seven while Olivia Pfeifer, Madison Rice, Lexus Norwood and Chanler Geer scored six points apiece.

Three Lady Hawks post double figures in the scoring column. Katie Smartt

scored 14 points of the bench to lead the way. Brie Carter scored 10 of her 12 points in the first half to keep things close. Cantrell had all 10 of her points after halftime.

Bishop also had nine points for Hardin Valley, which trailed 54-40 at the end of the third quarter.

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Veterans propel Lady Eagles to first win

By Ken Lay

Gibbs High School girls basketball coach Chris Bray issued a challenge to a pair of veteran players at halftime of the Lady Eagles' District 3-AAA game against Central Tuesday night.

The coach chided and Haley Cavalaris and Karri Byrd both responded with a big second half to lead Gibbs to a 55-47 victory at home in a battle between two previously winless teams.

I challenged Karri and Haley at halftime," Bray said. "They are my bread and butter and I need 45 [points] from them every night. "Tonight, they gave it to me. Haley took over in the third quarter and Karri took over in the fourth quarter."

The duo struggled early and combined for just 12 points before halftime. Byrd and Cavalaris, however, woke up in the second half. They didn't score 45 but combined to score 40 after the break and that was enough to lead the Lady Eagles (1-8 overall, 1-4 in the district) to their first win of the season.

Byrd scored 15 of her game-high 22 points after halftime

and Cavalaris had 13 of her 18 points in the second half to help Gibbs open a 10-point lead early in the fourth quarter. Byrd's bucket made the score 42-32 with 4 minutes, 53 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Lady Eagles would then have to withstand a rally from Central (0-8, 0-4).

The Lady Bobcats used the 3-point shot to hang around late. Central buried four long-distance jumpers and pulled to within 48-42 on a 3-pointer by Tori Wesley with 1:38 to go.

Wesley, who scored 10 points, hit a pair of 3-pointers in the final frame. Aminah Kea and Keeley Yeary each hit 3-pointers in the last stanza.

The two teams were locked in a battle early with the Lady Bobcats opening a 24-19 lead on six consecutive points from center Stephanie Childress. Her lay-up gave Central the five-point lead before Gibbs scored the final seven points of the period.

The Lady Eagles took a 26-24 lead on Shelby Griffin's shot as time expired. That basket gave Gibbs the lead for good.

Second half surge nets win for Hawks

By Ken Lay

Hardin Valley Academy's boys basketball team used a big second half rally to announce its presence in District 4-AAA with authority Friday night.

The Hawks overcame a huge halftime deficit to storm back and nab a 77-74 victory before a boisterous crowd at Bearden High School.

Hardin Valley, the newest member of East Tennessee's most competitive league, has yet to lose a district game. The Hawks have won their first four games in their new environment.

But early on, it looked like the host Bulldogs (5-3 overall, 3-1 in the district) would cruise to an easy win in the first-ever meeting between the two schools.

After halftime, however, it was apparent that HVA (7-2, 4-0) had other ideas as the Hawks used a 26-13 run to claw its way back into the game. That surge enabled the Hawks to pull to within 56-53 by third quarter's end.

Hardin Valley kept chipping away and finally took a 63-61 lead on a pair of free throws by Caleb Clevenger midway through the final frame.

The Bulldogs, who had a three-game winning streak snapped Friday game, then pulled even on a bucket by William Snyder before the Hawks closed out the game with a flourish.

HVA took a 65-63 lead on a field goal by Blaine Shockley. The Hawks then went on a 6-1 run to open a 71-64 advantage.

The Bulldogs then pulled to within 71-68 on consecutive baskets by Jason Smith and Snyder. Bearden later rallied to take a 74-73 lead on an old fashioned 3-point play by Jack Graham, who scored a game-high 27 points and missed a potential game-tying 3-pointer at the buzzer.

The Hawks then clinched the game with free throws from Shockley and Zak Carter.

"We've had a lot of huge wins in the history of our

program but this one ranks right up there," HVA coach Keith Galloway said. "And that's because of the effort that it took in the second half."

For the Bulldogs, who led 43-27 at halftime, the game marked a dubious first.

"That's the biggest lead we've ever blown," Bearden coach Mark Blevins said. "We've never lost after we've led by 16 at halftime."

"You have to tip your hat to them. We don't learn from losses. We just have to come back and show up ready to play a tough game on Monday night."

The Bulldogs host Alcoa tonight at 7:30 in a key non-district tilt. Bearden will also honor former standout Ty Greene during tonight's showdown against the Tornadoes.

In Friday night's game, Hardin Valley had three



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Bearden's Sam Phillips splits a pair of Hardin Valley defenders in Friday's district game at Bearden. Phillips scored nine points but the Hawks won a thriller 77-74.

players score in double figures. Carter led the way with 23 points. Tyler Thomas added 21 and Shockley finished with 17.

Snyder had 15 for the Bulldogs.

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Arts & Entertainment

Fountain City Art Center Expands Offerings with New Instructors

By Sylvia Williams

We're very excited about having two new instructors, J. Austin Jennings, known as "Jen", and Renita Andrews. Jen has just moved here from Dayton, Ohio and has also been working with area art groups such as the Arts and Culture Alliance and community colleges including Pellissippi. We are extremely lucky

to have scheduled her at the Art Center! She will be offering a workshop in "Mixed Media and Collage" on Feb. 1. In January, she will begin a 6 weeks class on Wednesday afternoons called "Right Brain Drawing." Beginning in March, Jen will offer "Acrylic Painting" for 8 weeks, also on Wednesday afternoons.

Renita Andrews is a very

talented jewelry artist who has been working in the Parkside Gallery at least once a week for the past year. She recently won a blue ribbon in one of our exhibits and sells quite a bit of her beautiful work through PODG. She has offered to teach a workshop in the basics of chain maille jewelry with a follow up set of workshops for those

who want to advance after the intro workshop. Also, Renita is donating the fees over and above her materials to the Art Center for this first workshop! . If you want to sign up for any of the classes or workshops, or get more information, call or email the Art Center: (865)357-2787; fcartcenter@knology.net. Be sure to call, email, or come by

this week Tuesday through Friday! The Center will be closed December 21 - January 6 for the Holidays. We are located at 213 Hotel Avenue next to Fountain City Park in the old library building.

We also have a good supply of our new FCAC Recipe Book Volume II for \$25 each. The Parkside Open Door Gallery, located in the Art Center, is

having a 10% off sale on all items from original artwork, pottery, handmade books, metal and wood sculpture, to jewelry and handmade cards. All of the work is by area artists and make excellent one-of-a-kind gifts! The Parkside will also be closed December 21 - January 6, so hurry in Tuesday through Friday of this week!!

Jesus' Earthly Father



Rosie's World

within her has been conceived by the Holy spirit. And she will have a son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All of this happened to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! the virgin will conceive a child. She will give birth to a son, and he will be called Immanuel (meaning God is with us.) Matthew 1:18-23. (This was from the "Daily Devotional Bible which interprets the Bible into an understandable language).

Thus begins the greatest story ever told. Can you imagine Joseph's feeling at this time? I wonder if he felt nervous or cowed by this godly mission. He certainly must have been a circumpect man for God to put him in charge

of Jesus' upbringing. It is said that he was a descendant of King David. A lowly carpenter who was also a shrewd businessman. He was also a kindly man, not wanting Mary to be embarrassed by this pregnancy. But I believe he was in awe by the duty he was sworn to do at this time. He had to go to Bethlehem for a census that the Roman Emperor Augustus had decreed. He didn't shrug his shoulder and say to himself, "well, I can't take Mary on such a long journey in her condition." No, he was willing to follow any rules the Emperor made, at the same time making sure his fiancée was comfortable. While they were there, Jesus was born.

Not much is said about Jesus' family life with Joseph and Mary,

especially about Joseph. He probably went about teaching Jesus the art of carpentry and also conveying to him the natural laws of daily living, but, I'm sure it wasn't long until Joseph realized that his son could teach him a few things about living.

I thought to myself: what if Jesus was born in this day and age. Joseph and Mary are a couple but then she gets in a family way. Joseph, not being the honorable man of 2,000 years ago, decides he wants nothing to do with this situation and takes off. Ah, what a different world this would be today!

I wish to quote some words from my minister Michael Mills of my Presbyterian church: "Christmas is the joy of a doe resting in the glade

of a sylvan afternoon as she slowly sips living waters. Christmas is the beam of a grandchild's smile on opening a present and the quiet smile curdling with merriment of a senior saint remembering Christmases of yore among faces and voices stilled but not forgotten. Christmas is a dream of God made real in the Word made flesh and dwelling among us who is Word of God, Lord of Lord, the unique Savior of us all, the Lord Jesus Christ." Thank you, Reverend Mills and thank God for Joseph, who was Jesus' earthly father.

Thought for the day: The only way to worry about nothing is the pray about everything. Unknown

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

Defense spells victory for Central boys

Cont. from page 2

The Eagles (0-9, 0-5), who went to the Class AA State Tournament last season before moving up in classification this year, managed just one field goal and one foul shot in the quarter. Tyler Mullins had a basket and Mark Thomas converted a free throw and that was all of the offense for Gibbs.

Central, which outscored the Eagles 16-3 in the second stanza, continued to dominate things in the third quarter. By period's end the Bobcats were up 45-19 and it was apparent that Gibbs' struggles were going to continue.

"Before tonight, I thought we had turned the corner," Eagles' coach Timmy Meade. "We had played well in the last four games and that's hard to see when you don't have a win. But we were in those games in the fourth quarter.

"Tonight, we just played a team that was better than us and tougher than us."

After the Bobcats finally got their offense in gear, they had three players score in double figures.

Huffaker led all scorers with 15 points. Tee Sanford added 14 and Matt Randolph finished with 10.

While Higgins was pleased with his defense through three quarters, he was far from happy in the fourth quarter in which the

Eagles doubled their offensive output.

"We gave up 20 points in the fourth quarter because we got a little loose with our effort," Higgins said. "We just have to come in and

keep working.

"We have to keep getting better each day."

Colby Luttrell scored 11 points to lead the Eagles.

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

Advent

Christmas parties are interesting social conventions. These gatherings are a balancing act. Personally, I find it difficult to have meaningful discourse in a noisy room with people milling around holding an adult beverage, a small plate of food and trying to feed themselves with a tiny fork. Perhaps if humans had more than two hands or if I were a juggler I'd be more of a Christmas party animal. My wife is a lovely individual and quite fetching. John Gray published his now famous book, "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus," in 1992 describing the differences between the sexes. I don't need a book to tell me about the differences. When we go to a party I'm charged with carrying

my wife's lipstick, keys and other necessities because women's styles are unforgiving. After all, how attractive is an iPhone outlined by spandex? Men's slacks have pockets for necessities and they don't seem to be bothered by bulges over their hips. I'm not really complaining just making observations that men have been making silently for a long time. According to the well-respected Myers-Briggs personality index, I am equally at ease in a library with a good book or schmoozing at a party making small talk. Psychometric tests like the Myers-Briggs typology and the famous Rorschach ink blots have been used for a long time to analyze what makes us tick. Years ago I read

the book "Gifts Differing" that described the research and methodology of Isabelle Myers and Katherine Briggs. These exceptional 19th century women extended the work of Carl Jung who was a contemporary of Sigmund Freud. The Myers-Briggs index measures how humans collect information and then act upon it. It turns out that I'm neither an introvert nor an extrovert because I'm equally balanced on this scale. I'm less intuitive, but, as you might expect of an internist, I'm a data collector. Like many other men I'm more logical than empathetic. It's fortunate that the majority of women are more feeling oriented, after all, women are the glue of society. And I tend to get the job done first and play later because procrastination is not my modus operandi. Advent refers to the coming of Christ in the liturgical calendar. This is a time of spiritual preparation and reflection for Christians, and a fun time as well. However, every year we hear that someone is offended by the notion of Christmas. These militants would have their will imposed on the majority and ban

Christmas on the guise of separation of Church and State. Unfortunately, many Americans erroneously think this separation is mandated by The Constitution; it is not. I challenge you search the Constitution or to at least read the First Amendment to our operating agreement and reflect upon the phrases establishment of religion and free exercise thereof. It was not until the mid-20th century that nine old men in the Supreme Court began the assault on our Christian heritage. Justice Hugo Black introduced into the High Court's decision on the establishment clause an "obscure metaphor" from a letter Thomas Jefferson wrote to Baptists in Danbury, Connecticut. Jefferson's letter was written to assure the Baptists that the establishment of a State religion would not occur in the United States. Justice Black and his bros reinterpreted the words of the First Amendment and made establishment the focus of the American left, virtually eliminating the rest of the First Amendment mandating the free exercise thereof. I don't celebrate Ramadan or Kwanzaa, but I have no problem if others

have different traditions and want to celebrate meaningful events in their culture or religion. Christmas is a season with both secular and religious significance. I say pick the emphasis meaningful to you and be tolerant of others. A decision to ignore the birth of Jesus Christ is yours alone. However, leave me alone to exercise my religion and First Amendment rights. The last time I checked atheists and wiccans and Statists were all minorities in America with no greater rights than people of faith. Advent is a time of anticipation where Christians reflect upon Immanuel, God with us. In general, Methodists are not big on pomp and pageantry, but recognize that rituals and sacred celebrations help to refocus us away from the trials of the world and toward foundational principles of faith and trust. Focusing on things greater than politics might actually change the world in a way that the UN can never do. We might come closer to utopian ideals if everyone lived everyday as did Jesus of Nazareth. There are two fundamental questions that recur in all people and

in all times: why are we here and what is our purpose? Some believe that thoughtful humans are merely a product of chance. Others believe that our purpose is looking out for number one. Theists believe otherwise, holding that there is a Creative force behind our existence and the purpose of life is relationship with that Creator and loving others. Many of you may remember the movie (and the book) Cosmos by Carl Sagan. In the movie, the theist challenged the scientist played by Jody Foster with the statement that "wise men still seek Him." That phrase has resonated with me all these years and in every Advent season. Arguably, there is no objective proof of the Theistic or the atheistic perspective. Each of us is given a mind and a need to contemplate origin and purpose. This is a unique gift to humanity. This gift comes again and again, and each year as I sit in the Christmas Eve service and even the next morning under our Christmas tree.

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

Keep Knoxville Beautiful Distributing Recycling Bins this week

Keep Knoxville Beautiful and Knox County Solid Waste will be distributing recycling bins at local convenience centers December 16th through December 20th, just in time for Christmas. The bins are provided by a special grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation to encourage Knoxville residents to increase the amount of trash that is recycled. Bins will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis and only one per household. We are asking that people make an effort to increase the amount of waste that they recycle. Paper is one of the more recycled commodities because it is easy to store, doesn't stink, and is now consolidated with newspaper and mixed paper together in "mixed paper" at the county convenience centers. The City's recycling centers still have newspaper and mixed paper collected in separate containers.

Paper is easy for people to start recycling so we often ask if people recycle paper early on in conversations. If someone says "No" then we explain how easy it is to start. The bins we are giving out are a good size for paper collection. Keep Knoxville Beautiful and Knox County Solid Waste will be at the Tazewell Pike Convenience Center on Monday, December 16th, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., the Dutchtown Convenience Center on Tuesday, December 17th, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., the Powell Convenience Center on Wednesday, December 18th, from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., the Halls Convenience Center on Thursday, December 19th, from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., and they will be at the John Sevier Convenience Center December 20th from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Follow Keep Knoxville Beautiful on Facebook for updates.

Make Skin Health a priority in 2014

The new year is fast approaching, and with it comes the opportunity to ditch unhealthy habits. The Skin Cancer Foundation urges everyone to put skin health on their list of New Year's Resolutions. Here are five healthy and potentially lifesaving habits to adopt in 2014:

1. Protect Yourself Every Day

Sun protection is essential to skin aging and skin cancer prevention - about 90 percent of non-melanoma skin cancers and 86 percent of melanomas are caused by the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) light. Since UV damage is cumulative over a lifetime, it is something to be concerned about on a daily basis. The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends

these sun protection tips:

- Seek the shade, especially between 10am and 4pm.
- Do not burn.
- Cover up with clothing, including a broad-brimmed hat and UV-blocking sunglasses.
- Use a broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher every day. For extended outdoor activity, use a water-resistant, broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher. Daily use of a sunscreen with SPF 15+ reduces skin aging by 24 percent.
- Apply 1 ounce (a shot glass full) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every two hours after swimming or

excessive sweating.

2. Visit the Doctor's Office for a Yearly Professional Skin Exam

Skin cancer, the most prevalent cancer, is also the most treatable cancer when detected early. The survival rate for patients whose melanoma is detected early, before the tumor has penetrated the skin, is about 99 percent. The survival rate falls to 15 percent for those with advanced disease. An annual full-body skin exam performed by a dermatologist is essential.

3. Perform Routine Self-Exams

While self-exams shouldn't replace the important annual skin exam performed by a physician, they offer the best

Continued on page 2

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Faith

Make Skin Health a priority in 2014

Continued from page 1

chance of detecting the early warning signs of skin cancer. If you notice any change in an existing mole or discover a new one that looks suspicious, see a physician.

4. Avoid Tanning

There is no such thing as a safe tan—the darkened complexion that results from UV exposure actually represents DNA damage to the skin. The cumulative damage caused by sun exposure can lead to skin cancer, as well as wrinkles, brown spots and other signs of premature skin aging. People who first use a tanning bed before age 35 increase their risk for melanoma by an alarming 75 percent. Just one visit to a tanning salon also increases the risk for the two most common forms of skin cancer, basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, by 29 percent and 67 percent, respectively.

5. Go With Your Own Glow

The Skin Cancer Foundation advocates embracing one's natural skin tone. The Foundation's Go With Your Own Glow™ campaign encourages women to love and protect their skin, whatever its natural hue. However, those who can't resist the bronzed look but won't sacrifice their health to achieve it should consider sunless UV-free tanners. They are available in many different formulations, including creams, lotions, gels, pump sprays, aerosols and wipes.

O Holy Night

The Innkeeper was happy. Business was booming since Caesar Augustus decreed that a Roman census should be taken. The small village of Bethlehem mushroomed into a small city. Every available blanket had been put to use. The



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

night before a young couple from Nazareth had arrived, exhausted. They may have been one of several families turned away that night. There was just no room. But could space not be found for at least a young woman about to give birth, and to the Christ child at that?

It is doubtful the innkeeper or anyone else wondered about the condition of the

pregnant girl. It was too busy. Chores had to be done, bread made, water ported. There was too much going on to consider that the impossible had just occurred the night before. But it was true. God came to earth as a baby. And His arrival was

anything but ordinary or expected.

In order to visit the baby nursery, you would have to make your way to the area of town where the animals were kept. Bethlehem is hilly with many little caves cut into the rock to shelter animals. It is quite possible that one of these animal shelters cut into stone is where Jesus slept the first

night. The shelter stinks like any stable would. Scents of urine, dung, and animals fill the air. The ground was no doubt hard and the room dark. Yet this is the way God wanted His Son to make His entrance.

A group of shepherds have gathered next to the side of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Angels alerted them to the fact that Jesus was to be born that very night. Shepherds, in that culture, were nobodies. Yet it was to the simple and marginalized that the entrance of the Messiah was first announced and would be the first witnesses to this amazing event.

Joseph must be exhausted both emotionally and physically. His concern for Mary and the delivery, not finding proper shelter for a birth, and

the long distance traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem must have left Joseph very weary. But both Mary and baby Jesus are fine. What a relief he must be feeling.

And then there is Mary. God used a teenage girl from a poor family in a tiny village in rural Galilee to bear the King of Kings. She caresses her baby and looks intently at the Son of God. It is overwhelming enough to hold an infant, but imagine holding God!

The night might not have felt very holy from sophisticated, wealthy, outsiders. The innkeeper and merchants were unaware of the visit God had made to their town before any other. This was a holy night, the night the eternal put on flesh.

Church Happenings

Seymour United Methodist Church

Are you ready for what comes next,

The celebration we all hold so dear?

The birthday of Jesus is coming soon,

GOD's love could not be more clear!

What more can be said for the "Gift of ALL Gifts" that God sent to earth so long ago?

Pastor Rev. Jason Gattis, and all others, welcome you to join with us for Sunday morning worship. Our Traditional Worship Service starts promptly at 8:45 AM with a more modern Contemporary Praise Worship Service beginning at 11:00 a.m..

All Sunday school classes begin at 10 a.m., for a 45-minute, Biblically-based study period between the two worship services.

The active Youth program generally gathers each Sunday afternoon with the following schedule: 4:30

p.m.: Assembly and Worship; 5:30 p.m.: Snack Supper; 6:00 p.m. Fellowship and Mission time.

The "Youth Choir" will be re-starting in January, so "tune up your voices" and watch for further details on this opportunity.

As we travel through this Advent season, let us remember to share our many blessings. As we continue to give thanks and praise, here is a brief schedule of the upcoming special services and other fellowship events this month of December:

Christmas Cantata on Sun., 12/22 at both worship services (see times above) and two candlelight Christmas Eve Communion worship services on Tues., 12/24, at 7 and 11 p.m.

In addition, this Wednesday evening, Dec. 18th, following the regularly scheduled fellowship meal, beginning at 6:30 p.m., everyone is welcomed to go out caroling.

On Saturday, Dec. 21st, beginning at 9 a.m., the "Groundskeepers" fellowship group will meet to "winterize" the various flower garden areas. Contact is Dave Manners.

Looking ahead, "Resurrection 2014" is scheduled for mid-January at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. Contact Mario Kee.

Don't forget, as the year winds down, to make good on your financial pledges and support and help SUMC meet its obligations.

Further information on any of the above items or other matters, please call our church office at 573-9711. Our informational website is: www.seymourumc.org.

We are conveniently located at the corner of Chapman Hwy and Simmons Rd., just one block north of the Boyd's Creek & Rt. 411 intersection with Chapman Hwy.

**Community-Wide
Christmas Eve
Communion Service
December 24th at 5pm**

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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

**Christmas
Candlelight
Communion**
Sunday, December 22
6:00 p.m.
Meridian Baptist Church
6513 Chapman Highway

Come worship with us

New Beverly Baptist Church

3320 New Beverly Church Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37918

Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor

www.newbeverly.org

856-546-0001

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.

*New Beverly Baptist Church Presents
Our 2013 Christmas Play:*

"What Can I Give Him?"

Service, Treats & Santa!

When: Sunday, December 22 at 6 p.m.

**Where: New Beverly Baptist Church
3320 New Beverly Church Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918**

Info: 865-546-0001 or www.NewBeverly.org

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

*No admission charge -
Just come, worship and celebrate our Savior's Birth!*



Samuel Frazier Chapter Meeting - Daughters of the American Revolution.
 Present at the club's November meeting are: (standing) Jyl Smithson-Riehl - Chapter Regent, Lexie Randolph, Roberta Jones, Doris Owens, "Sam" Wyrosdick, Loretta Bradley, (sitting) Anne Balitsaris, Joyce Dunn, Guest Speaker Edna Eickman from the Community Action Committee Office of Aging, and Michell Wyrosdick. The November meeting featured Ms. Edna Eickman, who presented a program on Grandparents as Parents. The meeting was well attended and enjoyed by all.



CONGRATULATIONS to the Kid Of Character winners at Mount Olive Elementary School. These students were chosen by their classmates as being the most RESPONSIBLE in their classes. Pictured on the front row are: (L-R) Elin Miller, Amelia Bumpus, Eliyahs Rauton, Sohpie Berrios, Andrea Kirk, Allison McCombs, Faith Penner, Madalyn Nickens, and Kennedy Looney. Back row: Rijul Patel, Charly Sullivan, Dakota Vaughn, Principal Paula Brown, Ella Farmer, Kamryn Hunt and Christian Kennedy. These students know that CHARACTER COUNTS!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ossoli Circle Meeting
 On Monday, December 16 at 1:00 p.m., the Presidents' Day program will honor past and present presidents. Hors d'oeuvres will follow.
 Visitors always welcome. Ossoli Clubhouse, 2511 Kingston Pike. Info: (865) 577-4106 (if you need further information, call Cheryl Smith at (865) 539-1721)
UT Hospice seeks volunteers
 UT Hospice conducts ongoing

orientation sessions for adults (18 and older) interested in becoming volunteers with our program. For more information call (865)544-627
Veteran's Benefits Lunch and Learn
 Knoxville Veterans Services will provide information on Veteran's Administration "Improved Pension Benefit" with Aid and Attendance on January 10 at 12:30 p.m. at the Halls Senior Center, Please RSVP at 922-0416 by January 7.

Elegant Bread Pudding

10 cups cubed croissants or French bread
 1/2 cup raisins
 8 eggs
 2 cups half-and-half cream
 1 cup packed brown sugar
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 1 teaspoon grated orange peel
CARAMEL SAUCE:
 1 cup packed brown sugar
 1/2 cup butter
 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



raisins. In a large bowl, beat the eggs, half-and-half cream, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and orange peel; pour over bread.
 Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 30 minutes. Cover with foil and bake 15 minutes longer or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean.
 For sauce, in a saucepan, combine the brown sugar, butter and whipping cream; cook and stir over low heat until smooth. Remove from the heat; stir in vanilla. Serve bread pudding in bowls with caramel sauce and whipped cream if desired. Yield: 14 servings.

Arrange bread cubes evenly in a greased 13-in. x 9-in. baking dish; sprinkle with

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
 Volunteers Portable Moving and Storage, hereby publishes notice, as required by Tennessee Self-Service Storage Facility Act (TN Stat. 66-31-101- 66-31-107) of a public sale of the property listed below to satisfy a landlords lien. All sales are for cash to the highest bidder and are considered final. Volunteers Portable Moving and Storage reserves the right to reject any bids, Auction is to Be located at: 10155 Gallows Point Drive Knoxville, TN 37931 and will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday December 31,2013
 Bond, Arron 44A110Ford, James 206B110 Kinnebrev, Katoya 8023B110Satterfield, Billie J8142B110 Contents include but not limited to: Household items, books, exercise equipment, stereo equipment and more.

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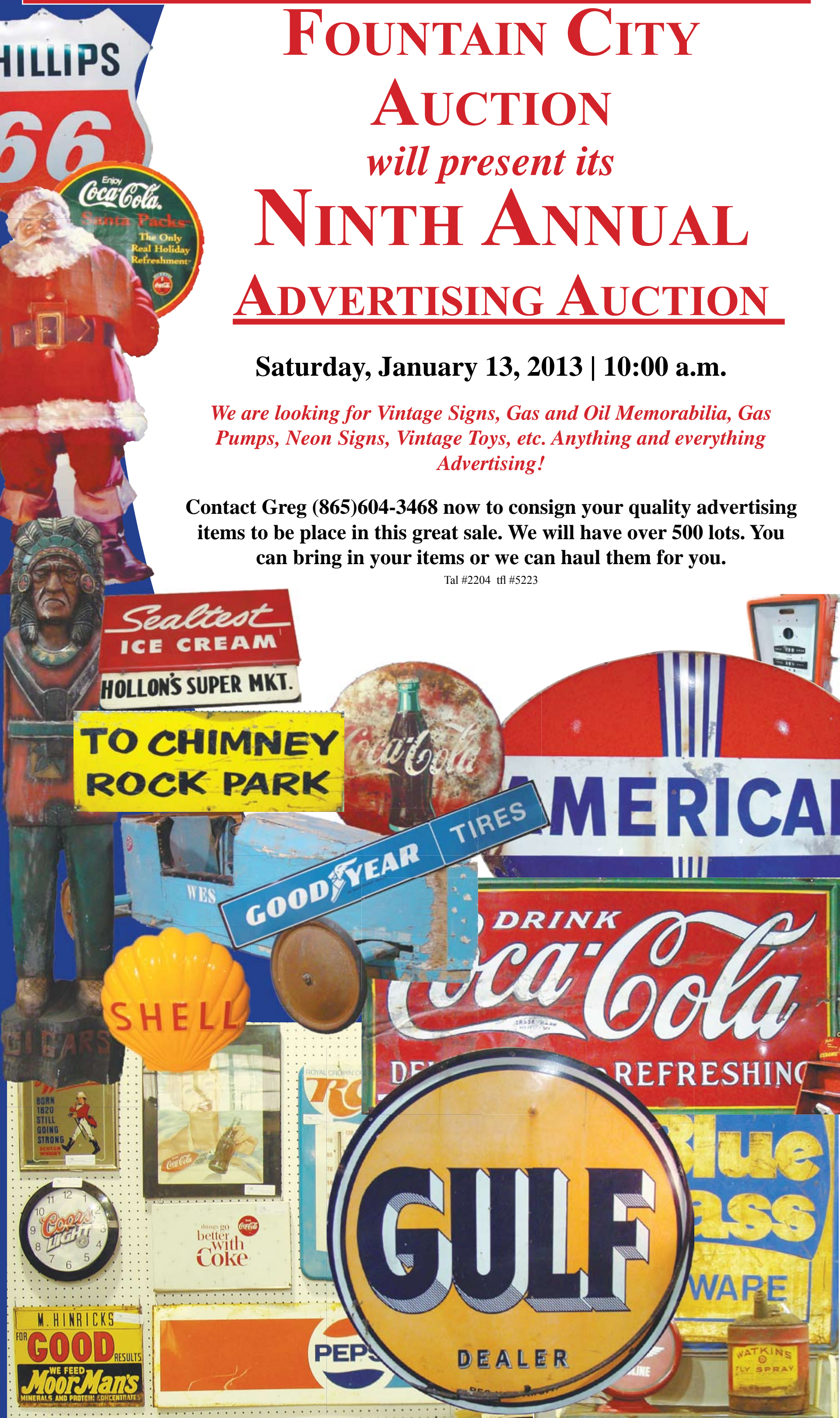
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