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# KnoxFocus 24/7

January 13, 2014

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## Travel Channel comes to Fountain City Auction

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Lots of auction goers were surprised Saturday morning when Fountain City Auction drew some new bidders. Accompanied by TV cameras, producers and admirers, The Travel Channel's "Baggage Battles" show came to town.

Why Knoxville and why Fountain City Auction?

There are several reasons.

First, the Fountain City Auction is consistently in the top ten of the most visited auctions on AuctionZip.com for the state of Tennessee.

Second, the advertising items, more than 600 of them, were being sold to the highest bidder in Saturday's 9th Annual Advertisement Auction.

Greg Lawson, Fountain City Auction's owner, said he was contacted more than a month ago by the show's producers. He had originally planned to hold the "Advertising"



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Autioneer Hobie Humphrey (at microphone), Fountain City Auction owner Greg Lawson (right) and staff ran Saturday's Ninth Annual Advertisement Auction with special visitors from The Travel Channel's "Baggage Battles."

**Cont. on page 4**

## Childhelp celebrates 10 years of making a difference

By Focus Staff

The Childhelp Foster Family Agency in Seymour has been providing training, support, and supervision for individuals and families who desire to provide foster homes to children in need for 10 years- but their work is never done.

"Unfortunately, there are more children in need of placement than there are families available. Over 2,000 children in Knox and surrounding counties are in state custody after being emotionally scarred and hurt by those they love," Childhelp Executive Director, Hugh Nystrom, said.

The agency has served over 700 families since 2004 and has had 16 families adopt sibling groups of three or more children.

According to Childhelp, many foster families desire to adopt, while others just want to care for children and provide safety until they are able to be reunited with their birth families or until an adoptive home is located. Regardless, the agency offers therapeutic services and 24/7 staff support. Additionally financial assistance is often also available

**Cont. on page 4**

## Knox Heritage honors local veteran

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

He turned the \$50 he brought back from World War II into a job as a plumber. After obtaining his Master Plumber's License, he turned his job into a highly successful business, Howard and Howard Plumbing, with his brother.

The company grew and prospered, thanks to contracts with Knox County High Schools and the University of Tennessee. On the way he bought a historic home at 2921 North Broadway and over the years preserved and maintained it. The 1910 home, on 2.4 acres, is now almost surrounded by businesses but he has steadfastly preserved the house.

Paul E. Howard was recognized for his effort to preserve the home when the Knox Heritage honored him in 2010. The Heritage group honored him again last Wednesday at Elmcroft Assisted Living in Halls.

At 91 Paul Howard has done a lot and, as an avid golfer, can claim 9 holes-in-one. He won several local, state and national amateur championships. In the early 1990s the Knoxville businessman bought the Harder Hall Country Club in Sebring, Fl. and turned it into a successful club.

Howard married his sweetheart, Evelyn, and they raised five sons. He became a business and civic leader in Knoxville, and a supporter of the



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Paul Howard accepts a framed certificate from Knox Heritage Executive Director Kim Trent.

University of Tennessee.

For more than 60 years, the Howards lived in their home, watching Broadway and the city of Knoxville change around them. Their neighborhood became commercial but they maintained and improved the house.

Built in 1910, the house was designed by Charles A. Hayes, a prominent architect, who built many homes around Knoxville. When Paul Howard bought the home, he ran

his plumbing business out of the house for a time but preserved the appearance and function of the place. His diligence and care of the historic home was acknowledged for the second time Wednesday and the home was called "a jewel in Knoxville" and he was noted for "perfectly maintaining" it

"We enjoyed doing most of it," Howard told the well-wishers, "and being a part of an old house like that."

## FOCUS Weekly Poll\*

In your opinion, is  
**1 and 1/2 hours each way or 3 hours total per day unreasonable for students riding a school bus to and from school?**

**YES 87.53%**  
**NO 12.47%**

Survey conducted January 9, 2014.

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

## Joint Education Committee briefly talks of Teacher Survey

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

It's unusual for a future discussion of the Knox County Commission and the wording of an agenda item to be the subject of discussion by another group. But Thursday night's second-to-the-last meeting of the Joint Education Committee saw just that.

The Commission agenda item, offered by Commissioner Tony Norman, states "Discussion regarding teacher's revolt and Superintendent's contract." It was the "revolt" wordage that brought attention of the Joint Committee, made up of appointed members of the School Board and the County Commission.

The use of the term "revolt" brought some comments from the joint committee members with Commissioner Amy Broyles saying that when the item comes up in their January 21<sup>st</sup> session, "It won't be much of a discussion at all." She added that the Commission will probably wait until the Board of Education, the working group, and the Superintendent discuss the teacher survey at a BOE meeting.

The BOE has two work sessions planned for the coming weeks, one on January 21 and one planned for February 3, both preceding their next regular monthly meeting on February 5.

Oddly enough, the BOE workshop on next Tuesday is on the same day as the County Commission's workshop. The Commission meeting is at 2 p.m. and the BOE workshop is at 5 p.m. How much information, if

**Continue on page 3**

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Focus on the Law

# Reverse Mortgages

If the homeowners are both 62 or older and have sufficient equity in their home, they may be eligible to apply for a reverse mortgage loan. A reverse mortgage is very different from other types of mortgages.



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

agency or organization making the loan usually limits what the loan proceeds may be used for. For example, the lender may require that the loan must be used to only to complete necessary home repairs or to pay delinquent property taxes.

There are also proprietary reverse mortgages which are private loans made by companies who do not have government insurance guaranteeing the loans. The costs on this type of reverse mortgages tend to be higher than with other types of reverse mortgages. The requirements to qualify for these loans may be more flexible and the loan amounts available may be higher than with other types of reverse mortgages. The loan documents will spell out the specifics of the particular loan and should be reviewed carefully since these loans are not all standardized.

The third type of reverse mortgage is the federally-insured reverse mortgage. These loans are known as Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs) and are backed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The home pledged as collateral for the loan must be a single-family dwelling or a two- to four-unit property that the borrower owns and occupies. The borrower is required to obtain counseling from a HUD-approved counseling agency. After obtaining the loan, the borrower must maintain the property in good repair, pay the real property taxes when due and not use the property for any illegal purpose. The HECM must be repaid when the last borrower dies; when all borrowers have conveyed their title to the property; when the property is no longer any borrower's principal residence or when the property is not the principal residence of another borrower for a period of more than twelve consecutive months.

The cost of an HECM is more than with a conventional mortgage primarily due to the cost of required Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance and the origination fee. Also beginning later this month, the FHA will require lenders to verify that homeowners have the ability to pay their taxes and insurance and that their credit history reflect a commitment to paying obligations. This may reduce the number of applicants who qualify to obtain reverse mortgages.

You can obtain additional information on reverse mortgages from the Federal Trade Commission website, the HUD website and the AARP website. You should consult an attorney for assistance and advice with your individual situation.

Sharon Frankenberg is an experienced attorney licensed in Tennessee since 1988. Her office number in Knoxville is (865)539-2100.

## FOCUS Weekly Poll

**In your opinion, is 1 and 1/2 hours each way or 3 hours total per day unreasonable for students riding a school bus to and from school?**

**Yes 87.53%**  
**No 12.47%**



By Age	Yes	No	Total
18-29	100.00%	[None]	2
30-49	91.84%	8.16%	49
50-65	90.65%	9.35%	139
65+	84.10%	15.90%	195
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.53% (337)</b>	<b>12.47% (48)</b>	<b>385</b>

By District	Yes	No	Total
1	79.31%	20.69%	29
2	80.70%	19.30%	57
3	76.19%	23.81%	42
4	87.93%	12.07%	58
5	91.89%	8.11%	37
6	93.48%	6.52%	46
7	91.67%	8.33%	36
8	92.31%	7.69%	39
9	95.12%	4.88%	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.53% (337)</b>	<b>12.47% (48)</b>	<b>385</b>

By Gender	Yes	No	Total
Unknown	80.00%	20.00%	15
Female	87.30%	12.70%	189
Male	88.40%	11.60%	181
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.53% (337)</b>	<b>12.47% (48)</b>	<b>385</b>

Survey conducted January 9, 2014.

## Survey Results from Elementary Teachers

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knox County teachers responded to a survey sent out by the Superintendent's Office last month and the results show much discontent in some areas of the system's administration of new teaching standards. Some 3,494 teachers responded to the survey, which was given to them to complete by hand and return. The survey, with 16 multiple-choice questions, came about after teachers stormed meetings of the Board of Education with complaints.

Over the next few weeks The Focus will look at the replies from the teachers. Each question had five options to select: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree. We will focus on those questions that either have 50% or more of the respondents selecting either Strongly Agree and Agree or Disagree and Strongly Disagree.

The teacher replies were separated by the grades they teach: Elementary, Middle, High School, Multiple Levels, and Total Respondents.

This week we focus on Elementary Teachers:

75.5% of the teachers disagreed or strongly disagreed with having classrooms observed unannounced twice each year.

68% disagree with that the district would take part in the writing assessments for the optional grade.

61% disagree that

teachers in their schools or districts have the opportunity to provide input regarding the district's strategic direction.

70% disagree that teachers "in my school/district" are trusted to make sound professional decisions about instruction.

66.9% disagree that teachers have autonomy to make decisions about instructional delivery.

50.4% disagree that "Overall, my district is a good place to work and learn."

Those questions in which a majority of teacher agree were:

49% think that classroom evaluations should include one unannounced visit and one announced visit

57.3% agree that the district should transition to a balanced calendar for all schools.

77.7% agree that "Overall, my school is a good place to work and learn."

Not surprisingly, those who liked working in their school didn't like what the school district is doing.

Other questions drew mixed replies with a small majority disagreeing that 'Core Standards will benefit institutional practice and student learning. 39.2% agreed or strongly agreed with the Core Standards, 34.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 26.7% were Neutral on the issue

There were various other questions that received split replies.

The survey results will be discussed at the

Board of Education's Work Session January 21, as will the special committee

chosen to review teacher objections, protests, and possible solutions.

Knox County Schools  
2013 Teacher Survey - Preliminary Results

Total Responses = 3,494		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
		Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
Elementary School	I think all professionally licensed teachers in TEAM schools should have both state-required classroom observations be unannounced.	44.3%	30.8%	16.0%	6.8%	2.1%
	I think all professionally licensed teachers in TEAM schools should have 1 announced and 1 unannounced classroom observation for their 2 state-required observations.	8.2%	10.6%	22.2%	40.4%	18.6%
	I think all teachers with Level 5 summative evaluation scores from the prior year should have the state-required observation protocol reduced from 2 formal observations per year (covering 2 domains per observation) to 1 unannounced formal observation.	8.7%	15.5%	22.9%	34.2%	18.7%
	I think the district should transition to a balanced calendar for all schools.	16.7%	11.0%	15.1%	27.8%	29.5%
	I think the district should participate in PARCC field testing.	27.3%	21.4%	26.3%	19.6%	5.3%
	I think the district should participate in the writing assessment for the optional grades.	38.9%	29.6%	17.4%	11.1%	3.0%
	This is the way PLCs function at my school.	10.8%	19.3%	15.5%	38.1%	16.1%
	My PLC enhances my instructional practice.	23.4%	25.8%	21.3%	24.8%	4.7%
	I think Common Core State Standards will benefit instructional practice and student learning.	12.3%	22.0%	26.7%	32.9%	6.3%
	Teachers in my school/district have the opportunity to provide input regarding the district's strategic direction.	28.2%	32.8%	19.8%	17.8%	1.4%
	Teachers in my school/district are trusted to make sound professional decisions about instruction.	35.9%	36.1%	9.4%	15.4%	3.1%
	Teachers in my school/district are recognized as educational experts.	36.9%	35.5%	12.3%	13.5%	1.8%
	Teachers in my school/district are encouraged to participate in school, district, and/or state leadership roles.	8.3%	16.6%	31.3%	40.3%	3.5%
	Teachers in my school/district have autonomy to make decisions about instructional delivery (i.e. pacing, materials and pedagogy).	37.9%	39.0%	10.5%	11.0%	1.8%
	Overall, my school is a good place to work and learn.	3.2%	6.7%	10.4%	46.1%	31.6%
	Overall, my district is a good place to work and learn.	21.1%	29.3%	24.8%	21.6%	3.3%



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# Publisher's Position

## School Board Races: A Referendum on McIntyre?



**By Steve Hunley,**  
Publisher  
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With the arrival of the New Year, politics will heat up in Knox County. Virtually every office in the county is up for grabs, with the exception of the Law Director and Property Assessor's office. Oddly, the races seeming to draw the most attention are well down the ballot; those for the Knox County Board of Education. Usually campaigns for the Board of Education generate little interest or attention, but clearly something is different this year. With staggered elections, there will be races for the First, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth Districts this year. Incumbents Gloria Deathridge, Lynne Fugate and Pam Trainor are all seeking reelection while incumbents Thomas Deakins and Kim Severance have announced they will not run again. Candidates seem to be coming out of the woodwork to run for the Board of Education, as every incumbent has at least one opponent.

Most everyone agrees South Knoxville Board member Pam Trainor is

likely the most vulnerable incumbent. First elected in 2010, Trainor had been a candidate against then sitting County Commissioner Paul Pinkston in 2008. Pinkston was under fire from County Mayor Mike Ragsdale's administration for Pinkston's determined opposition to the implementation of the wheel tax. Trainor ran as a Democrat and managed to attract significant funding through friends of the Ragsdale administration. In spite of having more than enough money to wage a solid campaign, Trainor lost badly.

Two years later, Trainor came back to win a seat on the Board of Education when incumbent Robert Bratton was vulnerable. Community activist Tammy Summers also ran and came up short. Since her election to the Knox County Board of Education, Trainor has been a faithful follower of Superintendent James McIntyre. Trainor's support for McIntyre has translated into very little support in South Knoxville and South Knoxville schools. When the Board spent an almost \$14 million windfall in a single night, not a penny was spent South of the river. Later, McIntyre did authorize saving the stadium at South-Doyle Middle School, which is to date Trainor's single accomplishment as a member of the Board of Education. Relatively speaking, investing in the crumbling stadium was a pittance, especially when compared to the money

flowing into the districts of those Board members who have been McIntyre boosters.

Trainor's performance as a member of the Board of Education has been somewhat erratic and while she howls about political machines and politics, she is not a newcomer to politics herself. Her vulnerability in the coming election is evidenced by her former campaign manager picking up a petition to run against her. Jim McClain, a former school administrator and one time Chairman of the Knox County Board of Education, strolled down to the courthouse and picked up a petition to run again. There had been rumors McClain wanted to run again, although he had backed Trainor four years ago. McClain had voluntarily retired and former County Commissioner Robert Bratton had been elected to succeed him. Four years after Bratton's initial election to the Board, McClain decided he was ready for a comeback and lost in a close race.

Just days ago, McClain was quoted in the Knoxville News Sentinel as saying although he picked up a petition, he did not intend to actually run. Instead, he will again manage Trainor's reelection campaign. McClain's explanation for having picked up a petition to run in the first place was that he merely wished to "stir things up," one of the more bizarre explanations so far

of the political season.

As of now, Pam Trainor has at least two opponents in the coming election; Larry Clark, a former Knox County Commissioner and retired teacher, is seeking support all across the district. Clark and his wife, Barbara, were both teachers for years. Barbara Clark is the former principal of New Hopewell Elementary School and was an administrator downtown before retiring. After leaving the Knox County Commission, Larry Clark has been employed by the Knox County Sheriff's Department. Clark will almost certainly have support from many old-time politicians.

Amber Rountree, an outspoken opponent of many of Superintendent Jim McIntyre's policies, is a fresh face and new to seeking office. A professional educator, Ms. Rountree has made quite an impression on many objective observers as highly intelligent and able, as well as articulate.

It is entirely possible there will be other candidates to file before the February 20, 2014 deadline.

Gloria Deathridge is facing retired educator Marshall Walker, who may prove to be a formidable candidate. Deathridge will have the backing of the remnants of former Board member Sam Anderson's machine inside the First District community. Faced with failing schools, some of which have been entirely reconstituted, Deathridge may also suffer for having backed

Superintendent McIntyre's bid to privatize the school custodians, a move that was highly unpopular inside her district.

Lynne Fugate has slowly moved up the ladder on the Board of Education, finally moving up to Board Chair last year. The Board chairmanship had been passed back and forth between Karen Carson and Indya Kincannon, both of whom have been lockstep supporters of McIntyre and his administration. Fugate is equally committed to McIntyre and has attracted three opponents thus far. Just how serious those opponents are remains to be seen. Fugate is fortunate to represent a district where McIntyre's numbers are higher than other districts, if not overwhelming.

Thomas Deakins is retiring in the Sixth District and there will be a familiar name on the ballot; Teresa "Terry" Hill is the wife of Steve Hill, frequent candidate for elected office and a former Chairman of the Board of Education. Hill will face Tamara Shepherd, Bradley Buchanan and Sandra Rowcliffe in the election. The Board of Education has been a family affair for the Hills, as his step-daughter Cindy Buttry served on the School Board for several terms. Ms. Shepherd is one of the best informed people in the county about the school system and a critic of Superintendent McIntyre.

In the Seventh District, Kim Severance has

accepted a new job recently and announced she will not be a candidate this year, but there is no dearth of candidates running to succeed her. Current County Commissioner Larry Smith, who is winding up his term on County Commission, should start out, as the actual favorite with the highest name recognition. Patti Lou Bounds, Zachary Wishart, Danny Kirby and Andrew Graybeal have all also picked up petitions to run as well.

If no candidate in the School Board race receives 50% plus one vote in the primary election, the top two candidates will go on to a run off in the general election in August.

Superintendent Jim McIntyre's insistence on having his contract extended seems to be the spark that has ignited real interest in the races for the Knox County Board of Education and the central issue in the campaign cycle may well be McIntyre himself. Only Board member Mike McMillan voted against extending McIntyre's contract, which had three years to run before the extension.

Clearly there already seems to be more interest in the campaigns for the Knox County Board of Education and it is entirely possible there could be a majority of new members who will not rubber stamp McIntyre's policies.

### Joint Education Committee briefly talks of Teacher Survey

Cont. from page 1

any, can be presented at the Commission meeting is questionable if that body is waiting on a School Board discussion. The next Commission regular meeting is on Monday, January 27.

In discussing the real estate ownership of schools and school property, now split between the school system, individual school, etc. the Knox County Law Director told the Joint Committee that any plan or action on the matter must go through the county Finance Committee.

Although the Joint Committee stopped short of reviewing the recent Teacher Survey, it did discuss parts of it and asked Superintendent James McIntyre, Jr. to comment. He said the survey results offer, "Really

good information."

"Some concerns that arise," he said, are that "teachers feel limited."

School Board Chair Lynne Fugate said, "We can work through this. This is great information, it is amazing what happens when people talk to each other." She also said that "Media wants to have a public discussion."

Fugate mentioned only one part of the survey, saying

that according to the survey "Teachers are happy in their schools, unhappy with the system."

Dr. Steven Joiner, the facilitator or moderator hired to oversee the Joint Committee's meeting, reminded them that under his contract the next meeting will be his last. He indicated that he hopes they continue meeting to discuss cooperation between the two bodies.

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# School Board looks at special work group, school ads, New Harden Valley School

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The education working committee, named by Board of Education chairperson Lynne Fugate in the midst of the recent teacher revolt, will be discussed in the board's January 21st work session. Fugate made the announcement last Wednesday, adding that the results of the recent Teacher Survey will also be on the agenda.

Fugate named the committee the "Working Group on Teacher Professional Support" and it included herself, Superintendent James McIntyre, Jr., several teachers, principals, and TEA president Tanya Coats. The special committee was to meet three times in December and discuss the public criticism by the teachers and the causes.

Members on the group included Heidi Knapczyk-Walch, Kelly Clemmer, Lauren Hopson, Jekia Allen, Eric Aguilar, Abigail Buczynski, Vanta Williams, Tenisha Marchbanks, Jessica D. McDonald,

Robert Howard, Lindsey Stinnett, Wanda Lacy, Valeta Norris, Glenn Arnold, Patricia Suzanne Sherman, Mark Duff and Jessica Holman.

McIntyre tweeted in December that he had met with the group and had a "really helpful conversation focused on assessment."

Teacher assessments, currently, are based on two unannounced visits to their classroom and both the visits and the assessments have been one of the main objections teachers have to the new standards.

Results of the Teacher Survey were released last week and the teachers responded overwhelmingly to disagree that two unannounced evaluations should take place each year. (See related Focus story on A2).

## In-School Advertising

In other business, the School Board passed on first reading, with three changes, a policy update on advertising and solicitation in schools. Indya Kincannon had several questions and added a

paragraph stating that any advertisement in the schools was not endorsed by the county schools. The measure continues to prohibit political, religious, or inappropriate signs, banners, handouts, etc. It does not forbid certain sponsorship of events.

One example of the acceptable advertisements in schools mentioned was the YWCA, even though "Christian" is a part of the organization's name.

## Hardin Valley Middle School

Kevin Crateau, speaking for supporters of a new Hardin Valley Middle School, told the Board that the school was "not a want but a need." He said the area had the highest growth rate of any other part of the county and that "we're starting to have a problem."

Crateau said the increasing number of homes and apartments there is cramping the area schools, which he said were at 100 to 110 percent capacity.

"I'm just asking," he said, "What's the plan and how

can we help?" He also said that the group began as a Facebook Page (Hardin Valley Supports a Middle School) and several of the supporters were on hand at the Board's meeting.

## Security trainee questions dismissal

Danny Wren, who was initially hired as a school security officer but dismissed during training, addressed the board and mentioned several incidents where active security guards were fired for various reasons. He said he had many years of public service and complained that he still "can't see my test results." Initially he had said that he may have been dismissed because of failing a physical.

Wren is a retired paramedic and firefighter. He said he still has not been told the exact reason for his firing after he had been hired and was on the second day of training.

## Coupon Books keep on giving

Mary Kerr's work on the Knox County School's "Coupon Book" project over the years continues to

pay off. Two items on last week's Board of Education meeting were reminders of that many-year effort:

The board was asked to approve a request of Brickey-McCloud Elementary School for \$22,008 to purchase technology funded by an Enhancement Grant and Coupon Book sales.

They were also asked to approve a request from Farragut Middle School for \$34,488, funded by "Coupon Book sales."

Last year the sale of Coupon Books brought \$1,360,376 into the school system and over the past 25 years the Coupon Book sales has raised more than \$28 million.

Mrs. Kerr was with the Knox County School System for 47 years and became known as the "Coupon Book Lady." The Focus featured her and her efforts in last week's edition.

## Teacher speaks

Mari Brooks, a German language teacher at West High School, asked the Board to "get rid of some of the required teachings"

in the new guidelines. She mentioned the Teacher Survey and said "based on the performance, teachers are far more interested in evaluations than bonuses."

"We're losing good teachers, some are retiring too early," she said. She also said, "Our pool of mentoring teachers has been diminished." She added that teachers should be "valued as professionals and don't micro-manage principals."

"Principals have far less autonomy to run their schools," she concluded.

Tanya Coats, president of the Teachers Association (TEA) asked the Board and the principal to "make a road trip" on January 22 to Fulton High School for an Association meeting. She also thanked Superintendent McIntyre for sending out the Teacher Survey

"We're trying to boost the morale of the teachers," she said.

## Travel Channel comes to Fountain City Auction

Cont. from page 1

item auction on his regular Friday night event but he adjusted his schedule to facilitate the show's production schedule.

The show producers then looked at some of the items already arriving at the Central Avenue Pike auction house and Lawson told them he had "stuff coming in daily." Last week he said he still had requests but could not accept any more items.

The auction house was packed with oil company signs, a classic juke box, a vintage Coke machine, and numerous other advertising-type items.

The inquiry from show producers moved to a three-way call between Lawson and the producers and another "Baggage Battles" producer came to Knoxville and was very impressed.

The TV show features three teams of "character" bidders who battle each other over items in

auctions. The three bid against not only each other, but against locals as well.

While he didn't announce that the Travel Channel's show would be shooting there, Lawson said he sent out an enormous email blast to promote the Advertising Auction.

Saturday began with heavy rain and it looked, for a while, like the turnout was going to be light. But people kept pouring in before and after the 10 a.m. start. The "Baggage Battles" personalities Mark Meyer, Billy LeRoy, and Lawrence and Sally Martin were talking to the cameras prior to the auction near items that they were interested in buying. They were also meeting Knoxville area attendees, posing for photos, and touring the displays.

Lawrence Martin said that it was his first trip to Knoxville but that his wife has relatives here, so the couple got a tour of the town on Friday. He seemed especially interested in one piece and bid on it during

the auction. You'll have to watch the show to see who bought what and how much they paid. Martin did say, before the auction, that he tries to buy things that he can resale. Sally Martin said that the larger items the bidders buy are shipped to them courtesy of the production company.

Yon Motskin, executive producer of the show, called *The Focus* from his New York office and said the Knoxville auction would probably air sometime Mid-April through early July but added that the show schedule is a decision that The Travel Channel makes.

"We usually produce two shows a month, sometime three or four. We've shot in Tennessee before, twice

in Nashville, and we have plans to return to Nashville this year," he said.

He also said the show picks professional people to be bidders, hoping they have a personality that works. He said that, in Knoxville, they have 14 production people not counting the three teams of bidders, and he sent in 12, hired two local shooters, and one local sound person.

Speaking of the bidders Motskin said, "This is what they really do for a living."

My Tupelo Entertainment produces "Baggage Battles" and also produces various other shows, including "Ghost Adventures" and "King of Vegas." The shows air on various television networks.



Fountain City Auction owner Greg Lawson and Lawrence Martin of "Baggage Battles" before Saturday's auction.

## Childhelp celebrates 10 years of making a difference

Cont. from page 1

to foster families.

Families who don't feel equipped to have a foster child 24 hours a day can serve as a respite family. These families take in children on an occasional basis to give a much-deserved break to the foster families who have them full-time.

Studies show that children have the best chance of recovering from abuse in a supportive family environment, and the need for foster families is dire.

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A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds.

While 3-million reports of child abuse are made every year in the U.S., experts estimate that the number of incidents is 3

times greater.

"Some of the greatest assets within our community are Christian families. It is in this kind of environment that a wounded child can truly be healed from the trauma they have faced. It is the goal and heart of Childhelp to place hurt children with competent, caring individuals who can provide stability and love," Nystrom added.

A pre-certification training is available for all who are interested in learning more about foster care. The 5-week PATH (Parents as Tender Healers) classes meet one evening a week. There is no cost and no obligation. The next path class starts later this month.

If you would like more information about becoming a foster parent, call Childhelp at (865)579-5498.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wife, 35, Drives 2012 Honda Accord EX Sedan</li> <li>• Husband, 37, Drives 2010 Chevy Suburban LS</li> </ul>	\$1421	\$1202	\$1270	\$1022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wife, 47, Drives 2011 Honda Pilot EX</li> <li>• Husband, 50, Drives 2012 Ford Taurus SEL</li> </ul>	\$1241	\$1093	\$1275	\$954

The Comparison Chart assumes coverage for Bodily Injury of \$100,000/\$300,000, Property Damage \$50,000, Medical Payments \$5,000, Uninsured Motorist \$100,000/\$300,000, Uninsured Motorist PD \$50,000. Deductibles of \$100 on Comprehensive claims, \$250 on Collision claims apply. Some rates may vary due to ZIP code. All cars are driven to work less than 15 miles each way, with annual mileage of 12,000 miles. All cars are equipped with 4-wheel anti-lock brakes, dual airbags and passive anti-theft devices. Account Credit Loss Free-Ride Driver, Experienced Operator and Multi-car or similar discounts are applied to all comparisons. Additional eligibility criteria varies by company. Chart based on information compiled from the most recent rates available by Quotient MapPRO Comparative Rating Software as of 11/06/2013. Rates apply to new policies and may not include all ZIP codes in a given territory. This comparison uses our Southern Insurance Company of Virginia Superior All Auto Product.

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# Local weather enthusiasts needed to improve forecasts

By Dan Andrews  
 andrewsd@knoxfocus.com

A well-known American writer said once that while everybody talked about the weather, nobody seemed to do anything about it. Nowadays, with the recent advances in personal weather stations, everybody can do something about it and it doesn't have to cost a lot of money.

Jeremy Buckles, a meteorologist and lead forecaster with the East Tennessee Storm Team believes it is

crucial to have local weather enthusiasts get involved in the process. "Local weather stations are a huge asset to meteorologists. I always like to say that a forecast is only as good as the data that you have available. More good data can help make better forecasts," Buckles told *The Focus*.

A Personal Weather Station is a device that measures outdoor wind, temperature, and other meteorological data. For those who are able to

connect to the internet, having a personal weather station provides real time accurate information that helps meteorologists with both short range and long range forecasts. The technology is fully automatic and connects directly with the owner's Wi-Fi network. Minimal effort is needed to maintain the system after setup, e.g., changing the batteries once a year. A Personal Weather Station with a dedicated internet connection now starts

around \$130.

People who do not have internet access at home can join CoCoRaHS, a volunteer service that records precipitation and inputs the data daily. CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. According to their website, CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and

**Continue on page 2**



This Acu-rite Personal Weather Station transmits precipitation, wind speed and direction, humidity and other meteorological data through a wireless connection.

# City Council: Breweries, Greenways, Home Offices



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Mark Donaldson of the Metropolitan Planning Commission discusses permits for breweries at last week's City Council meeting.

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Developing standards for small breweries, wineries and distilleries inside Knoxville saw much discussion Tuesday night at the City Council, which passed the ordinance but excluded such sites in neighborhood commercial zones. The idea of excluding those neighborhoods (C-1) from the proposal recommended by the Metropolitan Planning Commission drew some opposition from some of the council, even though Mark Donaldson of the MPC said any permits would have to face a use-on-review hear.

Carlene Malone, a former council member, spoke on

behalf of Community Forum and read the C-1 zoning restrictions to the council. She recommended they pass the ordinance but omit that zone from the wording. The sentiment was reflected in an address by Lynn Redmon, of the Norwood Community, who questioned if an "use on review" was turned down by the MPC.

"You're playing an ugly game," he said, using "use on review" to justify allowing micro-breweries inside the neighborhood commercial zones.

Councilman Nick Della Volpe then moved to delete those neighborhoods from the

ordinance, to which councilman Marshall Stair objected.

The opposition to the in-restaurant breweries was based on future locations, the size of an establishment and the size or footage of the brewery. After a discussion the ordinance finally passed, 6-3, pulling the C-1 neighborhoods from the language.

In other action the council sent back, for a second time, an ordinance to create a new Corridor Overlay District section.

They approved \$1,187,480 agreement with Southern Shores Development to construct Phase One of the Knox-Blount Greenway Project

which would eventually connect two counties. And, on consent, to give \$2,000 to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission for the 2014 King Week Celebration.

Just over \$46,000 was authorized for redesigning and development of a new website for the city by CivicLive and they passed an ordinance to make it easier for businesses and events to get a permit for a tent to used during special events.

They also approved changing the restrictions in Low Density Exclusive Residential areas to allow for the operation of a home office.

## City gives its campus streets to UT

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Without further public discussion or debate the majority of the Knoxville City Council voted last week to give the city-owned streets on the University of Tennessee to the college.

Only councilwoman Brenda Palmer opposed the gift. In the last meeting she voted "No" on giving every street to the school but on last Tuesday's vote she voiced her opposition to 5 of the routes being handed over. Those streets Palmer voted "No" on included Lake Loudoun Boulevard, Pat Head Summit Street, Andy Holt Avenue, Twentieth Street, and Melrose Place.

Palmer opposed the transfer of street ownership because the university has only promised not to close the streets to city traffic but it's not in the ordinance. She said that future UT administrators could close the streets at will. There were also some questions about law and fire protection on the streets and UT has said that their police force will have enforcement powers there.

UT has promised to maintain the routes and has plans to build and repair sidewalks, plant trees, and maintain the streets.

In other action the council voted to grant pensions to Kathy Ann Miller, Michael H. Hariss, L. Susan Wilson, James Chasney, Jr., and Marleen K. Krzak.

They also voted to rezone the Star Sales Company property on Broadway to permit a general commercial park.

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## Old theatre reveals keep-sakes

Last week's huge Ninth Annual Advertising Auction at Fountain City Auction inspired me to go dig out some old promotional buttons or pins I found years ago in an

abandoned theater. The place is long gone now, but back 30 years or so the building was still there and was used as a skating rink and wrestling venue.

It took me a while to find them, but I came up with three Western Movie buttons, the kind they used to give you when you went to the movies. I remember finding them beneath the old projection booth in what would have been the last row in the theater. Two were discovered in the dust of a corner and another lay near the ticket booth door.

I should have looked further, considering the price now of things like old posters or show-bills. I kept the buttons and, like the pack-rat I am, tucked them away. Over the years my wife and I have collected all kinds of promotion buttons: political, brand names, parks, attractions, causes, etc.

The first of buttons from the old theater is a John Wayne button. Did you know Wayne was actually Marion Morrison from Winterset, Iowa? He was injured in a body surfing accident after his family moved to California and lost his football scholarship. He traded a pair of football tickets with early cowboy star,

### A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Tom Mix, for a job in the prop department. His first film was in 1926 as a bit player.

Wayne's nickname "Duke" was given to him by a fireman who saw Morrison as a young boy with a big pet dog named "Duke" and began calling the child "Little Duke."

The second button I found was of Roy Rogers, the movie and TV cowboy star who's actual name was Leonard Franklin Slye. Rogers was born in Cincinnati. The family moved west. During the depression his family worked and lived in labor camps. Inspired by the comfort that music brought during the hard times in the Labor Camps, he and his cousin began performing music as the "Slye Brothers." When he started acting the studio changed his name first to Leroy Rogers, then to Will Rogers, and finally to "Roy Rogers."

The third button, and the most interesting to me, is of Andy Clyde. I must admit I knew very little about the

man until I did a bit of research. Clyde appeared in many western movies as a bit player and co-star, alongside John Wayne and others. He was from Scotland and his theatrical family moved to the United States. His father, brother and sister were all actors.

Andrew Allen Clyde (his real name) was born in 1892 and began his movie career in silent films. He may be best known by most of us older TV viewers for his roles in Lassie, The Real McCoys, The Andy Griffith Show, Circus Boy, Rin Tin Tin, Dr. Kildare, and Leave It to Beaver.

He was a very successful character actor and I'm surprised that the "Western" movie button pictures the same man that I recall from many of those television shows.

I have no idea of the value of the buttons, probably not a lot, but they mean a lot to me. I saw a similar Roy Rogers button-pin on EBay for \$ 25. They take me back to my childhood and those Saturday afternoons at the theater when you could stay for hours for a quarter and watch two movies, lots of serial features, cartoons, and dream away the day.



## Local weather enthusiasts needed to improve forecasts

Continued from page 1

map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). The organization uses low-cost measurement tools, a very short amount of training, and utilizes an interactive website to accomplish their goal. Their aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. Anyone can join via [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org) and participate in tracking precipitation. The only equipment needed is a special scientific rain gauge that costs about \$28. The training takes as little as about ten minutes total.

"Local, personal weather stations really help in short term forecasting where local conditions can be difficult to differentiate for course resolution models," Buckles said. "In East Tennessee, our varying terrain of valleys, ridges, and mountains over very short distances means that our weather conditions can vary a lot over short distances. Having actual measurements of weather conditions from personal weather stations can fill in a lot of the coverage holes that we have. For those that cannot connect a station to the internet, I encourage participation in CoCoRaHS to report weather information too. I cannot emphasize enough how important good data is when it comes to weather analysis and forecasting. Personal weather stations provide just that."

Kari Strenfel, a meteorologist at The Weather Channel's Weather Underground, agreed that the more participants involved, the better the data is. "The more data we have the better. Once a station is reporting for at least 10 days, we can start to get a feel for how the station is doing compared to the models and other stations around it," Strenfel explained. "We start to create a history for the station and use that data for temperature, wind, and precipitation forecasts. We can basically tweak the model output and adjust it to your station."

There are many advantages to having a well-established network of personal weather stations. A strong network can assist emergency responders in making quick decisions based on weather when time is crucial. Knoxville Fire Department

spokesperson Captain D.J. Corcoran told *The Focus* how the advanced weather station technology was used during 2012's mulch fire. The TN National Guard and KFD were able to discern wind direction and wind speed near the fire scene and see where the smoke was going and where the fire might potentially spread.

Other advantages of the network include increased predictability of commercial travel delays, a more accurate local highway travel forecast and a better timing of precipitation and mixed change.

CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and individuals. The National Weather Service, meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, mosquito control, ranchers and farmers, outdoor & recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors in the community are examples of those who use the information.

The goal of CoCoRaHS is to have one observer per square mile in urban areas and one observer per 36 square miles in rural areas. Knox County has 526 square miles. Currently there is a major shortage in Knox County for volunteers. The organization has only five dedicated volunteers.

Anthony Cavallucci, a warning coordinator meteorologist stationed at the Morristown National Weather Service office (which covers Knox County), stated, "CoCoRaHS for Knox and surrounding counties would be a huge help, particularly if those reports are accurate and consistent. The data network, in regards to CoCoRaHS, is very sparse. There were only five reports within Knox County (referring to the recent storm data). Obviously the more data, the better forecast we can provide."

Whether one manually records precipitation daily for CoCoRaHS or allows their wi-fi to automatically update conditions, collecting data is critical for better forecast models. With recent advances in technology, it is now easier than ever to help with "crowd sourcing." Yes, it does seem that everyone talks about the weather. But now almost anyone can do something about it.

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# The Greatest Campaigner of Them All: Senator Estes Kefauver Part One

Pages from  
the Political  
Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

My grandmother was from Madisonville, Tennessee and I recall very well her traveling from her home in Maryville to attend the funeral of Senator Estes Kefauver in August of 1963. She retained a fondness for Senator Kefauver throughout her life and never missed an opportunity to vote for him. My grandmother's affection for Senator Kefauver was most decidedly not shared by her husband, my grandfather, who was a devout Republican.

For over a decade, many Tennesseans did share my grandmother's admiration and fondness for the man who may well have been the best personal campaigner the State of Tennessee has ever seen.

Carey Estes Kefauver was born on July 26, 1903 in Madisonville, the son of Robert Cooke and Phredonia Kefauver. Cooke Kefauver was not wealthy, although the family lived in an impressive home. The elder Kefauver was also well liked enough by his friends and neighbors to be elected Mayor of Madisonville five times.

Those who knew Estes Kefauver realized an event in his youth traumatized him severely. While swimming with his elder brother, Robert, Estes was headed towards the bank of the Tellico River when friends shouted that his brother had disappeared beneath the water. Estes quickly swam back and retrieved his brother and he and his friends tried to administer artificial respiration. They even rolled Robert over a barrel in an attempt to get the water from his stomach and lungs. Robert remained unconscious when they got him home although he later revived.

According to the recollection of a family friend, Robert was well enough later that evening to have a second helping of peach ice cream with his supper, but he went into convulsions and died on August 9, 1914.

It was a loss from which Estes Kefauver never recovered. Some of his friends believed Estes felt a sense of guilt for not having been able to more quickly save his brother and he pushed himself all the harder to achieve success after the loss of his older sibling. Kefauver's ambition burned bright beneath his calm and deliberate exterior.

Young Estes attended the University of Tennessee and spent a year teaching before leaving for Yale University. Kefauver not only earned a law degree from Yale, but graduated



Autographed photo of Senator Estes Kefauver

cum laude. Immediately following his graduation from Yale, Estes Kefauver returned home to commence the practice of law. In 1934, Kefauver met the red-haired, green-eyed Nancy Pigott, who was a native of Glasgow, Scotland. Miss Pigott was visiting Chattanooga when she was introduced to Kefauver. The two were married and their union would produce four children.

Kefauver had increasingly become more interested in politics and government through having been the attorney for the Chattanooga News. Kefauver launched a campaign for the Tennessee State Senate in 1938. It was a critical year for the Democratic Party in Tennessee, which was torn asunder by the two prevailing factions, one of which was headed by Governor Gordon Browning, while the other was headed by Senator K. D. McKellar and E. H. Crump.

Kefauver had well prepared himself for his State Senate campaign and even had the support of Senator Fletcher Morgan, who was retiring. Unfortunately for Kefauver, the strongest political organization in Hamilton County was that of County Judge Will Cummings. Judge Cummings supported a young attorney named Joe Bean, who had been defeated by Fletcher Morgan two years previously.

The tall and awkward Kefauver delivered leaden speeches on the campaign trail, which was a poor contrast to Joe Bean, who

spoke smoothly and humorously. A successful attorney, as well as a former member of the Tennessee House of Representatives, Joe Bean knew far more about local politics than Estes Kefauver.

"I have always had liberal tendencies," Kefauver confessed in a radio speech during his State Senate campaign. That philosophy would be at the center of every statewide campaign Estes Kefauver ever ran in Tennessee.

While campaigning, Kefauver picked up a devoted assistant who would be deeply involved in his political future for decades to come. While attending an ice cream social, Kefauver was approached by a pudgy blue-eyed twelve-year old boy who was the son of one of his supporters. Harry Mansfield was bright and friendly and the little fellow and Estes Kefauver hit it off and the candidate asked Harry's mother if she would allow her son to accompany him on the campaign trail. She readily agreed and Harry Mansfield went everywhere with Kefauver. When the little boy became tired, he was hoisted atop the tall and lanky candidate's shoulders.

Kefauver hit back hard against Bean and the Cummings organization. Kefauver was aghast at being referred to by Joe Bean as a wealthy corporation lawyer (never an asset in any election), and lashed back by referring his opponent as "Mr. Jelly Bean", an amusing phrase conceived of by George Fort Milton, publisher of the

Chattanooga News.

Kefauver tried for a little humor, saying, "The only objection I have to my opponent calling me a wealthy person is that it gets my creditors excited."

Kefauver went on to opine, "If we should have a little earthquake, it would shake my small house down to the third mortgage." The house in which Estes Kefauver lived was actually rented, but it was a great line for a campaign speech.

On Election Night, Kefauver started out in the lead, but the organization of Judge Will Cummings was very strong in Hamilton County and as the returns trickled in, Kefauver's lead disappeared. Joe Bean won by 307 votes with more than 15,000 ballots having been cast. Little Harry Mansfield was so crushed he cried copiously. Many Kefauver supporters grumbled about election fraud, but Kefauver himself accepted the verdict of the people. It was the only election contest Estes Kefauver lost in Tennessee.

Kefauver had been opposed to the county unit bill, which had been proposed by Governor Gordon Browning to destroy the Shelby County political organization headed by Edward Hull Crump of Memphis. Kefauver actually testified against the bill before the legislature.

Estes Kefauver became acquainted with State Senator Prentice Cooper, who eventually opposed Governor Gordon Browning

for the Democratic nomination in 1938. Cooper had worked hard to defeat the county unit bill in the legislature and had won the support for Tennessee's powerful United States Senator Kenneth D. McKellar in his primary bid. Cooper was then promptly endorsed by McKellar's close personal friend and political partner, E. H. Crump.

Cooper and Kefauver became friends and even double dated occasionally, according to Kefauver's biographer, Charles Fontenay. One of Cooper's lady friends was admiring Kefauver a little too openly while they played golf and the tart-tongued Cooper made mention of it, causing his girl friend to sigh, "But, Prentice, he has such nice-looking shoulders!"

Needless to say, she did not become Mrs. Prentice Cooper.

After being elected governor in 1938, Cooper called for his friend Kefauver to serve as Commissioner of Finance and Taxation in his first administration. Kefauver politely refused the first offer and his former rival, State Senator Joe Bean promptly recommended another Chattanooga lawyer for the post. The peppery little governor evidently adamantly refused to consider anybody but Estes Kefauver.

Well after he had left the governor's office, Prentice Cooper told journalist and Kefauver biographer Charles Fontenay that he insisted upon Estes Kefauver to serve as

Commissioner of Finance for the simplest of reasons: "He was an honest man."

Cooper explained, "You know, people will say 'It shouldn't be hard to find an honest man'. But a politically honest man is not only honest himself --- he sees to it that everyone who works for him is honest."

Kefauver had asked his senior law partner whether or not he should accept Governor Cooper's offer and John Chambliss immediately said he should reject the offer. Chambliss pointed out Kefauver was making around \$25,000 a year as an attorney, a considerable income at the time. The salary for the Commissioner for Finance was some \$4,000 annually. Kefauver was a notoriously soft touch and was frequently sought out by former clients and friends who desperately needed money and the generous Kefauver would hole out small amounts here and there. It was eventually a continuous drain upon Estes Kefauver's financial resources.

Finally Estes Kefauver relented and accepted Governor Prentice Cooper's invitation to join his administration, although Kefauver cautioned the chief executive it was only a "temporary" acceptance.

Despite being wealthy, Prentice Cooper had a parsimonious soul and it was not unusual for the diminutive governor to ride the bus from his Capitol Hill office back to the governor's mansion. His penchant for penny-pinching certainly extended to government and Estes Kefauver found himself trimming the state's budget.

Upon his arrival in Nashville, Kefauver walked past a horde of silent state employees with grim faces. Kefauver looked at his executive assistant and murmured, "Tell them to go back to work. I'm not going to fire everybody."

Working very long hours, besieged by those seeking state jobs, Kefauver often did not end his day until well after the sun went down. His wife, Nancy, would oftentimes come to his office so they could go out to supper together. Kefauver would then return to his office to dictate his mail.

Kefauver finally left his post in April of 1939 and rejoined his former law firm. Kefauver had barely settled back into the routine of practicing law before the Congressman from Tennessee's Third District died unexpectedly July 11, 1939. There would be a brutal fight inside the Democratic Party to succeed an incumbent who had been in office since 1923.

To the dismay of friends and against the advice of his father, Estes Kefauver announced he was running for Congress.

# No news is good news

Here in the volunteer state, news stories dripped in over the last couple of weeks. Oh, Christmas and New Year's Day have come, and a peppering of break-ins and fires have made



By Joe Rector  
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the nightly news programs. For the most part, however, not much occurs during this time of year. The result is that the normal becomes the spectacular.

Some television stations report car wrecks. I'm not talking about the ones where serious injuries or even fatalities occur. No, I'm talking about the ones where cars slide off the road when they hit slick spots and then plummet into a ditches. I am all for traffic safety, and anyone who crashes has my sympathies, but come on, nearly 17,000 car wrecks happen each day, so they're not newsworthy.

The flu always seems to garner plenty of air time. Each year newscasts drown viewers with reports of the latest strands of flu and the effects of them. I think I've had the flu one time and don't recall the experience as being a pleasant one. Over the years, colds and bronchitis (when I was a smoker) laid me low. The truth is that the flu bug, colds, and

upper-respiratory ailments hit us Americans this time each and every year. It can't be news to us. Perhaps a better story might be about how dumb we are for not

taking a flu shot to avoid the misery.

Just the other night a local channel reported that three hikers had been rescued after being lost in the Great Smoky National Park. I was glad to hear it until the story went on to report what those rescued said. It seems that they weren't prepared for the cold weather or snow, and those things contributed to their becoming lost.

What? Unless I've been unconscious or completely screwed up most of my life (some would say that assessment is correct on both counts), the end of December and beginning of January are part of the winter solstice. If that is true, then it automatically means that the temperatures will be low in the mountains. It also stands to reason that snow is a good possibility at higher elevations. So, what's all this about not being prepared for conditions? If these individuals are that mentally weak, they shouldn't be allowed out

by themselves at any time. Let's don't give air time to show how short on intelligence they are.

The last few days stations have proven just how starved they are for stories. The majority of the news time has discussed the cold weather here in Tennessee, as well as the rest of the country. Snow storms and frigid temperature hammer several states to the north and east. Even as far south as Florida, temperatures are expected to drop into the teens.

Here in Knoxville, the prognosticators call for temperature in the single digits with windchills dipping into minus numbers. Some reports advise how to keep pipes from freezing and what to do with outside pets.

Are we really that stupid? I'm a native Knoxville, and I can recall multiple times when the temperatures dropped as low as today's forecasted ones. In fact, one year the temperatures were so low that my car froze to the driveway, and I had to call AAA to unstuck it. Knoxville recorded the lowest temperature in the nation with a -24 (January 21, 1985). Eleven days later my son Dallas was born, and the temperatures still hovered around the bottom of the thermometer.

In case anybody didn't get the memo, IT'S WINTER! That usually means that temperatures plunge and, albeit infrequently these days, snow can fall. Many of us have crawled under houses to wrap water pipes with newspapers or to thaw them with hair dryers. Only the cruelest persons leave pets outside during unusually cold times. They should be the real new story. Attention should be on their acts and the trials that sentence them to prison for such terrible deeds. But the fact is that winter, even with all its freezing temperatures and piles of snow, isn't news; it's life. Now, folks who are hardest hit have our thoughts and prayers, but if they want to avoid such times, they might consider moving wise south of the Mason-Dixon Line, where temperatures are moderate.

I'll be glad to see spring come. The terrible stories of the winter will be long gone. However, on a slow news day we will probably hear about all the rain and soggy weather that is coming. I, for one, would just as soon not hear anything about the weather other than the highs, lows, and chances of rain. If no important news is available for the day, a rerun of "Judge Judy" suits me fine.



Rosie's  
World

## Food For Thought

It's amazing to me how God made sure His people had

enough to eat. since the beginning of time. After the earth was created, what did He do next? He made a garden. A garden full of "seed-bearing plants" and "all the fruit trees for your food". (Gen. 1:29). Well, we all know what happened in that garden. Someone ate the wrong kind of fruit.

Later, the Israelites moaned and groaned because they had nothing to eat when they were wandering through the wilderness when they left Egypt. God heard their cries and every morning sent down manna which they could dip in olive oil. To help matters along, He also sent quail for them to indulge in. (Exodus 16).

Next we have Solomon exclaiming in Proverbs: "A bowl of soup with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate." (Prov. 15:17) Also, he said, "a dry crust eaten in peace is better than a great feast with strife" (Prov. 17:1). Finally, he admonishes people by saying, "Stolen bread tastes sweet but it turns to gravel in the mouth." (Prov. 20:17).

As we turn to the New Testament, there are many instances of food being mentioned in the form of parables. One of my favorites is the one about Jesus feeding thousands with only five loaves of bread and two fish. Plus there was a lot left over to fill some baskets. Jesus wasn't about to let the crowd go hungry.

What happened to people today? We literally worship food, so much so that obesity is the number one cause of many illnesses in the USA. Oft times we eat when we're not even hungry. Why? There are numerous reasons such as loneliness, depression or looking for comfort. We even gorge when we're happy, and it could be a hormonal issue.

I saw an interesting observation on Google one time--the more sugar we eat, the more we want to eat. A large serving size can cause us to eat more. Cut back! There are thousands of books written on dieting, exercising, what to eat, what not to eat, but there is no mention of a thought-provoking fact--God can help you not eat so much. Ask Him, He will help. Maybe we should try manna (a thin cracker) or quail (or chicken), and olive oil. Can you imagine that??

Thought for a day: Prayers go up and blessings come down. Yiddish proverb.

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

# Faith

## I Focus

"Focus" is defined as a point of concentration or directed attention. When life is out of focus, everything is out of kilter. For those of us who wear glasses or contacts, we can relate. Without the assistance of these, I can barely see anything, especially just after I remove them. After a couple of hours, I still can't see well, but I can adjust a bit to my environment.

It is easy to get our lives out of focus with bad decisions, broken promises and resolutions. Unfortunately, sometimes we can get acclimated or adjusted to living a life that is broken if we are in that state for a period of time. God does not want us to stay in an out-of-focus state. Life is better lived with purpose and direction. When your life is in focus, everything is better. Paul had focus. His focus was on Christ and the power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:10).

Paul lived a life with focus controlled by the Spirit. Paul didn't allow the circumstances of life to get him out of focus. As Paul writes this letter to the Philippians, he sits in a



By Mark Brackney,  
Minister of the  
Arlington Church  
of Christ

prison cell, yet he is able to rejoice in the Lord and be at peace (4:4-6).

When it comes to making life changes, we often start in the wrong place, our behavior. We think by changing how we eat or how much we exercise or how much money we spend on things, our problems will be fixed. There is a better way to make life changes. It doesn't start with changing behavior. It starts with changing the way we think. Wrong thinking leads to wrong behavior.

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Change begins with our focus, our thinking. God tells us to think in the right way. If your mind gets changed, then your life will change. When you are focused on Christ, change happens. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

(2 Cor. 5:17).

God loves to remake us into a new creation. God, in a sense, heads up a recycling center. He wants to recycle, restore, and redeem your life. Paul says the power of Christ at work in his life is an example for others to follow. "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9).

Let us, like Paul, be able to share these words to the people in our lives. May people see the changes God is making in us as a new creation. The old is fading away and the new has come by His Spirit.

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# Local products shine away from home

**Six former high school football players from *The Knoxville Focus*' coverage area made folks back home proud in the 2013 college season.**

**The *Focus* today recognizes the accomplishments of Joey Gaston (Catholic) at Navy, Spencer Roth (Catholic) at Baylor and Davis Tull (Bearden) at UT-Chattanooga**

**Next week, we will recognize Quinn Epperly (Christian Academy of Knoxville) at Princeton, Nick Smith (Seymour) at the University of the Cumberlands and Dylan Wolfenbarger (Central) at Maryville College.**

**Pictured left, Spencer Roth, out of Knoxville Catholic High, was one of the nation's top punters at Baylor in 2013.**

## Lady Giants end long losing streak in rivalry

By Ken Lay

Cedar Bluff Middle School girls basketball coach Josh Ballard saw his team beat Farragut for the first time in his tenure Thursday night.

"Farragut has always been a good team. I've been here five years and this is the first time that I've ever beaten them," Ballard said after the Lady Giants downed the Lady Admirals 36-17 in a Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference game at CBMS. "It was nice to beat them and I know that this is really great for our eighth graders because this is a big rivalry."

The game was tight early. The Lady Giants (15-2 overall, 8-1 in the KCMSSBC) came out hot and opened a 9-4 lead only to see Farragut score the final four points of the frame and pull to within 9-8 by quarter's end.

Unfortunately for the Lady Admirals, their offensive attack was all but completely silenced.

**Continue on page 2**

## West's Kerr Drills 3 at the Buzzer to Beat Hawks

By David Klein

Friday night at West, the Rebels' Alex Kerr drained a 3-pointer at the buzzer in double overtime to give the West Rebels a 78-75 double overtime victory over the Hardin Valley Hawks. Kerr grabbed the ball after it went straight to him off a Hawk block and launched it with less than a second left.

"Thomas (Turner) had the ball and he was driving to the basket," Kerr said. "I thought he was gonna get a foul, shoot some free throws. It got knocked out right to me, and I finally hit a shot. Coach told us there were would be different ups and downs, and we just stuck with it," Kerr said of his team's rally.

Hardin Valley battled back from a 10 point halftime deficit to cut it to one on Blaine Shockley's three-pointer. After West's Chris Cook made 2 free throws, the Rebels' Ahmad Shell stole the ball and went up for an uncontested dunk, but missed it. The Hawks' Zak Carter scored from

**Continue on page 2**

## Catholic products shine for Baylor and Navy

By Steve Williams

Spencer Roth and Joey Gaston, 2011 Knoxville Catholic High graduates, played key roles in banner seasons for two college football teams this past season.

As Baylor captured its first Big 12 Conference championship, Roth did his part as one of the nation's top punters. He was a first-team selection on The Associated Press' All-Big 12 squad and received honorable mention on SI.com's All-America team.

In 12 games, the 6-4, 225-pound junior had a 45.8-yard average on 52 punts, with 17 of his boots landing inside the 20-yard line and 17 covering more than 50 yards. His longest punt of the season was a 72-yarder.

Roth punted seven times for a 43.6 average in the Bears' 52-42 loss to Central Florida in the Fiesta Bowl.

Coming out of Catholic High School, where he was an All-Stater as a senior in the fall of 2010, Roth was rated the No. 7 punter prospect in the nation by Scout.com.

Gaston also was a senior on Catholic's 2010 team, earning All-State honors as a two-way tackle, and had been a sophomore on the Fighting Irish's 2008 Class 5A state championship squad, which posted a perfect 15-0 record.

Gaston attended the Naval Academy Prep School during the 2011-12 academic year and did not see any varsity action for the Midshipmen in 2012. But he came on strong



Spencer Roth

in football this past fall.

The 6-5, 281-pound sophomore offensive lineman entered the season second on the depth chart at left tackle and became Navy's starter at right tackle. Wearing No. 65, Gaston helped Navy rush for 343 yards and beat Army 34-7 for its 12th



Joey Gaston

consecutive win in "The Game" on Dec. 14 in Philadelphia.

Gaston also helped clear the way for 366 yards on the ground as Navy toppled Middle Tennessee State 24-6 in the Armed Forces Bowl to finish with a 9-4 record.

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## Bearden can't overcome 'nerves' against Rebels

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School boys basketball coach Mark Blevins was succinct and dejected Wednesday night after his team dropped a 76-59 district home game to first-place Maryville.

"We have a tendency to get intimidated when we play in big games," Blevins said. "This thing got ugly early," Blevins said after his team fell to 11-7 overall and 4-2 in District 4-AAA. "It was just our nerves and I hate to say that but it's true.

"They annihilated us and we've been annihilated a lot this year. They are a good team but we let them dictate the game."

The Rebels (13-4, 6-0) opened a 19-13 lead by the end of the first quarter and just continued to build their advantage all night long and the Bulldogs just couldn't find any answers.

Maryville, which led 35-24 by halftime, boasted a balanced scoring attack. Isaac Edmiston and John Garrett scored 19 points each. Andrew Petree added eight points and Grant Wilson finished with seven.

After halftime, things

only got worse for the Bulldogs as the Rebels continued to dominate en route to taking sole possession of first place in East Tennessee's most competitive Class AAA league.

The night had few highlights for Bearden, which has now dropped two consecutive district home games. The Bulldogs, who notched a hard-fought road win at Heritage recently, lost a home game to Hardin Valley Academy before the Christmas break.

Jack Graham scored 19 points (including 11 in the second half). Jake Elkins finished the game with 10 points and Isaiah Campbell scored seven of his nine points before halftime to help Bearden hang around early.

Guard Austin Duncan was shut out in the first half and finished with just six points. Further complicating things for the Bulldogs was the fact that Bearden's inside game couldn't generate any offense.

Jason Smith scored just six points while Sam Phillips and Jerrell Stephney had just two points each and was held scoreless in the opening half.

# Bangash, Lady Rebels down Bearden in OT thriller

By Ken Lay

On a night filled with clutch plays and big performances it was Leila Bangash who stole the show for Maryville High School's girls basketball team in its 58-57 overtime victory at Bearden Wednesday night.

"What about Leila Bangash?" Lady Rebels' coach Scott West said. "She had 12 rebounds and hit all of her free throws down the stretch."

Bangash was indeed clutch in a key District 4-AAA win over the Lady Bulldogs (15-3 overall, 4-2 in the district).

The senior guard/forward hit the game-winning free throws with 4.2 seconds remaining in the extra frame. She also got the Lady Rebels (13-3, 5-1) to overtime by converting a pair of foul shots with 11.4 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 59.

Maryville had to work a little overtime to nab the crucial district win but early on, it appeared that the Lady Rebels

were going to win in a run-away.

Bangash gave Maryville a 43-33 lead with a pair of free throws with 4 minutes, 49 seconds to go in regulation and it seemed as though the Lady Bulldogs were finished.

Not so fast.

Bearden closed the fourth quarter with a 16-6 run and even opened a 48-47 lead with 44 seconds left on a basket by sophomore guard Kyra Burris, a transfer from West High, who came off the bench and scored seven points after half-time.

Starting point guard Holly Hagood added another foul shot a short time later to extend the Lady Bulldogs' advantage to 49-47 with 26.2 left in the fourth quarter.

Bangash then sent the game to overtime. She scored 12 of her 13 points after halftime and pulled down 12 rebounds. She was a force on the offensive glass. She had six offensive rebounds that led to Maryville baskets.

In overtime, the Lady Rebels scored first. Kayla Tillie, who led Maryville with 15 points, made it 52-49 with a bucket and a free throw. That play was huge because Hagood fouled out on Tillie's shot.

Bearden's Erin Walsh made it 52-51 with 2:49 to go. Tyler Carter tied the game with a free throw a short time later.

Bangash gave the Lady Rebels a 54-52 lead with a pair of free throws at the 1:32 mark.

Walsh, who led all scorers with 18 points, knotted the game at 54 before Maryville's Dee Cook scored to help the Lady Rebels retake the lead.

The Lady Bulldogs got their lone lead of overtime when Lexus Norwood buried a 3-pointer with 9.7 seconds left.

Bangash converted her last two foul shots before the Lady Bulldogs missed a potential game winner.

"It's awesome to come over here and get a win against Bearden on the road," Bangash said.

"They're always a tough team.

"We're so happy and it's really nice to come over here and get a win at their place."

Maryville had five players post double figures in the scoring column. Bangash led the way with 13 points. Tillie and Madison Coulter finished with 12 each. Cook added 10.

Bearden coach Justin Underwood said his team did not play consistently.

"We talked about the fight we had in the fourth quarter but we haven't put together four quarters of basketball this season," he said. "Bangash was big for them.

"She was 8-for-8 at the free throw line [after half-time] and she did a great job for them."

Underwood also praised Burris and Hagood, who nabbed Bearden's first few rebounds despite being the smallest player on the floor.

"Kyra was big for us tonight and Holly always plays hard and gives us a great effort," he said.

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## West's Kerr Drills 3 at the Buzzer to Beat Hawks

Cont. from page 1

inside on the ensuing possession to cut it to one. After that, Shell made 1 of 2 at the line for a two-point Rebel lead. With 1.5 seconds left, the Hawks' Dyonta Bizzle-Brown was hammered inside and calmly swished two free throws to knot the score at 61, and send the game into the first overtime.

Bizzle-Brown said, "I looked at over my teammates, and they were just like, knock these down for me Biz." The drama was just beginning.

In the first overtime, Cook tied it at 66 after a 3-pointer from the Hawks' Shockley. Hardin Valley tried to hold for the last shot, but turned

the ball over on a double dribble. West immediately turned the ball over back to the Hawks while trying to get the ball in. The Hawks committed another turnover just before the buzzer sounded to send the game to a second overtime.

The teams traded 4-0 runs before Shell redeemed his missed dunk in regulation with a swooping layup and a 2-point lead. Shockley hit another big 3 to tie it at 75. That left 29 seconds for West and Kerr's heroics.

West's Head Coach Christopher Kesler said the goal on the last-second possession was to get it to the big guy. "We were going to try to keep working it until we got him (Cook) isolated

by himself but again, like I said, when the ball bounces, again, we were just fortunate enough to make the last shot."

West improved to 5-12, 2-4 in District 4AAA. Hardin Valley fell to 10-6, 5-2 in District 4AAA.

"Our team has been working on trying to overcome adversity and not getting our heads down when things don't go our way," Kesler said. "I'm real proud of them that they made a step forward today. Hopefully we can keep growing from this and move on and understand that it's a game of runs and you just gotta stay patient and trust what you do and just know that you can be in ballgames."

## Lady Giants end long losing streak in rivalry

Continued from page 1

after the first eight minutes.

Farragut scored just six points the rest of the way. The Lady Admirals managed just two points in each of the final three quarters of the contest.

The Lady Giants had no such troubles with their offense. Cedar Bluff seized control of the game with an 11-2 run in the second stanza. That surge enabled the Lady Giants to open a 20-10 halftime

advantage.

From there, they would never look back.

Cedar Bluff, which extended its lead to 25-12 in the third quarter, also finished with a fourth-quarter flourish.

Lizzie Davis scored a game-high 11 points to spark the Lady Giants' attack. Claire Wyatt added 10 and Abbey Cornelius finished with nine.

Morgan Corbough led the Lady Admirals with eight points.

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# Local products shine away from home

## After prep injury, Bearden's Tull stars at Chattanooga

By Steve Williams

Davis Tull has been making up for lost time on the Chattanooga Mocs' football team.

After his senior season at Bearden High in 2009 was cut short because of injury, the former Bulldog has gone on to a record-setting career for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

This past fall, Chattanooga's junior defensive lineman was picked by league coaches as the Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight season.

In three seasons, the 6-3, 240-pound Tull has already broke UTC's all-time sack record with 26.5 sacks.

Tull earned a spot on the America Football Coaches

Association's All-America team - his fifth All-America award for the 2013 campaign.

Tull finished the season with nine sacks, 52 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, four forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and eight quarterback hurries.

He also is a CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-District honoree.

Tull was a preseason all-

star heading into his final year at Bearden. Listed then at 6-3 and 206 pounds, the Bulldogs' wide receiver and defensive end won the linemen's race in the KOC Kickoff Classic at Neyland Stadium.

But in the second game that year, at Jefferson County, Tull broke his femur and was out for the rest of the season.

After the injury, many

major college football programs may have overlooked Tull.

Looking back, Mocs Coach Russ Huesman believes he was lucky to get him. He also believes Tull is a future NFL player, who has an outstanding vertical jump and athletic ability.



Davis Tull

# The Agony of Defeat

By Alex Norman

"Losing feels worse than winning feels good." - Vin Scully

As I watched the end of the final (thank you baby Jesus) BCS National Championship game, I couldn't help but feel empathy for fans of the Auburn Tigers.

Their team had a 21-3 advantage late in the first half, gave that up to Florida State, and then re-took the lead with 1:19 to go. But the Seminoles drove down the field and scored a game winning touchdown with only 13 seconds left.

Florida State 34, Auburn 31.

A wonderful season of unexpected success for the Tigers, a season with two (at least in the sports definition of the word) miracle plays that gave them victories over Georgia and Alabama, fell 13 seconds short of a National Championship.

And as the years go on, those plays will warm the hearts of folks down on The Plains.

And as the years go on, they will still wonder... what might have been.

The future looks bright for Auburn. They have an innovative coach in Gus Malzahn, will return a ton of talent in 2014, and welcome a top ten recruiting class this summer.

You'd figure that the Tigers will have some more opportunities to play for the national title in the years to come, especially with the expanded playoff system starting next season.

But there are no guarantees.

Just ask Tennessee fans...

In January 1999, the Vols beat Florida State 23-16 for BCS National

Championship. It was their first consensus national title since 1951.

You would have been hard pressed to find a Tennessee fan that night in Tempe that believed 15 years later the Vols would still be looking for their next SEC or national championship.

Over the past decade and a half there have been highs for the Vols, such as the victory at Florida in 2001, wins over Georgia and Florida in 2004, three SEC East titles, and most recently a last second win over a South Carolina team that would finish the season ranked 4th in the nation.

But the losses... oh the losses...

The Kiffin era (if you can call it that) had a blocked field goal that would have given Tennessee the win at top ranked Alabama. The Dooley era had too many to list here, but defeats in 2010 at LSU and in the Music City Bowl against North Carolina are historic in the way they went down (13 men on the field and a now defunct clock rule respectively). The first loss to Kentucky in 26 years still stings.

However, no Tennessee defeat over the past 15 years hurts more than the 2001 SEC championship loss to LSU. If the Vols win they play Miami for the BCS National Title at the Rose Bowl. The Vols had a second half lead and they knocked the Tigers starting quarterback and running back out of the game.

But it was not to be. LSU upset Tennessee 31-20.

The Vols haven't been close to the national title game since.

In Tennessee men's basketball it is a blowing a 20 point lead to Ohio State in

2007 in the Sweet 16 or a one point defeat to Michigan State in the Elite 8 in 2010.

For the Lady Vols softball team it is failing to hold a three run lead in extra innings against Washington in Game One of the WCWS Finals.

For the Tennessee men's tennis team it is a championship loss to Southern Cal a few years ago.

The list goes on and on... you know why?

Because in sports you have winners and you have losers. This is why we love sports and why we give so much of our time and money and psychological well-being to watching sports.

The contract we willingly enter with our favorite sports teams is one that opens you to the dreaded gut punch loss.

Unless you are a bandwagon jumper (the lowest form of human existence by the way) you will experience the pain of brutal defeat. Pro sports fans in Cleveland and Buffalo have enough of these to last multiple lifetimes.

Ever listen to Alabama coach Nick Saban talk about "The Process?" He never sounds like he is enjoying his success, and he's a guy that won four national championships.

He'll remember the missed opportunity in losing to Auburn in November, a defeat that knocked them out of national title consideration.

These are only games... and there are many more important things in life than who put more points on the scoreboard on a patch of turf.

But they do matter.

Our emotions and our memories tell us that.

## Thompson, Moreno lead Farragut to key win

By Ken Lay

The duo of Caleb Thompson and Tre Moreno led the Farragut Middle School boys basketball team to a crucial 55-41 victory at Cedar Bluff Middle School Thursday night.

Thompson, a center, scored 23 points and Moreno added 10 more to help the Admirals pick up a win over their West Knox County rivals. The two teams entered the game tied in the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference standings.

"Our bigs have carried us all year and they were outstanding tonight," Farragut coach Randy Swartzentruber said. "We started out slow this year but we've played better in the last three or four games."

The game was tightly contested early and the Giants and Admirals played a hard-fought first quarter but Farragut had enough to open a 14-10 lead by the end of the frame.

The second quarter, however, belonged to the Admirals (5-4 in conference play), who used a 15-9 run to open a 29-19 advantage by halftime.

It seemed as though the Admirals had the Giants (4-5) on the ropes at the break but Cedar Bluff used the 3-point shot to claw its way back into the game. E.J. Caldwell, Jaziah Chandler, Tristen Waite and Tanner White all hit long-range jumpers in the third quarter. The Giants pulled 31-29 when Waite hit a long-range 2-pointer midway through the period.

"They were able to get back into the game when they hit some 3's," Swartzentruber said. "We played good defense but they hit those shots and when that happens, you tip your hat and you move on to the next play."

By the end of the third quarter, the Giants pulled to within 38-32.

Things then got crazy over

the final six minutes before Thompson and Moreno re-established Farragut's upper hand.

The duo combined to score nine points in the fourth quarter of a game where both squads picked up technical fouls.

Cedar Bluff coach Rande Sibley couldn't complain about his team's effort.

"I'm really proud of my guys," he said. "I was proud of the way that they overcome some distractions that you can't do anything about."

"Our team always fights and I was proud of the way they fought tonight."

White led the Giants with 13 points and Caldwell finished with 10.

Both the Admirals and Giants face tough conference games today (Jan. 13).

Farragut hosts defending tournament champion Bearden and Cedar Bluff hosts Carter.

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# Standing Tall on the Court (Part IV)

# Gibbs' only College Sports All-American

It has been 50 years since I came to Gibbs," Bob Dagley said. The long-time administrator for Knox County Schools was head coach of the Gibbs Eagles' basketball team early in his career. Coach Dagley shared details of the team's extraordinary 1964-65 season as he looked back on the player at center position, Tommy Everette. "I remember Tommy's buddies kidding him about trying to dunk the ball while standing in a chair when he was at



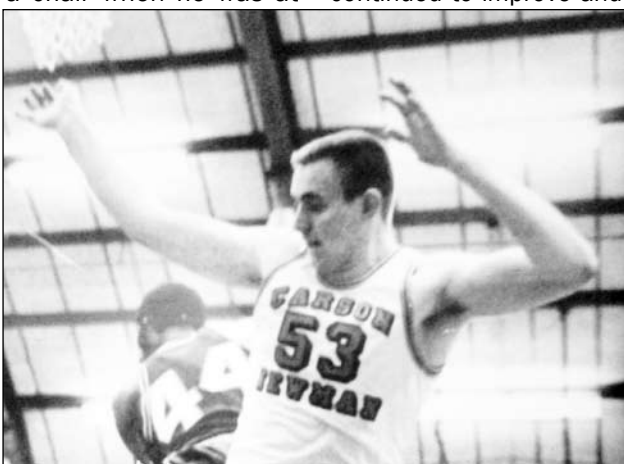
By **Ralphine Major**  
ralphine3@yahoo.com

Ritta Elementary School and the fall he took. I remember hearing about a member of the custodial staff describing Tommy as not being able to chew gum and shoot the ball at the same time. It is good to remember where you came from and how it all started, but it is a lot better to remember how it all turned out."

The former Eagles' coach continued as he recalled Everette's achievements. "This same kid worked and continued to improve and

ended up being named to the KIL Team, to the All-Tournament Team, and to the All-State Team; playing in the East-West All-Star game; representing his state in the Tennessee-Kentucky All-Star Game; and finally reaching the top rung of success by being named All-American while at Carson-Newman and is now in their Hall of Fame. He even had an offer to play professional basketball with the Washington Nationals."

Dagley summed up the basketball career of the young boy from Ritta Elementary this way: "That was a long road from being an awkward kid to becoming an All-American, but surely the trip was worth it because few will ever experience it. Tommy was in the right place at the right time, and he made the most of it. I hope some young person can read this story and make up his mind to try and work hard even when it may look hopeless, because who knows how it will turn out. But, I still don't believe Tommy ever realized how good he could be." Everette is the only COLLEGE SPORTS



All-American Tommy Everette plays basketball for the Carson-Newman Eagles. Photo from the archives of Tommy and Carolyn Everette.

# Vols help Cuonzo weather storm, outlook is brighter

Criticism of the University of Tennessee men's basketball program was raining down after a disappointing 65-58 home loss to North Carolina State on Dec. 18.

Some fans were even wanting to get the ball rolling to replace Cuonzo Martin with former coach Bruce Pearl before the Vols could rim out another 3-pointer, clank another free throw or miss another shot from point-blank range.

The highly successful and popular Pearl will be eligible to coach again when his 3-year showcase penalty for lying to the NCAA ends in August.

Martin didn't lose his cool under the heat. In fact, he said the fans had good reason to be dissatisfied and upset. He just encouraged them to fire their shots at the guy in charge.

And that's Cuonzo, a coach that's always had his players' backs.

And the players' response since then has been having their coach's back.

The Vols have done their talking on the court. They've been playing like they want to keep their coach around. They've been shooting like they too want to be around for March Madness.

Tennessee had put together an impressive four-game win streak prior to this past Saturday's game against Texas A&M. The Vols were 10-4 overall after winning 68-50 on the road at LSU last Tuesday in their Southeastern Conference opener.

"It was a great team win," said Coach Martin. "A good effort top to bottom."

Jarnell Stokes had his league-leading 25th career double-double, 15 points and 15 rebounds. And did you see that inside pass Jeronne Maymon made to Jarnell? Like old times.

Jordan McRae, maybe the SEC's best player, contributed 19 points and five assists in UT's sixth straight win over the Tigers.

The Vols shot 46 percent from the field, hit 8 of 15 treys and sank 12 of 15 foul shots.

They swished the nets even better than that in the 87-52 romp past Virginia, one of the nation's top-rated defensive teams, on Dec. 30.

Their 48 points in the first half were the most the Cavaliers had given up before an intermission in 118 games.

The Cavs, on average, came into Thompson-Boling Arena allowing opponents only 54.2 points per game and holding them to 37 percent field goal accuracy.

That night, though, Tennessee shot 57.7 percent from the field in the first half, and finished 11 of 18 from 3-point range and 22 of 25 from the free throw line.

Good marksmanship, as you can see, can turn a team around. "Score the ball," as Cuonzo calls it.

"Just to be able to come out and play as well as we did (against LSU) shows a lot about us," said 6-6 junior wing guard Josh Richardson, who has emerged as a new and improved offensive player in Tennessee's surge. "Our first SEC road game, to come out and win it so convincingly, it gives us a lot of confidence."

It's been more than just putting the ball in the basket, added Josh.

"Our defense has been a lot more consistent, and we've been putting two halves together. That's definitely been showing. We've just been following the game plan, really. Just executing."

Can they keep it going?

Tennessee was 0-6 before it won its first road game each of the past two seasons. After this Wednesday night's home contest against Auburn, the Vols will be facing their toughest two road assignments in SEC play - at Kentucky for a Saturday noon shootout and at Florida the following Saturday on Jan. 25.

The victory at LSU improved the Vols' NCAA tourney chances, giving them four wins versus teams with a RPI of 75 or better, according to ESPN.com.

If Tennessee skins the Wildcats and the Gators on the road, or even comes out with a split in those two hostile environments, its NCAA resume will get another significant upgrade.

Some say UT needs to get to 13-5 in the SEC standings to have hopes of returning to the Big Dance, after having to settle for the NIT the past two seasons.

The Vols got off to a good start. Pearl talk died down. The sun was shining again for Cuonzo and his team.



By **Steve Williams**

ALL-AMERICAN in the 100-year history of Gibbs High School.

Could any of us have known that while we were cheering on the Eagles in the old Gibbs gym we were watching a future

All-American? What an honor to have an All-American come from our small, rural school. It is quite an accomplishment for the youngster from Ritta. It is definitely a statistic for the Gibbs High School record

books, as well! (This is No. 23 in the series on the Eagles' incredible season; next in the series, Everette's life after basketball.)

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## The Doctor is in

a weekly column by  
**Dr. Jim Ferguson**

### Genetic Snippets

I've heard it said that in retirement you work even harder. I'm not convinced of this yet, but it is different. As my readers know, I've left my traditional medical practice and "retired from Summit Medical Group." It was a big decision for me, and my patients. When my partners and I put Summit together in 1994 it was a big deal in Knoxville. I've often thought about the founding of our country where the signers of The Declaration of Independence pledged, "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor." In fact, Benjamin Franklin told those fifty-six signers "we must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." My signature on Summit's founding documents

wasn't as large as John Hancock's, and our founding in no way was as risky or momentous as those brave men signatories, many of whom lost their lives. I've come to conclude that I'm not retired from medicine; I'm on sabbatical like a university Dom. Perhaps if doctors were able to periodically step back from their practices they might be able to return with renewed vigor. Unfortunately, in my profession you either do it 110% or not at all, unless you take the attitude of not caring, and that was impossible for me. I'm actually catching up on my medical journals now, between walks with Oakley and chores on our mini-farm. However, there's not a lot of

intellectual stimulation watering and feeding horses and cleaning stalls especially during the Polar Vortex, the media's latest example of global warming. Yes, you read that correctly. The noted scientist Al Sharpton and others have explained how this latest cold snap is all due to manmade carbon emissions and anthropogenic global warming. Perhaps Sharpton's lunacy stems from the moniker "Al" as in Al-Gore. Perhaps the "Als" did not read the opinions of Time Magazine expert's in the 1970s. The "Polar Vortex" then was due to global cooling. My step-grandson, Noah asked why people believe that our record low temperatures are caused by global warming. I explained that they call it climate change now to help us overcome using our eyes and brains. The world is certainly different now than when I first began reading medical journals. When I was on the teaching faculty of University Hospital I often challenged medical residents and students with the notion that, "the questions never change, just the answers." I remember one resident tilting his head quizzically much like a dog does

when trying to triangulate the source of a sound. I told him he should ponder my statement and the meaning will come to him. Two medical articles recently caught my eye. The first appeared in the American Journal of Medicine as an editorial overview of medical genomic technology. The goal of the Human Genome Project was to define the human genome or the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) complement of humans. Each of us has a unique combination of DNA though we have much in common. The hope is that someday we can compare an individual's DNA against the standard human genome and make predictions about disease or even modify an aberrant area of DNA (genes) and correct the defect and effect a cure. Though tremendous progress has been made, we are not there yet. The editorialist Dr. Joseph Alpert discussed the topic of epigenetics, or the external factors that modify or influence our DNA. He and others have postulated that our DNA is the nature side of the human equation. Could the nurture component of the equation be explained by environmental influences acting on

our DNA to produce our uniqueness? Alpert describes a paper by Scherrer, et al who found vascular dysfunction in children conceived by in vitro fertilization. The thought is that the cell culture medium of these test tube babies perhaps influenced their DNA producing the measurable vascular anomalies. A second paper in the New England Journal of Medicine summarized the mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease which is a complicated disease with molecular and genetic mechanisms. In 1901, Dr. Alois Alzheimer described the original case of "pre-senile dementia" in a fifty year old man. Dementia was not supposed to occur prior to the "expected" age of senility! We now know that this autosomal dominant form of Alzheimer's disease is uncommon, and is thought to occur from defects in one of three genes resulting in the overproduction or aggregation of the B-amyloid protein. The more common sporadic form of Alzheimer's disease is thought to result from decreased clearance of the B-amyloid protein, possibly due to genetic variation in apolipoprotein E. This fat

transportation protein enables lipids (fats) to circulate in our salt water blood stream. Remember, oil and water don't mix, but proteins will dissolve in water and are thus able to transport their attached lipid molecules through the body. Humans have three varieties of the E protein (2, 3, and 4). APO E3 is most common and confers a standard risk for dementia. E2 is actually protective of the brain, but the E4 variety is associated with Alzheimer's disease, but no one knows why. We humans still have a lot to learn. None of these arcane medical issues were known when I graduated from medical school in 1975, so I'm still learning. In fact, today I relearned that little boys are made of "snips of snails and puppy dog tails." Oakley is different from my two daughters, who were made of "sugar and spice and all things nice." I don't need a genetic analysis to see genetics at work as he stomps through puddles and has to have a ball in his hand. And the learning goes on...

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

# Passion, perseverance behind the development of ColoMarker

By Tasha Mahurin  
[tasha@knoxfocus.com](mailto:tasha@knoxfocus.com)

Passion, perseverance behind the development of ColoMarker. By Tasha Mahurin [tasha@knoxfocus.com](mailto:tasha@knoxfocus.com). At 75 years old, Tommye Jordan is a quick witted, energetic grandmother; dressed unassumingly in a festive holiday sweater.... She is also responsible for ColoMarker—a groundbreaking medical diagnostic test that could potentially save thousands of lives around the globe. ColoMarker is a simple blood test that detects the level of protein biomarker, CA11-19, present in everyone's blood. Through extensive research conducted by Jordan, and local company EDP Biotech,

it has been shown that patients with colorectal cancer have elevated levels of CA11-19 in their bloodstream. Jordan, a 1960 graduate of the University of Tennessee, founded JCL Clinical Research in east Knoxville in 1971 and with the assistance of Dr. Thos. P. Potter first identified the correlation between CA11-19 and colorectal cancer. Nearly 40 years later, through the founding of EDP Biotech and Jordan's unwavering commitment to the research, the test is ready to go to market. "It's a major answer and prayer for the early detection of cancer," she told the Focus. Based on pre-clinical trials, ColoMarker detects early Stage I, II, and

III colorectal cancer. Tests demonstrate that the CA11-19 protein is released in the blood during the early stages of colon cancer before symptoms begin—thus, allowing for earlier detection. According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 50,000 lives could be saved (in the United States alone) every year if colon cancer is diagnosed at Stage I. ColoMarker will be available in Europe during the first quarter of this year. EDP Biotech's goal is to market ColoMarker and make it available to the greatest number of people as quickly as possible. "We pursued the development of ColoMarker because of the critical

**Continued on page 2**



Tommye Jordan

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# A Healthy Breakfast and a Healthy Weight

## MyPlate and milk in the morning

**(Family Features)** If you think skipping breakfast will help you maintain a healthy weight, you might want to think again. In fact, MyPlate recommendations include starting the day with a good breakfast:



### Start with breakfast

Eat a breakfast that helps you meet your food group needs. People who skip breakfast often weigh more. Eating a nutrient-dense breakfast may help you lose weight and keep it off.

By choosing a balanced breakfast, you can get off to the right start, and fill in the gaps in food groups likely to be missing in your diet. Milk is a perfect breakfast complement, yet more than 8 out of 10 Americans still fall short of the recommended milk servings each day.<sup>1</sup>

Milk is packed with nine essential nutrients, including eight grams of high-quality protein. Along with building muscle and keeping bones strong, protein at breakfast can help you feel full and satisfied so you won't feel hungry by mid-morning, which will help people stick to their weight management plan.

Studies show milk drinkers and breakfast eaters have more nutritious diets and tend to be leaner than non-milk drinkers and breakfast skippers.<sup>2,3,4</sup> And to cut fat and calories, opt for fat free or low fat milk - they deliver the same nutrient-rich punch for fewer calories and less fat.

For more breakfast tips and recipes, visit <http://the-breakfastproject.com/>. Also, follow the Milk Mustache Campaign on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MilkMustache>, and Twitter @MilkMustache.

## Skillet Eggs and Polenta

Serve this morning meal with an 8-ounce glass of fat free milk and a slice of whole grain toast to start right with a serving of veggies, whole grain, protein and milk all before noon.

1 cup sliced mushrooms

1 cup red bell pepper, cut into strips

1 cup zucchini, halved lengthwise and sliced into half-moons

1 jar (32 ounces) marinara sauce

2 1/2 cups lowfat or fat free milk

Salt

1/2 cup finely ground polenta or cornmeal

2 teaspoons olive oil, divided

4 eggs

Chopped fresh basil (optional)

Spray large nonstick skillet over medium-high. Add mushrooms, bell pepper, and zucchini, and sauté until vegetables soften slightly, about 3 minutes. Add marinara and simmer to heat through. Reduce heat to low and keep warm.

Bring milk and salt to a boil in medium saucepan over medium-high. Slowly whisk in polenta, stirring constantly to prevent lumps from forming. Cook until thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat, cover, and keep warm.

Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over medium-high. Carefully crack eggs into pan and cook until whites are set and yolks are cooked to desired doneness, 4 to 6 minutes.

To serve, divide polenta among 4 shallow serving bowls; top with marinara and an egg. Sprinkle with chopped basil if desired. Makes: 4 servings

<sup>1</sup>Krebs-Smith SM, Guenther PM, Subar AF, Kirkpatrick SI, Dodd KW. Americans do not meet federal dietary recommendations. *Journal of Nutrition*. 2010;140:1832-1838.

<sup>2</sup>Murphy MM, Douglass JS, Johnson RK, Spence LA. Drinking flavored or plain milk is positively associated with nutrient intake and is not associated with adverse effects on weight status in US children and adolescents. *J Am Diet Assoc*. 2008;108:631-639.

<sup>3</sup>Barbo G, Troiano E, Russo P, Venezia A, Siani A. Inverse association between body mass and frequency of milk consumption in children. *British Journal of Nutrition*. 2005;93(1):15-19.

<sup>4</sup>Wyatt HR, Grunwald GK, Mosca CL, Klem ML, Wing RR, Hill JO. Long-term weight loss and breakfast in subjects in the National Weight Control Registry. *Obes Res*. 2002;10:78-82.



# Indoor Farmers' Market to Open

Mark your calendars and grab your market bags! Nourish Knoxville, the non-profit organizer of the Market Square Farmers' Market, is hosting a Winter Market every second Saturday of the month through April, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Historic Southern Railway Station at 306 Depot Avenue. Inside the train station's original dining room, patrons can shop for locally grown produce, meat, coffee, baked goods, specialty foods and more. Outside, food trucks will be serving lunch with locally sourced ingredients. Additionally, tours of the restored train cars will be available on the hour, starting at 11 a.m.

The Historic Southern Railway Station is being leased for the market by Blue Slip Winery owners Linn Slocum and Jeff Galyon, who will be renovating the building to house the winery, host events, and become home to a train museum. "As supporters of the locally grown movement, we are proud to partner with Nourish Knoxville to host the Winter Market at the Historic Southern Railway Station," says Slocum. "The facility and property is a natural fit to showcase this event. There's indoor space, outdoor covered space and free on-site parking." Galyon and Slocum anticipate moving their

operations to their new location by April of 2014, which would allow for wine tastings at the April Winter Market.

Charlotte Tolley, Executive Director of Nourish Knoxville, has been working with the Market Square Farmers' Market for 10 years and has seen an increased need for a place for farmers and bakers to sell their goods in the winter months. "We are excited to be partnering with Blue Slip Winery to create a marketplace for farmers and food producers through the winter months. Many of our farmers have meat, storage crops, and early spring vegetables during these off-months but very limited outlets to sell them. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide our community with local food year round and to provide our growers with income in the challenging winter months."

During the Winter Market, The Old Smoky Railway Museum, Inc. will be hosting guided tours of the restored train cars directly behind the Historic Southern Railway Station. Admission to the train cars is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 5 to 12 years.

Nourish Knoxville strives to make each of their markets accessible to everyone in our Knoxville community. Please see [www.marketsquarefarmersmarket.org](http://www.marketsquarefarmersmarket.org).

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## Passion, perseverance behind the development of ColoMarker

**Cont. from page 1**

need to detect cancer at its earliest stages," says Tom Boyd, CEO of EDP Biotech. "Our technology has strong potential to save thousands of lives each year through early stage detection, and it's our goal to make it available to diagnostic oncology labs and accessible to medical professionals throughout the world."

The test does not replace the need for a colonoscopy, however, EDP Biotech hopes that the simplicity and affordability of the test will not only allow for wider

early detection, but also enable physicians to use the test as a diagnostic aid in identifying patients who may need colonoscopies at a younger age. ColoMarker could potentially be added to the panel of tests performed on patient's blood which is drawn as part of an annual physical.

"My board and Tommye feel very emotional about the work we're doing here," Boyd told *The Focus*. "They never talk about the money that could be made. They talk about the lives they hope to see saved."



Tommye takes a blood sample from a patient to screen for colon cancer.

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# Nurse Celebrates 50 Years of Caring for Patients

The elegant silver haired grandmother of four, Mary Alice Bozeman, led the group of women, with a couple husbands in tow, past the old dormitory that now serves as administrative building on the campus of The University of Tennessee Medical Center. Bozeman and her former classmates shared memories, hugs and laughter as they recalled their time together as members of the class of 1963 at the University of Tennessee Memorial Research Center and Hospital School of Nursing.

When all the other ladies said their goodbyes and left, however, Bozeman simply turned around and walked back into the hospital. She wanted to finish her workday as Nursing Director at the medical center.

Bozeman's professional journey from that old nursing school dorm only took Bozeman about 100 feet, to what is now an entrance to UT Medical Center. Bozeman would argue, however, that the short trip to her first and only workplace resulted in gigantic rewards, in a career that just passed the 50-year mark.

"I never intended to be here this long," Bozeman said. "However the people I work with and the patients I care for just keep drawing me back in. It always seems like there's one more thing I want to do before I retire. And to be able to provide comfort and guidance to our patients and their families through some of their most difficult times is so important."

Bozeman graduated from nursing school as the bright eyed Mary Alice Hall. She said her nursing education, which cost a total of \$410, including room and board, prepared her well to begin her career in nursing.

When she started on the patient floor as a staff nurse, nurses weren't allowed to wear slacks. The requirement of dresses only for nurses consisted of starched long-sleeved white uniforms, caps and seamed white hose. The change in uniforms over the decades, Bozeman pointed out, dulls in comparison to the improvements in patient



The University of Tennessee Medical Center is proud of Mary Alice Bozeman, (pictured center) a registered nurse who recently celebrated her 50th year of employment at the medical center. After graduating in 1963 from the University of Tennessee Memorial Research Center and Hospital School of Nursing, she started working full time here at the medical center. "I never intended to be here this long," Bozeman said. "However the people I work with and the patients I care for just keep drawing me back in. It always seems like there's one more thing I want to do before I retire."

care. "In 1963 there were no critical care units," Bozeman explained. "When I became a nurse manager, I'd just be sure to put the most critical patients near my desk so I could keep a close watch on them and get to them more quickly. It's amazing how many lives we're saving today because of the advancements in technology, nursing and medicine."

Bozeman currently leads an initiative at the hospital that focuses on continued improvements in customer

service for patients. She also recently took on a new project at the hospital to assist families with bereavement during time of loss. While Bozeman said she's excited to see further developments at her hospital and in medicine in the coming years, she acknowledged that at age 70, she'll need to begin thinking about retirement at some point.

While plans to end her professional career aren't even close to being finalized, Bozeman, who

received numerous promotions throughout her career and even served as Chief Nursing Officer for several years, admitted that her newest grandchild, born in September, seems to be calling her to think about retirement. She had a beaming smile as she talked about spending time with

her grandchildren. Bozeman's smile remained in place as she reflected on her career.

"It has been such an honor and privilege to be a part of the nursing profession and watch the medical center grow to be the fine institution it is today," Bozeman said. "Through all the advancements,

what hasn't changed is the heart of nursing, the compassion for patients and the quest for quality care. Through these years God has blessed me with a wonderful supportive family both at home and at the medical center."

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THE KOKO KEY



## Sirloin and Black Bean Chili

Wilma Pratt of Teapots Old Clinton Highway, Powell

- 8 oz of dried black beans (1 1/4 cups)
- 4 cups water
- 3 TBSP oil
- 1 1/2 pound sirloin (top or bottom round) trimmed and cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 diced onions
- 2 jalapeno chilies, minced
- 1/3 cup masa harina
- 1/3 cup Chile powder, (combination is good, ancho, New Mexico or Anaheim)
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 tsp cayenne powder
- 1 tsp cumin, toasted and ground
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 5 TBSP Chili Paste
- salt and pepper
- Garnish with: white cheddar or jack cheese, red onions, chopped cilantro

Wash the beans and check for stones. Soak beans in water overnight. Drain and place in 4 cups water. Bring to boil. Skim off foam, reduce heat and simmer for 30 - 40 minutes or until tender. Add more water if needed. Drain and reserve.

Heat 2 TBSP oil in large pot and brown the meat in batches so that it does not steam in its own juices, caramelize. Remove and set aside. Using same pot heat remaining oil and saute the garlic, onions, and chilies until tender, about 8 to 10 minutes. Add masa harina, chili powder, bay leaves, cayenne and cumin. Cook, stir for 3-5 minutes. Add meat, stock and chili paste. Cook 20 to 30 more minutes until meat is tender. Add beans, salt and pepper. Cook until thickened. Remove bay leaves. Garnish.

# Archeological Excavation Discovers Knoxville History



The excavation site of the Peter Kern home.

Ever wonder about the history buried beneath the pavement and buildings of downtown Knoxville? A special Brown Bag Lecture at the East Tennessee Historical Society on January 16 will introduce us to the history of one such site, the old Peter Kern home that once stood between Locust and Walnut streets and recently excavated in preparation for the building of a new multi-level parking garage. Examples of items discovered will be on display.

The excavation discovered the foundations of Kern's home, a two-story stable that could house up to 20 horses, and a vast assortment of remnants of everyday life in early downtown Knoxville. Also unearthed were artifacts associated with an early hotel, mission house, and a grocery store that once served downtown residents. Project archaeologists and researchers Hunter Johnson, Ted Karpynec, Keith Little and Travis Rael will discuss the project and findings, as well as the importance of learning about and documenting everyday life in Knoxville during the past 150 years.

Peter Kern was born in Germany in 1835 and immigrated to America in the 1850s. He was a Confederate veteran who fought with the 12th Georgia Infantry. While passing through Knoxville he was apprehended by Union troops and forced to remain in the city. It was at this time that he started a small bakery to sell flour and molasses and cookies to Union troops. The small business evolved into Kerns Bakery, an enterprise familiar to East Tennesseans even today. Kern became a well known and respected entrepreneur, philanthropist, and politician and served as the mayor of Knoxville from 1890-1892.

The program is sponsored by 21st Mortgage and is and free and open to the public. The lecture will begin at noon at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville. Guests are invited to bring a "Brown Bag" lunch and enjoy the lecture. Soft drinks will be available. For more information, call (865) 215-8824 or visit the website at [www.EastTNHistory.org](http://www.EastTNHistory.org).

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