

Hardin Valley community rallies for new middle school

By Tasha Mahurin
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Citing overcrowded intermediate schools, members of the Hardin Valley community in Knox County are working to bring a new middle school to the area.

According to a study conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Commission, this particular portion of west Knox County accounted for a substantial portion of building growth in 2012—the northwest sector, which

includes Hardin Valley, comprised 22 percent said growth alone.

The group, formally “Hardin Valley Supports a Middle School,” met last week at Hardin Valley Church of Christ to discuss

the issue.

“Karns Middle, Farragut Middle, Cedar Bluff ... They just can’t cushion all of the growth and the residents that are coming into Hardin Valley. So it’s really important; we see our kids in

larger classrooms and it is affecting their learning environment,” said parent Kim Frazier, whose sons are on track to attend Karns Middle School after completing Hardin Valley

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Audit changes, Old Knoxville High School and Teacher’s Revolt

By Mike Steely
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It looks like it will be a long afternoon for the Knox County Commission Work Session Tuesday as they may discuss everything from audit changes to Commissioner Tony Norman’s discussion regarding the recent “teachers’ revolt “ and the superintendent’s contract.

Thirty-five items are on the agenda for the 2 p.m. meeting. The commissioners can add items and postpone or delete items from the meeting’s agenda. The next regular commission meeting is Monday, January 27, when those items approved Tuesday will go forward.

Among the items to be discussed is an amendment to the contract with Follett Software Management to extend that agreement until July, 2015 for \$129,438. They may also vote to accept \$10,000 in a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for the 2014 Children’s Festival of Reading.

They could also consider approval of the building of four single family homes in the River Meadows Subdivision in Mascot. Also they will consider accepting a donation of \$3,382.10 and three barrels of canned food donated by visitors at the Holiday Festival of Lights at Concord Park and donate it to the Love Kitchen.

The Commission is also being asked to approve the Industrial Development Board to accept payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes on the Old Knoxville High School property by the Southeast Housing Foundation which is planning to convert the historic school to senior apartments.

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Last month, Pilot presented a check for \$8,376 to Emerald Youth Foundation. Pictured are l to r, Dan Fleming, Pilot vice president of operations; John Crooks, Emerald Youth communications manager; Rachel Hopper, staff member in Emerald Youth’s JustLead program; and children Noel Vasquez and Faith Brown. Emerald Youth Foundation is a Christian, urban youth ministry that serves more than 1,350 urban young people each year.

Emerald Youth Foundation Launches Public Charter School Effort

Emerald Youth Foundation, an urban youth ministry with a 22-year history serving children, teens and young adults in Knoxville, recently announced it is launching a new 501(c)(3) organization—Emerald Charter Schools—to apply to Knox County Schools to begin the city’s first public charter school.

“We made the decision to apply to start a public charter school after significant research and consideration,” said Steve Diggs, Emerald Youth Foundation executive director. “Emerald Youth’s board of trustees believes now is the right time to move forward with the application process.”

Emerald Youth Foundation believes that establishing a K-8 inner-city public charter school is another good option for Knox County to accelerate the pace of student readiness for secondary education.

If approved, Emerald Charter Schools will begin with a K-8 public charter school in the fall of 2015, starting with two grades and adding two more each year in development phases. A clear benefit of this model is that elementary school children will not have to change campuses when they move up to middle school. Ideally, the first school—its proposed name is Emerald Academy—would be located in the Fulton High School Zone or the North city area (the founding community of Emerald Youth Foundation).

Emerald Youth Foundation has a longstanding track record of partnering with Knox County Schools. In two current examples, Emerald Youth offers ACT prep classes at Austin-East High School and spearheads a program of volunteer teaching assistants for Algebra I classes at Fulton



Among children enjoying the after-school meal at Mount Zion Baptist Church last winter are Denise Barnes, Beverly Barnes, and Takayah Couch-Cox. Mount Zion is part of Emerald Youth Foundation’s JustLead ministry.

High School. Emerald Youth also offers extensive support to urban athletic teams and academic tutoring to children of all ages through its JustLead Network of churches.

“Emerald Youth’s volunteers and staff will continue to serve young people throughout inner-city Knoxville, and we are already increasing our support of traditional public schools,” Diggs said.

Public charter schools are independent public schools that have increased freedom to be innovative, yet are held accountable for improved student achievement. Public charter schools are operated on “charter”—an agreement with the local board of education—by independent entities such as nonprofit organizations and must meet strict accountability standards spelled out in the charter.

Emerald Charter Schools will submit a letter of intent to Knox

County Schools by the end of January, and a completed application by April 1. Knox County Schools’ Charter Review Committee will then have 90 calendar days to review the application and make a recommendation to the Knox County Board of Education for a decision of approval or denial.

The faith-based Emerald Youth Foundation will continue its Christian ministry of helping urban Knoxville youth grow as leaders. However, in its role of launching a public charter school, Emerald Youth Foundation will begin a new, separate, non-sectarian 501(c)(3) organization to manage the public charter school. Emerald Charter Schools would serve as the charter management organization.

The intended mission of Emerald Charter Schools is to provide free, sustainable, high quality public schools

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FOCUS Weekly Poll*

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

ELECTED 75.58%
APPOINTED 24.42%

Survey conducted January 16, 2014.

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

Teacher Survey goes before BOE Tuesday

By Mike Steely
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The results of the Knox County Teacher Survey will be discussed in a Board of Education (BOE) Work Session Tuesday, January 21st. Both the Joint Education Committee and the Knox County Commission have waited for discussion of the survey until the BOE discussion.

The survey indicates the majority of teachers unhappy with many parts of the system’s implementation of new teaching guidelines, unannounced classroom evaluation visits, and evaluation results.

A discussion at the Commission’s meeting, also on Tuesday, offered by Commissioner Tony Norman, remains on their schedule work session the same day, at 2 p.m., so the matter may not reach the County Commission until their regular meeting on January 27th.

Also being discussed at the BOE work meeting is a presentation and discussion of TVAAS Assessment system. TVAAS measures the performance of students from a variety of tests and variables to measure progress.

The elected Board will also hear a report from Teacher Working Group appointed by Chairperson Lynne Fugate about the teacher protests and complaints.

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Focus on the Law

Living Trusts

A trust is a right of property held by one party for the benefit of another. This can include real property as well as personal property. The trustee holds the title to the property for the bene-



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

fit of another person, the designated beneficiary. The trustee has financial duties and obligations owed to the beneficiary. Trusts are typically in writing but a trust may arise by operation of law where the court imposes a trust based upon the facts and equities of the situation.

A living trust is an inter vivos trust meaning that it is a transfer of property during the lifetime of the settlor (creator) of the trust rather than upon his or her death. Often, a living trust is revocable meaning that the assets placed in the trust could be transferred

back into the settlor's under certain circumstances. The settlor decides which assets are to be included in the living trust. It is also very common for the settlor

to name himself or herself as trustee such that control over the assets of the trust is retained. A successor trustee may also be named to take over in the event of the original trustee's death or incapacity. The settlor may also name him or herself as beneficiary of the trust. A properly drafted living trust can allow someone to manage their property and get the benefit from it during their entire lifetime. It provides a means to help a disabled person to manage his or her affairs in the future while maintaining control as long as he or she is able.

After the living trust document is created and executed, any designated assets need to be transferred out of the settlor's name and into the name of the trust. This means that real property deeds should be signed and recorded, vehicle titles reissued in the name of the trust, and funds placed into accounts owned by the trust. It is also recommended that the trust obtain an employer's identification number for the trust from the Internal Revenue Service.

There are several benefits of holding assets in a living trust rather than just maintain ownership in an individual's name. The complete details of the trust are rarely required to be disclosed except under extraordinary circumstances providing more privacy to both the settlor and the beneficiaries. Also the assets owned by the trust are not required to

go through probate. This is particularly beneficial if the trust assets are located in more than one state. Going through probate court in more than one state can be very expensive and time consuming. Also selling or transferring stocks which are held in a living trust is much easier than those which are included in a probate estate.

Because a living trust is typically revocable, it provides little protection from creditors. It does not help the settlor cut his or her income tax or estate tax bill. It does not help qualify you nursing home care paid for by Medicaid. It does not protect you from disgruntled heirs. A living trust does not make a will unnecessary. You should consult an attorney for assistance and advice with your individual situation.

Support for Elected Superintendent Grows

By Focus Staff

The week's *Knoxville Focus* poll once again posed the question, "In your opinion, should the Superintendent of Schools in Knox County be elected by the people or appointed by the School Board?"

More than 75% of respondents said they believe the superintendent should be elected rather than appointed.

The strongest support for an elected superintendent came demographically speaking came from the age group most likely to have children in schools, people aged 30 - 49. More than 83% of voters in the 30 - 49 age group said they preferred an elected superintendent.

Another interesting statistic is that more than 92% of voters in the first District,

said they prefer an elected superintendent. Residents of the Eighth District were overwhelming in their support for an elected superintendent, with more than 90% of likely voters saying they favored an elected superintendent.

The districts with the least support for an elected school chief were the Fourth and Fifth Districts, centered around Sequoyah Hills and the Town of Farragut, respectively. Still, 57% of voters in the Fourth District say they prefer an elected superintendent, while 60% of voters in the Fifth District back an elected superintendent.

The Focus has polled on this question several times in the past and the numbers favoring an elected superintendent are increasing.

Decrease in 311 calls: better service, fewer complaints

The number of total calls coming into the City's 311 Call Center dropped by 8 percent in 2013 from the previous calendar year – and 311 Director Russ Jensen says that's actually good news.

"We're getting fewer complaints and offering better service," Jensen said.

There are several reasons for the decrease. There were about 190,000 calls to the 311 Call Center in 2013.

Self-service online options available for paying a Municipal Court fee or checking a court date resulted in about a third of the fall-off in incoming calls, Jensen said.

More proactivity by City workers - for example, Codes Enforcement inspectors cruising neighborhoods and spotting potential issues, sometimes before they become nuisances and generate complaints – is another reason for the decrease in 311 calls.

Overall in 2013, requests for assistance from the public decreased by 6.9 percent, while internally initiated service requests increased.

Meanwhile, 72 percent of all incoming 311 calls in 2013 were answered in less than 20 seconds – a 4 percent increase from 2012.

And are people happy

FOCUS Weekly Poll

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

Elected

75.58%

Appointed

24.42%

By Age	Elected	Appointed	Total
30-49	83.33%	16.67%	66
50-65	76.25%	23.75%	160
65+	73.06%	26.94%	245
Total	75.58% (356)	24.42% (115)	471

By District	Elected	Appointed	Total
1	92.86%	7.14%	28
2	65.45%	34.55%	55
3	79.55%	20.45%	44
4	57.14%	42.86%	70
5	60.00%	40.00%	45
6	73.08%	26.92%	52
7	86.21%	13.79%	58
8	90.41%	9.59%	73
9	82.61%	17.39%	46
Total	75.58% (356)	24.42% (115)	471

By Gender	Elected	Appointed	Total
Unknown	63.16%	36.84%	19
Female	78.75%	21.25%	240
Male	73.11%	26.89%	212
Total	75.58% (356)	24.42% (115)	471

Survey conducted January 16, 2014.

with how their calls are handled?

More than 100 people who called 311 last year were randomly selected by computer and surveyed about their call-in experience. Ninety-seven percent – or 111 of the 114 respondents – said their questions were answered appropriately; all 114 respondents said the customer service representative was courteous and responsive; and nearly 80 percent said their service request was handled in a

timely manner.

In surveys comparing cities in the United States and Canada, Knoxville's 311 consistently ranks at or near the top in customer service and cost efficiency.

Jensen calls his employees "advocates" for people calling in needing help.

"They have the empathy factor," he said. "Our folks care about the person on the other end of the line, and they'll stay on the line until the problem gets fixed."

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By Mike Steely
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Last week *The Focus* published the results of the recent Teacher Survey of Elementary School Teachers. The survey was divided between Elementary, Middle, High School and teachers who teach on multiple levels.

This week we look at Middle School Teacher responses to the multiple-choice survey. The Board of Education has not publicly discussed the results yet and neither has the County Commission, although it does appear on the Commission’s tentative agenda for their upcoming work session Tuesday.

The replies by Middle School Teachers were somewhat similar to those of the Elementary Teachers with a couple of exceptions.

One half of those teachers responded that teachers with Level 5 evaluations (the highest) should have their class room evaluations reduced to one unannounced visit but 74 percent of the teachers disagreed that “both state required classroom observations be unannounced.”

56.8 percent replied that one observation should be unannounced and one announced.

More than 61 percent disagreed that the “district should participate in the writing assignment for the

optional grades” and 56 percent agreed that the schools should transition to a balanced calendar for all schools.

57 percent disagreed with the teachers have the opportunity to provide input and 67 percent disagreed that “Teachers in my school/district are trusted to make sound professional decisions.”

66 percent also disagreed with “Teachers in my school/district are recognized as educational experts.”

An overwhelming majority, 75.1 percent, agreed that “Overall, my school is a good place to work and learn,” but 47.8 percent disagreed that “Overall, my district is a good place to work and learn.”

One School Board member recently commented that the teachers feel that their schools were good places to work, but the Knox County school system was much like voters’ feelings about the U.S. Congress; very few voters have faith in Congress but most re-elect their representatives.

The upcoming School Board primaries and elections may be a way to test that theory.

Next week *The Focus* looks at the replies from High School Teachers, which vary quite a bit from the other results.

Knox County Schools 2013 Teacher Survey - Preliminary Results

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER SURVEY RESULTS	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I think all professionally licensed teachers in TEAM schools should have both state-required classroom observations be unannounced.	45.8%	28.2%	15.9%	6.6%	3.6%
I think all professionally licensed teachers in TEAM schools should have 1 announced and 1 unannounced classroom observation for their 2 state-required observations.	9.4%	10.1%	23.7%	36.5%	20.3%
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	7.7%	15.1%	26.1%	30.7%	20.4%
I think the district should transition to a balanced calendar for all schools.	16.8%	9.0%	18.0%	27.6%	28.6%
I think the district should participate in PARCC field testing.	25.9%	22.6%	28.0%	17.9%	5.6%
I think the district should participate in the writing assessment for the optional grades.	34.3%	26.2%	19.1%	15.7%	4.7%
This is the way PLCs function at my school.	7.6%	14.6%	15.0%	45.8%	17.1%
My PLC enhances my instructional practice.	17.8%	20.9%	21.3%	30.2%	9.8%
I think Common Core State Standards will benefit instructional practice and student learning.	15.4%	23.0%	29.6%	27.0%	5.0%
Teachers in my school/district have the opportunity to provide input regarding the district’s strategic direction.	25.0%	32.0%	20.4%	20.9%	1.8%
Teachers in my school/district are trusted to make sound professional decisions about instruction.	30.6%	36.4%	10.9%	17.2%	4.9%
Teachers in my school/district are recognized as educational experts.	33.0%	33.2%	17.2%	14.4%	2.1%
Teachers in my school/district are encouraged to participate in school, district, and/or state leadership roles.	10.7%	18.1%	30.3%	35.9%	4.9%
Teachers in my school/district have autonomy to make decisions about instructional delivery (i.e. pacing, materials and pedagogy).	29.1%	35.1%	14.8%	18.0%	3.0%
Overall, my school is a good place to work and learn.	3.5%	9.1%	12.4%	43.9%	31.2%
Overall, my district is a good place to work and learn.	18.8%	28.8%	22.2%	26.5%	3.7%

Audit changes, Old Knoxville High School and Teacher’s Revolt

Cont. from page 1

They may also discuss “putting on hold” a monthly parking increase at the City-County Building Garage for county employees and approving a grant of \$ 45,000 to supplement

the salary of one Juvenile Probation officer.

The commissioner might also talk about approving the January 14th actions of the Audit Committee and recommendations of changes brought by the new Internal Auditor.

The approval of a contract with DataBank IMX for a contract of \$ 170,000 may be discussed to install and maintain an electronic content management system for the Circuit Court Clerk’s office.

Possibly getting the most

attention could be discussions on the “teacher’s revolt and the Superintendent’s Contract,” a motion

on the agenda from Commissioner Norman, a discussion on the Joint Education Committee, and a

separate discussion regarding the Audit Committee meeting.

Emerald Youth Foundation Launches Public Charter School Effort

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in Knoxville’s urban neighborhoods to ensure that all students have access to an outstanding college preparatory education.

For its public charter school model, Emerald Youth Foundation has chosen two schools in Cleveland, Ohio. They are Breakthrough Schools’ E Prep middle school and Village Prep elementary school. Emerald Youth made the

selection after conducting extensive national research making site visits.

Breakthrough Schools has a track record of excellent student outcomes: in 2012, its students—who are more than 97% minority and approximately 85% low-income—significantly outperformed Ohio public school students (urban and suburban) on average on every single test at every single grade level.

Breakthrough Schools’ E Prep and Village Prep Schools’ leadership has agreed to work with Emerald Charter Schools to export its model to Knoxville.

Public input about Emerald Charter Schools’ proposed plan is ongoing. A series of community meetings will be held January 21. Visit www.emeraldcharterschools.org for details.

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FOCUS MORE ON Seymour & South Knox

Keeping Track in the Smokies

Friends of the Smokies has received a grant for \$13,720 from Charter Communications, Inc. for support of wildlife management in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The grant provides for the purchase of 15 radio collars and 2 receivers for tracking and monitoring elk throughout the Park.

Two hundred years ago elk roamed the southern Appalachian mountains and elsewhere in the eastern United States. With the financial and in-kind support from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Friends of the Smokies, Great Smoky Mountains Association and The University of Tennessee; the Park began reintroducing elk in Cataloochee Valley in 2001. Initially, all elk were fitted with radio collars allowing biologists to efficiently monitor the growth, survival, and movements of the population. As the elk herd grows, today numbering at least 120 animals, biologists continue to monitor a subset of the herd annually to monitor population dynamics particularly focusing on newborn calves and females. This donation helps provide much needed collars to fit the calves and five adult females per year along with any nuisance animals.

"Charter is a communications and technology company," said Joe Pell, vice president and general manager for Charter's operations in



Park biologists working to place radio collar on tranquilized elk in Cataloochee Valley

Louisiana and Tennessee. "Funding the radio telemetry that Park biologists use to ensure the elk's success fits with our company's focus."

Radio-transmitters are one of the most useful instruments to help track

animal locations and survival. This is true, not only for elk, but other wildlife species as well. Information gained from the use of radio telemetry equipment has been vital in making short and long-term management decisions regarding bears, elk and bats within the Park, and continues to

be an integral part of ongoing wildlife monitoring and management efforts.

"We find it very satisfying to have a healthy elk herd. Our job is to help maintain that by giving them the supplies they need," says Jim Hart, Friends of the Smokies.

Mark Spilman, vice

president and general manager for Charter's operations in the Carolinas and Virginia adds, "The Great Smoky Mountains is the country's most visited National Park. Many of our own employees that live and work in the region have experienced seeing these majestic animals thrive in Cataloochee.

And now, they are officially a "Friend of the Smokies."

For more information about the programs mentioned here, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/grsm. To learn more about Friends of the Smokies, go to www.friendsofthesmokies.org.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Jennifer Rice, right, listens to Kevin Crateau at last week's meeting to raise support for a new Hardin Valley Middle.

Hardin Valley community rallies for new middle school

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Elementary.

Parent and organizer Kevin Crateau also addressed the issue recently before the Knox County Board of Education.

Cratuea told the Board the school was "not a want but a need" and added that the area had the highest growth rate of any other part of the county. "I'm just asking," he said, "What's the plan and how can we help?"

The issues dates back to 2006, when a study by the Partnership for Education Facilities Assessment demonstrated Karns and Faragut Middle Schools are among the most overcrowded schools in Knox County—according to a ten year projected enrollment plan. Holston and Halls Middle were also noted in the plan as facing the same risk of a strain on capacity.

"I do support a new middle school for Hardin Valley," Knox County Commission

Chairman Brad Anders, who represents the area on Knox County Commission, told *The Focus*. "I believe the community is doing the right thing by doing their research and approaching the issue in an appropriate way."

Addressing overcrowding across the Knox County school system, Anders added that Gibbs should also be on the list for a new middle school.

Thomas Deakins, who represents Hardin Valley on Knox County's Board of Education, also told the press last week that he fully supports the group's effort and has received several emails and phone calls regarding the issue.

The group plans to continue to petition local elected officials and the Board of Education through emails and public forum and has already reached nearly 700 likes on their Facebook page.

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Andrea Rudd discusses HR Comp’s success, the importance of giving back

By Tasha Mahurin
Tasha@knoxfocus.com

“Nine years ago, I was trying to raise three children in Dalton, GA and struggling to pay my light bill. I lived in a mobile home next door to my parents,” Andrea Rudd told *The Focus*.
Today, Rudd is the CEO of HR Comp, a professional employer organization (PEO), which generated total revenue of \$111 million last year.
“I moved to Knoxville to take a

job at another PEO in the area,” she said. “The salary was more than I had ever made, and I thought at the time that it was my big break.”
After working for the company for a period of time, she struck out on her own to form HR Comp in March of 2010. By 2011, the startup had generated \$15 million in revenue.
“This industry is all about relationships-creating them and sustaining them. There is no secret.

We truly value our clients and the relationships we have built with them, and that is what has made us successful,” Rudd added.
According to Rudd, a PEO provides a co-employment relationship in which both the PEO and company, a client of the PEO, have an employment relationship with the company’s workers. By a company outsourcing traditional employer human resources responsibilities like payroll, employment law compliance,

employee taxes, and more to a PEO, a PEO can enhance a company’s profitability and productivity.
“For example, among all the benefits of using a PEO, one thing that stands out to business owners as being one of the most beneficial is the savings a PEO can provide on Workman’s Compensation Insurance,” said Rudd. “Depending on the business, we can save most up to
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Andrea Rudd

New Internal Auditor hits the ground running

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Andrea Williams, Knox County’s new Internal Auditor, hit the ground running Tuesday at the first meeting this year of the Audit Committee. It was the first for Williams who addressed the committee with several changes she wants.
Before a packed house in the small conference room on the 6th floor of the City-County Building she presented a 14-page hand-out of her recommendations. She said that previous audits since May, 2010 did not fully conform with standards. She recommended and the audit committee agreed to several changes:
• Cancel the current Capital Assets Review
• Cancel the 2014 Risk Assessment
• Cancel the Electronic Commerce Card Program Audit
• Work with the Commission, Audit Committee, and Finance Department to clarify the Financial analysis of Knox County.
• Cancel the Payroll Audit and IT Governance Audit
All the current and planned audits mentioned will be subject to new audit procedures and policies.
Commissioner David Wright reminded the other Audit Committee members that the actions they took

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The old Moses School in historic Mechanicsville may become apartments for senior citizens. The school is currently owned by the Boys & Girls Club of Knoxville and could house one-bedroom apartments for people 62 years and older.

Another Historic School may become senior housing

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Thursday was a busy day for proponents of converting the old Moses School building in Mechanicsville into senior apartments. The Historic Zoning Commission heard from them at 8:30 in the morning and the Board of Zoning Appeals heard from them at 4 p.m. Now they must face a second reading before the City Council.
The original Moses School, at 22 Carrick Street, dates back to 1875 as the Fairview School and has been the community’s focal

point. Currently owned and used by the Boys & Girl’s Club, which is closing the facility, the old school is also used by the Knoxville Police Department as a training facility. The current school was completed in 1930.
Demitri Damascus of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association National Housing Corporation is working to buy the old school from the Boys & Girls Club and he told the Historic Zoning Commission that his company is a not-for-profit corporation with over 90 senior living facilities around the nation. If the

plan gains final approval, the plans are to renovate the main school building and also add a four-story building with an appearance much as the old school. Eventually the old and new buildings may have about 78 one-bedroom apartments for adults 62 or older.
Arthur Seymour, Jr., also of AHEPA, explained the plan is not for assisted living and each apartment will have a kitchen, living area, and one bedroom.
There has been opposition from the Mechanicsville home owners but the corporation altered its

plans last week to move the location of the new building a bit to keep green space for local use and to avoid blocking the view of the front of the historic building. There was also some initial opposition to the company wanting to demolish the old gymnasium but the idea was accepted. Another objection was that the new residents in the apartments would double the number of people living in the neighborhood.
While there were residents speaking against the project at the morning meeting no one
Continue on page 2

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Digging into the past

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

It's usual to see a packed house for public hearings in Knoxville as citizens turn out for this cause or that. Rezoning, parking garages, and teacher concerns have drawn hundreds to meetings with the county and city officials.

It is unusual to see citizens turn out for a presentation of things dug from the earth, but last Thursday the East Tennessee Historic Museum was packed with people. The program, introduced by Cherel Henderson, Executive Director, grew in such attendance that additional chairs were brought into the room.

In preparing a parking lot to become a parking garage last year, members of the Tennessee Valley Archeology Research team began to investigate the site. Work began with ground penetrating radar and moved to taking up the pavement. A backhoe was brought in initially and then the archeologists got down to work. Since water was needed to wash the dirt being removed to search for artifacts, the team set up its own water system and the water was used over and over again so as not to be dumped into the city drainage system.

Archeologists Hunter Johnson, Ted Karpynec, Keith Little and Travis Rael presented different aspects of what was found there during the presentation.

Old maps of the early town were compared with the foundations

discovered, or used to discover foundation locations, and the team found evidence of several structures. One was the foundation of a home used at one time for homeless women, another was a boarding house and later hotel, and one was the barns and house of Peter Kern.

Kern, the founder of Kerns Bakery, built the house about a block from his large bakery, where Tupelo Honey is now located. The home was brick and wood. Kerns had been a Confederate soldier captured in Knoxville and paroled to remain in town.

Prior to building the Kern home the lot had been leveled with red clay. One of the barns on the Kern lot was a two-story horse barn. Various items, including horseshoes, were found along with bottles, buttons, etc.

Dr. Keith Little said that there were thousands of artifacts including a clay pipe, beads, pieces of leather, and part of a printing plate in German. Kerns and many other immigrants were German and settled in the area.

Some artifacts found on the site can be dated to 1820, preceding Kern or other known dwellers there. Dr. Little said there were two kinds of pottery found, one from a group prior to 1840 and the other from beyond that date.

Much of the most prized finds came from long abandoned wells and outhouses.

Hunter Johnson got a chuckle from the audience when he talked about



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Archeologists explain some of the thousands of artifacts uncovered at the site of the former Pete Kern house and other surrounding homes and buildings during a program last week at the East Tennessee Museum.

excavating privies: "We get excited about these things!"

Ted Karpynec said that a map of the city indicated that a Union Pay Office had been located near there during the Civil War.

Many people who came for the presentation also toured the museum's "Live! On The Air! and In Your Living Room" exhibit of early television in Knoxville. The exhibit displayed items from the city's first 20 years of television entertainment, broadcast equipment, costumes, etc. The exhibit runs through February 23rd. There's a \$5 admission for adults \$4 for seniors, and free to children 16 and younger.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley Wins National Marketing and Communications Award



Each year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America celebrates the tremendous achievements the Clubs have made in the field of marketing through the Marketing and Communications (MAC) Awards. Hundreds of Clubs throughout the nation compete for this prestigious award. This year, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley is a winner in the Comprehensive Marketing Strategy category for the "Ignite Greatness" campaign.

The "Ignite Greatness" campaign was formed around the Boys & Girls Clubs' belief that "every person we encounter has limitless potential that we must discover, ignite and foster."

This campaign, developed in partnership with Bluegill Creative, uses a series of Great Stories videos, print materials, billboards, social media, and the website IgniteGreatness.org, to highlight the excellent caliber and potential

of area Club members. Each featured youth tells a personal story of their journey in one of the Boys & Girls Clubs' priority outcome areas: academic success, healthy lifestyles, or good character and citizenship.

"While creating the campaign with Bluegill, we really examined our core values to find one principle that encompassed everything that happens in a Boys & Girls Club," said Lisa Hurst, President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley. "We found that 'Ignite Greatness' perfectly described the Boys & Girls Clubs' mission to help young people reach their full potential."

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley will be recognized during a presentation at the organization's national conference in Orlando in May.

Another Historic School may become senior housing

Cont. from page 1

appeared against the project at the afternoon session variance hearing with the Board of Zoning and Appeals.

The parking spaces will be reduced from 88 to 50 and a utility building there currently may or may not be replaced. The reduced number of parking spaces is because many of the elderly tenants will not be driving.

The project gained support from Knox Heritage and the Old Mechanicsville Neighborhood Interest group (OMNI), but did face opposition from other residents who

presented a petition to the Historic Zoning Commission against the project. One person said the school should be "moth balled" and kept for some appropriate future use. The Historic Zoning members split their vote 5-2 to allow demolition of the gymnasium but voted 7-0 on the design approval.

Cathy Gonzales of OMNI said her group met in December and unanimously approved of the project.

Apartments in the new and old building will rent for \$ 450 to \$ 650 a month and renovation and construction could begin next year and

take 12 to 18 months to complete.

John Dempster, representing the Boys and Girls Club, said that one of the reasons to seek a buyer for the old school is that the Knoxville Police Department's training facility is moving out and the club will be losing the funding that renter has been paying.

Kaye Graybeal, Historic Preservation Planner for the Metropolitan Planning Commission, asked the corporation to alter the color of the bricks planned for the new building to match the old school.

Dr. Shana Sparks is 'Back' in Knoxville!

Kelley Chiropractic announces the new addition of Dr. Shana D. Sparks to their facility at 6911 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919.

Dr. Sparks and Kelley Chiropractic are located on Kingston Pike, across from Denton's and west of Papermill Road.

Dr. Shana Sparks, formally of First Choice Chiropractic of North Knoxville,

has returned back to Knoxville from Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Dr. Sparks is actively treating former First Choice Chiropractic patients. Dr. Shana Sparks treats headaches, migraines, neck pain, middle back pain, upper back pain, shoulder pain, low back pain, sciatica, hip pain, knee pain, and foot/ankle pain.

Andrea Rudd discusses HR Comp's success, the importance of giving back

Cont. from page 1

40 percent."

Rudd explains that a PEO can also direct and control a client company's worksite employees in manufacturing, production, and delivery of its products and services.

"We really provide a tremendous service for our clients and save them both time and overhead," Rudd explained.

The company has experienced remarkable growth over the last four years, and Rudd hopes to see revenue grow another \$100 million this year. However, she says, the best part of success is giving back.

The company donates money to numerous charities including multiple athletic departments at Powell

schools where her children attend, the University of Tennessee Medical Center, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, the Boy Scouts Great Smoky Mountains Council, and a slew of others.

When she isn't running HR Comp or working for a charitable cause, Rudd is a typical, busy mom who anchors the bleachers on Saturday afternoons cheering her kids on at a game. She lives in North Knoxville with her husband, Mike; sons, Andrew, Cayden and Colby; and stepdaughter, Mikaylah.

"I'll never forget where I came from, and I'm committed to giving back and helping others get where they are going," she said.

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The Greatest Campaigner of Them All: Senator Estes Kefauver Part Two

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Congressman Sam D. McReynolds had first been elected in 1922 and had been reelected consistently ever since. McReynolds had been highly popular in Tennessee's Third Congressional district and he had routinely easily turned back every challenger inside the Democratic primary and the general election as well.

When Senator Nathan L. Bachman died in 1937, Congressman McReynolds toyed with the idea of either being appointed or running for the United States Senate in 1938. Ultimately, McReynolds opted to run for reelection to Congress where he chaired the House Foreign Affairs Committee. McReynolds died unexpectedly in Washington, D. C. on July 11, 1939, leaving his seat vacant.

The most formidable obstacle to Kefauver's proposed run for Congress was the possible candidacy of James B. Frazier, Jr. Frazier was the namesake and son of a former governor and United States senator; he was also the incumbent United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Frazier had been appointed to his post by Senator Kenneth D. McKellar and was highly popular in the Third Congressional district. Much to Kefauver's relief, Frazier soon announced he would forego a race for Congress, preferring to remain in office as U. S. Attorney.

When Kefauver retired from Congress in 1948 to seek election to the United States Senate, Frazier did resign as U. S. Attorney and was elected to Congress.

It was clear Estes Kefauver would have opposition for the Democratic nomination for Congress and Judge Leonidas D. Miller announced he would run. Miller had made a race against Congressman McReynolds in 1938, but had lost badly. Miller had been an attorney for many years, served in the Tennessee General Assembly and believed he could count on support in each of the district's twelve counties.

As is usually the case in such races, Kefauver's Congressional campaign was affected by infighting inside the Democratic Party. Judge Will Cummings, County judge for Hamilton, was under assault from one of his former allies. Wilkes Thrasher, a member of the Hamilton County Court, had hungered to go to Congress himself and had actually challenged Congressman McReynolds in 1934. Despite their

alliance, Judge Cummings supported Congressman McReynolds and Thrasher's anger with his former friend still burned bright. Thrasher and his allies took control of the County Court, defeating candidates supported by Judge Cummings.

Wilkes Thrasher and his friends appeared at the Democratic convention called for the special election to Congress and supported Judge Miller. Having little other option, Judge Cummings backed Kefauver, which proved to be decisive. Kefauver had wanted an open primary, free from the poll tax and Judge Will Cummings and his organization helped Kefauver achieve his goal.

Judge Miller, growling that the results of the convention made Kefauver the favorite for the Democratic nomination, dropped his candidacy. Another minor candidate for the Democratic nomination also drooped out, leaving the field to Estes Kefauver.

Kefauver was the Democratic nominee for the special election and faced Republican Casto Dodson and perennial candidate Dr. John R. Neal, who was running as an Independent. Kefauver took little for granted as the Third District had elected a Republican Congressman in 1920 and the GOP candidate in 1928 had come within 3,000 votes of defeating Sam D. McReynolds.

Estes Kefauver concentrated his efforts in the eleven counties outside his own Hamilton County, making himself known to voters who had no idea who he was; oftentimes taking his red-headed wife with him, the two made a formidable duo.

According to Kefauver's biographer Charles Fontenay, Kefauver and his friend Lee Allen were driving back on Election Day, having worked the polls and despite the fact no returns had been posted, Allen noted Kefauver had been elected to Congress.

"Aw, Lee," Kefauver drawled, "they're a dime a dozen. But it just might lead to something."

Even then Estes Kefauver's ambition knew no bounds.

Lee Allen's confidence in Kefauver's election was well justified, as Kefauver carried every county in the district save for one. He won 14,268 votes to 5,355 for Dodson, while Dr. Neal tallied a meager 363 votes.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Congressman Estes Kefauver

The world was already changing. Hitler's armies had crossed the Polish border and within weeks had conquered Poland. Britain and France had declared war on Germany and the spark ignited the flames of the Second World War. Estes Kefauver was still in Chattanooga, trying to rearrange his affairs before leaving for Washington, D. C. Kefauver was caught by surprise when a special session of Congress was called and he and Nancy hurried off to the nation's Capitol.

Having no home in Washington, Kefauver and his wife took a room at the Mayflower Hotel before visiting the office that had belonged to Congressman Sam D. McReynolds. Greeted by the late Congressman's secretary, Kefauver went across the street to the House of Representatives, only to be barred from entering the Chamber by a zealous Capitol police officer who insisted Congressman Kefauver had already passed by.

An irritated Kefauver had to send for Congressman Jere Cooper from West Tennessee to come out and verify his identity before he could step onto the floor of the House for the first time.

Kefauver became acquainted with the Speaker of the House, William Brockman Bankhead of Alabama. Father of the celebrated actress Tallulah Bankhead, Kefauver quickly developed a liking for the Alabamian.

It was Bankhead who advised Kefauver, "Work on your mail, young man. When people write you, see that they get good answers,

and promptly. Sign them yourself. Send them some literature." Kefauver took the advice and only Senator K. D. McKellar likely wrote more letters.

Kefauver naturally consulted with Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Hull had been a Congressman and senator from Tennessee and would become the longest serving Secretary of State in U. S. history. Revered by many in Tennessee, Congressman Kefauver went to see Hull who advised him to master only one subject as a Member of Congress.

The Chattanooga Congressman's maiden speech in the House was a talk in support of Cordell Hull's Reciprocal Trade Agreements legislation.

It wasn't long before Kefauver decided the elegant Mayflower, while a mighty nice hostelry, was a bit too expensive. Congressman Kefauver and his wife moved into the Hotel Washington, which was more economical, but even then when he first arrived, he encountered a skeptical desk clerk, who promptly informed the Tennessean rooms were \$8.00 per day. At the time, that was rather pricey, as many fine hotels across the country charged half that. Kefauver, grinning, pointed out he was a Congressman from Tennessee and the desk clerk snapped, "That's all right. We have no objection to your staying here."

Not surprisingly, Congressman and Mrs. Kefauver did not remain at the Hotel Washington long and soon settled into a comfortable apartment at the Wardman Park, which is where Secretary of State

Cordell Hull lived.

With the help of Jere Cooper, Kefauver won an assignment to the House Judiciary Committee, an excellent assignment for a freshman legislator.

Estes Kefauver's first years in Congress were apparently a happy time for he and Nancy. Largely unknown in Washington, they were able to spend more time together as a couple and not having any children, they were free from most home responsibilities. The Kefauvers did have a cocker spaniel, or several, at a given time.

It was not long before Congressman Estes Kefauver had won a reputation for taking care of the folks back home. He was a staunch supporter of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Estes Kefauver had been in Congress for a couple of years when he ran afoul of the most powerful member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation and one of the most formidable figures in Volunteer State politics: Senator K. D. McKellar.

McKellar had come to positively loathe David Lilienthal, Director of the Tennessee Valley Authority. McKellar's office had been flooded with complaints from East Tennesseans, where the senator was highly popular, who were concerned about the construction of Douglas Dam. The Tennessee Farm Bureau was especially distraught about the possibility Douglas Dam would flood thousands of acres of prime farm land, ruining

both farmers and businessmen. McKellar, already angry with Lilienthal, and always one to pay attention to his constituents, the influential senator announced his own opposition to Douglas Dam.

Snarling David Lilienthal was Uriah Heep come to life, Senator McKellar singlehandedly stopped construction of Douglas Dam. It was only a personal plea from President Roosevelt that caused the senator to change his mind when the United States was engaged in fighting World War II.

Throughout his short political career, Estes Kefauver had been aligned with politicians and political organizations who were solidly allied with Senator K. D. McKellar.

Governor Prentice Cooper was much closer to McKellar than he was to Memphis Boss E. H. Crump. Judge Will Cummings was a strong McKellar man and perhaps it is not surprising Congressman Estes Kefauver sided with the senator when McKellar bickered with Lilienthal over the schedule of dam construction in East Tennessee.

McKellar passed his amendment through the United States Senate, but Kefauver spoke against it on the floor of the House. The McKellar amendment failed in the House and Estes Kefauver found himself on the bad side of K. D. McKellar.

Congressman Kefauver trespassed against Senator McKellar's authority when he refused to back the McKellar amendment, which would have required the TVA to return to Congress continually for operating funds. McKellar passed his amendment through the United States Senate, but Kefauver spoke against it on the floor of the House. The McKellar amendment failed in the House and Estes Kefauver found himself on the bad side of K. D. McKellar.

The Kefauver House

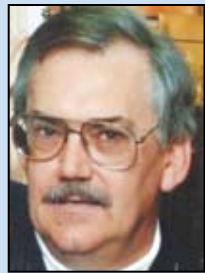
MADISONVILLE, Tenn. — The condition — and possible future — of a 160-year-old house linked to the family of the late U.S. Sen. Estes Kefauver has become an issue for town officials.

The Kefauver

house,” as local folks call it, has been unoccupied for years and was damaged in a January 2006 arson.

Owner Nancy Haun, a niece of Estes Kefauver, lovingly calls it “Aunt Nora’s house.” A treasured memory is summer afternoons with a childhood friend in a swing that once hung from the front porch.

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

She said she and her husband, Gray Haun, hope to live there someday. They are slowly but steadily working on restoring it as time and money allow. They have also been trying to find grants to help in the restoration, and they’re trying to get it officially designated a historic site.

Shortly before the fire, the Tennessee Historical Commission said in a report that it needed more information but that the house could “probably” be listed for its architectural significance, “if the interior is

substantially intact and structurally sound.”

But in the meantime, Peggy Saunders, president of the Downtown Madisonville Association, has complained to city officials that they have not done enough to press the Hauns to improve the home’s condition.

“I said that when codes are not enforced, that can make for an ugly city,” Saunders said.

Geographically, the house is on Main Street, one block from city hall. Legally and politically, it is in limbo.

The house was originally built for Charles McClung in 1848. It passed through several families before it was bought around 1918 by Robert Cooke Kefauver, who was Nancy Haun’s grandfather and Estes Kefauver’s

father.

As a senator, Estes Kefauver chaired 1951 hearings on organized crime, the first Senate hearings to be nationally televised. In 1956, he ran for vice president on the Democratic ticket with Adlai Stevenson.

In June, 2006 the house was cited for code violations. In August, 2006, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted unanimously to authorize a codes officer to “take the necessary steps to have this property cleaned up,” according to minutes.

At that meeting, Town Attorney Jerome Melson said that could range from a simple order to make specific repairs to demolition. Later in the same meeting, after hearing from the Hauns, the board appointed a committee

to work with the couple. That action, however, did not reverse the original authorization for the codes officer to act, Melson said.

Shortly after that meeting, Nancy Haun battled cancer, and the committee never met with the Hauns, said Bobby Bruner, alderman and committee member.

“Personally, I’d like to see the house restored, because there’s a lot of history there,” Bruner said. “I think quite a few people would like to see it restored. But there’s quite a few that wouldn’t mind if it is torn down.”

For reasons of “due process,” Melson said, he would now recommend that the board let the Hauns again present their case before the city takes any action on the house.

The Kefauver house, Saunders said, is not the only property the downtown group has been pressing for two years to see cleaned up. Nor is it even the worst looking.

“But it draws a lot of attention, because (of its historical aspects) and because it is located right in the middle of downtown,” Saunders said.

Last week, Nancy Haun told the News Sentinel that she has completed chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Because of all the negative publicity, she said, she and her husband will devote more time and attention to improving the appearance of the visible front exterior of the house. “I think the town is behind me,” she said. “I don’t think the town wants to see this house torn down.”

Axing my favorites

Maybe it’s that I am more often grumpy these days, or perhaps it’s that I am more observant of the things that occur. Just maybe it’s because the filter that set a five-second delay between my thinking and saying things is gone. Whatever it is, I’ve discovered that some things just raise my ire. Of late, it’s been the “squawk box,”

that electronic device that first made its way into homes across America when members of my generation were still small children, that’s aggravated me.

When we were kids, three television stations were available, but our house only got two of them since a special antenna was required to pick up Channel 26. Our favorite shows included “Perry Mason,” “Gunsmoke,” and “Captain Kangaroo.” We’d even sit in front of a tiny screen and watch Cas Walker’s program. By midnight the only things left for viewing were television “snow” or test patterns.

Fast forward to today, and at the touch of a remote control, hundreds of channels and thousands of programs are available. Stations never go off the air, even if they have to sell air time to some guy peddling knives, pots, pans, or all-natural vitamins.

How come it is that I can channel surf on most evenings without ever finding an interesting show? I whine that “there’s nothing on television.” It’s my truth because few of the most popular shows on networks interest me at all. I refuse to watch “reality” television; I must live in a parallel universe because none of those ridiculous programs resemble any of my reality. The only salvation I find isn’t from the religious channels but from sports stations.

If a lack of programming weren’t bad enough, stations seem to be spying to discover my favorite programs so that they can cancel them. Years ago, George Kennedy starred in “The Blue Knight.” Yep, they canceled it. Ed Asner held the lead role in “Lou Grant,” and sure enough,



By Joe Rector
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it was canned. I know that the Korean War had to come to an end, but many Americans were devastated when “MASH” concluded.

Perhaps the most upsetting cancellation came when “The West Wing” ended. Martin Sheen was the kind of president that the entire country wanted and deserved. Sure, he could

only serve two terms, but the creators and station should have slowed the pace of the program so it could have stayed around longer.

It’s cruel and unusual punishment to “can” a show that is so popular. Many Americans plan their weekly activities around shows, or they record them to view later. For years, networks have sucked us in with good shows. Then, they subject us to endless commercials about insurance and beer and erectile dysfunction between show segments. Just when we come to expect the program to air, it’s moved to a new night, which usually means the program is on its way out or it is being paired with a loser in an attempt to save an inferior product.

These days, I’ve tried not to get attached to a new program but failed miserably. I appreciate watching “Judge Judy” exorcise individuals who choose to air their problems to millions. “Person of Interest” intrigues me because it’s a show that might well mirror some of the technology that is available today. “The Crazy Ones” is good because Robin Williams has always been my favorite funny guy.

I know it’s only a matter of time before the shows I enjoy are axed. It’s inevitable. Maybe I’d be better off sticking with PBS or MSNBC shows. Their programs seem to have longer shelf lives than other favorites of mine. What would be nice is to have one channel that would air only the shows I’ve liked. Of course, before long, the powers-that-be would begin cancelling canceled shows. It sure is cruel treatment.

New Internal Auditor hits the ground running

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will need to come before the full commission for approval.

The committee also discussed the two different audit accounting procedures now being followed, the “Yellow” and “Red Book” and whether both were required under state mandates.

“We need to schedule a peer review,” Williams said, “which is one and on-half year overdue.”

Commissioner Amy Broyles suggested that the Audit Committee schedule a retreat with the Audit staff, the Commission, and the Internal Auditor. “We need to sit down in a more casual setup,” she

said. It was decided to take three hours at their March meeting to review. By then the Commission should have acted on the recommendations.

Larry Elmore, of Pugh CPAs, spent several minutes discussing findings in the independent audit of the county. He said that more than 2 million dollars that had been thought to be part of the available general “rainy day” fund was never there because of faulty entries. He confirmed that the money was never there and may have been entered twice on paper.

He presented the committee with a 250-page report and recommended that all incoming revenue

to the Trustee’s office be handled by the Finance Department. Speaking of errors, he said, “It’s been out of balance for several years” but the balances have been corrected.

“As a result, in our 2013 audit we have recorded a prior period audit adjustment in the amount of approximately \$2.4 million,” the report notes. He also stated they “did not believe any cash was missing.”

He said that the Finance Department and the Trustee’s office have both committed to making this right. He also said that “if these procedures we recommend are put in place it’s not likely to happen again.”



Rosie's World

ABOUT BOOKS

This is written on the flyleaf of John Grisham’s newest book, “Sycamore Row”: “Seth Hubbard is a wealthy man dying of lung cancer. He trusts no one. Before he hangs himself from a sycamore tree, Hubbard leaves a new handwritten will. It’s an act that drags his adult children, his black maid, and Jake Brigrance (from the book, “A Time to Kill”) into a conflict as riveting and dramatic as the murder trial that made Brigrance one of Ford County’s most notorious citizens three years earlier.”

Yes, Mr. Grisham had done it again. It seems as if

the words escape from his mind in a constant flow every couple years. I am happy to say I’m the proud owner of all his books, twenty-seven of them, to be exact, not counting the non-fiction ones. This one is riveting and will keep your attention until the last page.

Sue Grafton is another prolific author. Known as the “Alphabet Author” her latest one “W Is For Wasted,” is just as captivating as the first one, “A Is For Alibi.” She possesses a keen visual sense of detail, color, and style. After three decades her iconic detective, Kinsey remains a quirky delight who is sure to keep up the good fight through “X”, “Y”. and “Z”, taking punches for the little guys and keeping the bad ones at bay.

I read just before I fall

asleep at night but I don’t read James Patterson’s newest book, “Cross My Heart.” One of the masters of murder, mayhem, and mystery, it tends to keep me awake instead of instilling sleep. I peruse that in the afternoon. Instead, I will relax with a lovely book called, “An Amish Christmas,” containing four Amish novellas written by four authors. I resided in Amish country. I remember well living across from an Amish farm and watching the sheep graze across the road. They are a peaceful, kind, hard-working people who live by Christian standards everyone should adhere to.

Thought for the day: Don’t let life discourage you. Everyone who got where he is had to begin where he was.

Robert L. Evans

rosemerrie@att.net or (865)748-4717. Thank you.



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CAK's Epperly makes his own mark at Princeton

By Steve Williams

Coming out of high school, Quinn Epperly reportedly lost a scholarship offer from Texas A&M to Johnny Manziel, the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner. Until this past season, that was a claim to fame for Epperly, former Christian Academy of Knoxville quarterback.

Then in November, a headline in The Daily Princetonian, read: "Epperly for Heisman?"

Epperly was having such a remarkable season as Princeton's junior quarterback, Associate Sports Editor Emeritus Shayan Rakhit compared him to Tim Tebow, another Heisman honoree, in the student newspaper.

Like Tebow in his college days at Florida, Epperly was a left-handed, well-built quarterback, known as an effective runner and accurate passer and had deep religious convictions, wrote Rakhit.

"Why shouldn't he catch the eye of Heisman voters," asked the columnist.

Despite impressive credentials, Epperly didn't become a factor in the Heisman race.

But he had made a name for himself.

Epperly was selected the Ivy League's top offensive player in 2013 and



Quinn Epperly

received his award at New York's famous Waldorf Astoria. He had turned in one of the best seasons in Ivy League history.

The 6-3, 220-pounder set a league record for total touchdowns, passing for 25 and running for 18, as he led the Tigers to a share of the Ivy title with Harvard and an 8-2 overall record.

Against Cornell, Epperly started the game with 29 straight completions, setting an NCAA record. He was a finalist for the Walter Payton Award.

And to think, last summer, it looked like Quinn might not even get to play. Doctors had told him he had an enlarged spleen. But later results from an ultrasound showed otherwise.

"That wasn't God's plan," said Epperly at the podium of the Waldorf Astoria. "He truly blessed me to have a season to remember."



Nick Smith, former Seymour High School football player, wraps up an opposing ball carrier for the University of the Cumberlands. Smith was a defensive leader as the Patriots reached the NAIA championship game this past season.

Patriots' Smith, Scots' Wolfenbarger led dream seasons

By Steve Williams

The University of the Cumberlands and Maryville College enjoyed record-setting football seasons in 2013 and two local products – Nick Smith and Dylan Wolfenbarger – played prominent roles in them.

The University of the Cumberlands, which is located in Williamsburg, Ky., about an hour's drive up I-75 North from Knoxville, played in its first NAIA national championship game. The Patriots' dream season ended with

a 35-23 loss to the Grand View University (Des Moines, Iowa) Vikings in the 58th annual NAIA title game, which was played Dec. 21 in Rome, Ga.

Smith, a 6-4, 260-pound senior who played at Seymour High, was "a force for the Patriots' defensive line all season," according to the football program's website. With 64 tackles, four sacks and 12.5 tackles for loss, he was named to Beyond Sports Network's All-America second team.

John Bland, a former Farragut High standout,



Dylan Wolfenbarger



Nick Smith

was head coach of the 13-1 Patriots.

Maryville College's record-setting season was topped by its first trip to the NCAA Division III playoffs.

The Scots lost 42-34 at Hampden-Sydney, Va., in the first round, finishing with an 8-3 record.

Wolfenbarger, a 6-1,

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I'm Worried About October 25th, 2014

By Alex Norman

Not going to lie to you, the good readers of The Knoxville Focus...

I'm concerned about what is going to happen at Neyland Stadium on October 25th, 2014.

As you certainly have heard by now, former Vols coach Lane Kiffin has been hired by Nick Saban to be the new Alabama Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks coach. And on October 25th, Tennessee will host the Crimson Tide in their annual SEC matchup. In anticipation, I have begun

building a underground shelter. And I suggest you do the same.

For the next nine months the anticipation is going to build and build and build. ESPN will announce that its popular College GameDay show will broadcast from Knoxville that day. CBS will pick the contest as their national game of the week.

Alabama coach Nick Saban will be asked approximately 10,000 questions about Lane Kiffin because Lane Kiffin won't be allowed to meet with the press, as is Saban policy

for assistant coaches. Tennessee coach Butch Jones will talk about the tradition of this game, and how the Lane Kiffin factor shouldn't mean everything since none of Vols players or coaches was around when Kiffin was in Knoxville.

But thi game will have little to do with where both teams sit in the SEC standings, nor what it means to the future of both programs. Alabama will likely be a heavy favorite as they attempt to beat Tennessee for the 8th straight time.

This game is all about

the mental psyche of the Tennessee fan.

That psyche has been bruised and battered ever since an abrupt press conference took place in the UT football complex the night of January 12, 2010. Lane Kiffin abandoned the Vols football program for the Southern California sunshine three weeks before National Signing Day. Tennessee has struggled mightily since then, finishing 21-28 in four straight losing seasons.

Lane Kiffin's "dream job" ended with his firing as the

Southern Cal head coach last September after some success, but mostly a team that didn't live up to expectations in a little over three seasons.

However, in his tradition of "falling upwards," Kiffin gets hired to run an Alabama offense filled with five-star recruits. He'll succeed at Alabama. It will be really difficult to fail with all that talent, and a head coach that wins all the time.

But on October 25th, it is

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Cont. from page 1

210-pound linebacker from Knoxville Central High School, lived up to his pre-season billing: “Dylan will be looked up to as a leader for the Scots defense, and his dedication and drive will serve as a force for the Scots. Dylan is all over the field, making spectacular plays left and right.”

Wolfenbarger wrapped up an outstanding career at Maryville College as he led the USA South Conference with 11.6 stops per game. Number 42 was a second-team honoree on the All-South Region squad and ended up with 371 career tackles – a new school record.

By Ken Lay

Farragut Middle School’s girls basketball team has endured its share of struggles this season but the Lady Admirals picked up a key Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference victory over rival Bearden at the Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium recently.

After a tightly contested first quarter, the Lady Admirals pulled away and claimed a 46-24 victory at home on Monday, Jan. 13.

For Farragut coach Susan Davidson, it was a sign that some hard work is paying off for her young squad.

“You couldn’t ask for a better effort,” Davidson said after her team improved to 4-6 in conference play. “The kids come in and work hard in practice every day.

“We’re starting to see the court better.”

The Lady Admirals had their

hands full with the Lady Bruins (2-8 in conference play) early. Farragut was hot early and opened a 7-0 lead only to see Bearden bounce back and pull to within 7-5.

The Lady Admirals opened an 11-7 lead by first quarter’s end before using a 16-5 second-quarter run to open a 27-12 lead by halftime.

Farragut had three players score in double figures. Jessie Graham scored a game-high 16 points. Morgan Carbough added 12 and Madison Senzel finished with 10 for the Lady Admirals, who led 38-16 at the end of the third quarter.

Messiah Crews was Bearden’s top scorer. She finished with 10 points.

Like Farragut, the Lady Bruins have struggled all season. Bearden is also young. It has only



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Bearden Middle’s Messiah Crews attempts to dribble past Farragut’s Morgan Carbough in a KCMSBC game on Jan. 13. Crews scored 10 points for the Lady Bruins but the Lady Admirals prevailed 46-24 in a battle between to West Knox County rivals.

one starter in eighth grade. But like Davidson, BMS coach Rachel Simmons is optimistic.

“Our girls are continuing to work hard to get better,” Simmons said. “It’s nice to have such a dedicated group.

“They always want to get better.

Cuonzo isn’t only UT coach with work to do

Increasing speculation that Bruce Pearl could again be the men’s basketball coach at the University of Tennessee is a hot topic at the water cooler these days.

I first wrote about it 10 months ago after Cuonzo Martin’s Vols lost to Alabama in the quarterfinal round of the Southeastern Conference basketball tournament (a defeat that kept them out of the NCAA tourney for the second straight year) and then



By Steve Williams

bowed to Mercer in the first round of the NIT.

Many fans were grumbling then and it appears even more are now. They miss Pearl, who comes off his 3-year showcase for lying to the NCAA in August and will be eligible to return to coaching on the collegiate level.

If Martin doesn’t get the Vols in the Big Dance this season, a lot of fans are going to be clamoring for athletic director Dave Hart

to replace him with Pearl.

Such talk had died down when Tennessee put together a four-game win streak and won its SEC road opener at LSU in impressive fashion. But it quickly started back up after that disappointing loss to Texas A&M in the conference home opener.

Right or wrong, fair or unfair, the speculation is here to stay. It’s not going away, not until this season’s story has been written.

What about other UT sports that have been less productive in the win

column than Cuonzo’s program?

Who is on deck for the baseball job if Dave Serrano strikes out?

Like Martin, Serrano will be in his third season at Tennessee this spring. He’s still trying to get the Vols to Hoover, Ala., site of the SEC tourney, which is really not that great of an accomplishment, considering there are berths for 12 of 14 conference teams. Advancing to NCAA region play, with a chance to make it to Omaha, is the real achievement.

There has been less heat on Serrano because he faced a greater rebuilding job and did not have as tough of an act to follow as Martin. Serrano’s predecessor, Todd Raleigh, had a losing record and failed to get UT to Hoover in four seasons.

Serrano is 46-61 overall and 16-42 in SEC games after two years.

I have Chris Burke in the on-deck circle. He was among the top candidates for the UT job when interim AD Joan Cronan selected Serrano.

The popular 33-year-

old Burke was a two-time All-America infielder at Tennessee and the 2001 SEC Player of the Year when he led the Vols to the College World Series. He was officially inducted into UT’s Baseball Hall of Fame last week. In his major league career with the Astros, Diamondbacks and Padres, he played every position but catcher and pitcher.

Burke lives in Louisville, Ky., where he has a baseball instructional facility. He’s also a college baseball analyst for ESPN.

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I’m Worried About October 25th, 2014

Cont. from page 1

going to be ugly. Alabama could win by 50 and it is going to be ugly. Tennessee could win by 50 and it is going to be ugly.

For those that long for the good ‘ol days, when Neyland Stadium was an intimidating place to play, you’ll see that in full force on the fourth Saturday in October.

Kiffin’s return to Knoxville will be no Norman Rockwell painting. The t-shirts hawked by un-licensed vendors will be vulgar. The local sports talk radio shows will be frightening, even more than normal.

And when Alabama runs onto the field before kickoff, the boos from the majority of the sold out crowd will reach record levels. Fans talk about the

noise made during the 1990 Notre Dame game or the 1998 Florida and Arkansas games. Those will sound like a church mouse compared to what the noise will be on Alabama’s first offensive possession.

Lane Kiffin will be in the booth, and have security as far as the eye can see.

But nearly five years of anger will be released from

the bleachers on that fall afternoon. Getting that noise out will be soothing to the soul, better therapy than 10 hours with the area’s best psychiatrist. The atmosphere at Neyland Stadium is going to be electric.

A lot of this is tongue in cheek of course, and I really do have full confidence in the Tennessee fan base. Most

Vols supporters will be loud but not unruly. And if a few college students or immature adults do something stupid, the security staff at Neyland Stadium will be on high alert.

That all said, I’m still building my underground bunker, just on the off chance Lane Kiffin’s return to Knoxville starts a chain reaction that leads to World War III.

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It rains 3s as Red Devils rout Eagles 77-41

By Ken Lay

The 3-point shot proved to be a potent weapon for the Halls High School boys basketball team Tuesday night.

The Red Devils buried 12 long-range jumpers en route to a 77-41 District 3-AAA victory over Gibbs at home Tuesday night.

Halls (14-4 overall, 8-2 in the district) hit eight 3-pointers before halftime and set the tone for an easy district win over the Eagles.

“We can shoot the 3-pointer and we like to shoot 3-pointers,” Red Devils’ coach Randy Moore said. “They fell for us tonight. Sometimes, they don’t fall as much and you have to tighten up your defense.

Indeed, the 3-pointers rained down for Halls on this night. In the first half, Kenny White made four shots from beyond the 3-point arc. J.J. Corvette and Braxton Moore each made two before halftime and Robert Miller hit another.

Halls hit four more 3-pointers after halftime. Moore had two after the break. Miller hit another and Parker Keith also had one in the Red Devils’ lopsided victory.

The home team, which led 20-11 at the end of the first quarter and blew things open with a 24-5 run in the second stanza, boasted a balanced offensive attack.

White finished with 17 points to lead all scorers. Peyton Booker



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Halls High’s Andy Harrison (12) attempts a shot over Gibbs’ Mark Thomas in Tuesday night’s District 3-AAA game at Halls. The Red Devils downed the Eagles 77-41.

added 15. Moore finished with 14 and Corvette had 12,

Coach Moore commended the Eagles’ effort.

“I thought Gibbs really played hard tonight. They always play hard,” he said. “The shots just weren’t falling for them tonight.”

Mark Thomas led Gibbs with eight points. Nick Ammons, Tyler

Mullins and Wayland Price added seven points each.

Gibbs gets first win at Clinton: the Eagles might’ve had a long tough night Tuesday against the Red Devils but Thursday night in Clinton was a different story.

Gibbs edged the Dragons 52-50 in another District 3-AAA game in Anderson County.

Price scored 14 points and David Mullins added 10 to lead the Eagles (1-15, 1-9) to their first victory of the season.

Gibbs trailed the Dragons 50-44 early in the fourth quarter. But the Eagles’ defense stiffened and shut Clinton out over the final five minutes of the contest.

Lady Devils start fast, hold off Gibbs 47-37

By Ken Lay

Despite a lackluster effort the Halls High School girls basketball team managed to hold on to its share of first place in the District 3-AAA standings Tuesday night.

The Lady Devils (11-7 overall, 9-1 in the district) got off to a fast start but had to withstand a fierce comeback effort in a 47-37 victory over rival Gibbs Tuesday at Halls High School.

“I know both teams played last [Monday] night and I think both teams played well in spurts,” Halls coach Randy Moore said. “I don’t think either team played particularly well.

“We were able to get out to a lead and we were able to hold on to that lead.”

The Lady Devils had their hands full early and led the Lady Eagles (3-11, 3-6) just 11-9 after the first quarter.

Halls then blew things open with a 14-3 run in the second quarter. The Lady Devils were efficient from outside in the early stages. Halls hit five 3-pointers in the game (all in the first half.

Taylor Moon buried a pair of long-range jumpers in the opening frame. Rachel Drumheller added another first quarter.

Daniele Beeler and Harper Cherry each buried a 3-pointer in the second stanza. Those were the two of only field goals of the period for the Lady Devils, who won a thriller over Campbell County 24 hours earlier. Lauren Biliter also had a basket.

Halls High’s other scoring in the quarter came from the foul line where the Lady Devils were 6-for-9 in the frame.

Halls struggled offensively. But the Lady Devils stepped up on defense

and held Gibbs to just three free throws in the quarter. Karri Byrd had all of the Lady Eagles’ points in the second quarter.

The offensive woes continued for both schools in the third stanza. Gibbs and Halls both scored seven points in the frame and the Lady Devils held a 32-19 advantage heading to the fourth quarter.

Gibbs mounted a comeback attempt and trimmed the Lady Devils’ advantage to eight points twice.

The Lady Eagles pulled to within 35-27 on a three-point play by Byrd with 4 minutes, 13 seconds remaining. They got to within 40-32 when Britany Blankenship made a free throw with 1:33 left.

Gibbs, however, couldn’t come any closer.

Byrd and Haley Cavalaris, the Lady Eagles’ top two scorers were held in check before halftime.

But the duo was key when Gibbs clawed its way back into the contest. Byrd scored 10 of her 17 points after halftime. Cavalaris had half of her 10 points over the final eight minutes.

“When we can get Karri and Haley shots or if we can get them to the free throw line, then we’ve got a chance,” Gibbs coach Chris Bray. “We played a bad game last [Monday] night against Carter and we lost a game that we really shouldn’t have lost.

“This was a rivalry game and we played a pretty good game tonight.”

While Byrd and Cavalaris shouldered the load for the Lady Eagles, Halls boasted a balanced offensive attack.

Moon led the Lady Devils with 12 points. Beeler added 11.

Drumheller and Biliter finished with six points each.

Big first half propels Admirals past Bruins

By Ken Lay

It was a tale of two halves for the Farragut Middle School boys basketball team in its 46-31 win over defending champion Bearden on Monday, Jan. 13.

“In the first half, I think we played just about as well as we could play,” Admirals’ coach Randy Swartzentruber said. “I thought we played really well in the first half.

“We didn’t play all that well in the second half but some of that credit has to go to Bearden because they really put some pressure on us.”

Farragut (6-4 in Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference play) has won two straight after getting off to a slow start and Swartzentruber is hoping that his squad, which finished third in the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament last season, can win its final regular-season games and nab a high seed.

“We’ve gotten ourselves where we can hopefully run off a few wins and set ourselves up for the tournament,” Swartzentruber said. “But you don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Bearden, which has two tournament championships and a second-place finish in the last three years, had hopes of a second consecutive title and third in four years.

The Bruins (5-5 in the conference) have had a rough go of things since

before Christmas due to cold shooting, again failed to finish some key scoring opportunities.

“Frankly, we’ve really been struggling in our last three league games against Holston, West Valley and tonight against Farragut,” Bearden coach Ben Zorio said. “Our shots haven’t been falling and we’re not really playing well right now.

“I liked our effort but we’re just not shooting well right now. I told the guys after the game that we want to be playing our best basketball at tournament time. Right now, we’re not.”

Bearden’s shooting woes were apparent early. The Admirals led 15-6 by the end of the first quarter and extended their advantage to 23-11 by halftime. They continued to hold the upper hand in the third quarter and held a 34-23 lead after the third stanza.

The Bruins made a modest early third-quarter run and pulled to within 37-27 on a bucket by Hunter Green before Farragut once again pulled away.

Braden Collins and Tre’ Moreno shared high-scoring honors for the Admirals with 11 points each.

Patrick Moffatt also had 11 points to lead the Bruins. He scored six over the final six minutes when Bearden made things interesting.

Lady Panthers rout Halls in key KCMSBC tilt

By Ken Lay

Powell Middle School’s girls basketball team used a dominating performance to claim a 35-18 win over Emory Road rival Halls and hold on to its share of second place in a home game Thursday.

The Lady Panthers (14-3 overall, 10-1 in the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference) also avenged one of their early-season losses.

“These are great kids and they come to practice and work hard every day,” said first-year Powell coach Paige Ewing, who picked up her first career win over the Lady Demons. “It feels great to beat Halls.

The Lady Panthers, who suffered their only conference loss against West Valley, used a stingy defense. Powell and Halls played a virtually even first quarter with the Lady Panthers holding a 14-10 lead.

The Lady Demons (10-3, 8-3) hit four field goals (including a pair of 3-pointers) in the opening frame. After the first quarter, however, Halls didn’t hit another shot from the floor. The Lady Demons, who were without point guard Griffen Parker (concussion), did go 8-for-14 from the free throw line after the first quarter. Their only point of the second stanza was a foul shot by Amber Heatherly.

Heatherly led Halls with nine points, despite being hobbled by an injured ankle.

“We didn’t have Griffen and Amber Heatherly played with a bad ankle but I’m not going to make any excuses,” Lady Demons’ coach Tom Poisal said. “They were the better team tonight and they wore us out.

“We won at home and they won at home so both teams held serve on their home floor.”

Powell got a huge offensive lift from Haley Crowe, who outscored the entire Halls team. She scored 20 points and buried four 3-pointers. She had 13 of the Lady Panthers’ 20 first-half points.

Ewing noted that Crowe is always looking to score for Powell.

“She never puts the ball on the floor in practice,” Ewing said of her wing player and top scorer.

The Lady Panthers have a shot at earning the second seed in the upcoming James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament. The second spot would earn Powell an opening-round bye on Jan. 30.

“We want it really bad,” Ewing said.

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Standing Tall on the Court (Part V) Life after basketball

The coach gave his player a piece of advice: "There is life after basketball." Tommy Everett, the tall center who played on the successful 1964-65 Gibbs basketball team, remembered the comment made by his high school coach, Bob Dagley. Everett became a college All-American and had an outstanding basketball career at Carson-Newman. Though he was draft-



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

ed by the Washington Nationals, Everett passed on the opportunity to play pro ball. "We had a young son, and I had a job waiting for me at Gibbs," he told me. Tommy began a long career in education and never looked back.

Gibbs is where I met Tommy. I was a high school student when he came back to Gibbs, this time as a teacher and coach. I can still see him and Edgar J. House walking up the hall together. Mr. House was the business education teacher and sponsor of the yearbook and had been one of Tommy's teachers at Gibbs.

After four years as teacher and coach at Gibbs, Tommy became the first administrative intern appointed by the late Dr. Mildred Doyle who was Superintendent of Knox County Schools. He served in the new position at Carter High School under David Wetzell. While there, Everett was called

on to fill in one month for long-time Gibbs High School Principal Max Clendenen who suffered a stroke. Tommy's next appointment was to Halls High School where he served as Assistant Principal under Roy Mullins for five years.

Karns High School Principal was Tommy Everett's next appointment in the Knox County School system. "We opened up the new school building the year I went to Karns," Tommy said. Karns was where Everett spent the next twenty years of his career. The school honored their beloved principal by naming the Football and Track Complex after him. In 2000, another honor came Everett's way when he was named TASSP Principal of the Year. The Karns principal competed nationally with fifty other principals (one from each state) and was awarded a trip to Washington, D.C.

It is interesting to note that the place where Everett ended his career in education is the alma mater of Dagley, his high school coach. Dagley also coached at Karns early in his career. Tommy Everett's long and successful career with Knox County Schools proved his high school coach right—there is life after basketball! (This is No. 24 in the series on the Eagles' incredible season; next, a wrap-up on the Everettes.)

Big fourth quarter seals rivalry win for Panthers

By Ken Lay

Powell Middle School's boys basketball team has endured a roller coaster ride this season.

"We've had our ups and downs," Panthers' coach Darin Courtney said.

But things got a little better Thursday night as Powell used a big fourth quarter to defeat Emory Road rival Halls 34-23 in a Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference victory before a packed and boisterous house at Powell Middle School.

Powell (8-9 overall, 4-7 in the KCMSBC) and the Demons (11-6, 6-5) were embroiled in a defensive struggle on this night before the Panthers erupted and outscored Halls 17-5 over the final six minutes to pick up a key win in one of Knox County's most heated rivalries.

Offense was at a premium early as the Panthers and Demons both struggled to score. The Panthers, who won the 2012-13 regular-season championship and finished fourth in the James

A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament last season, did just enough to open a narrow 14-13 lead by halftime.

Halls, which had a height advantage, took an 18-17 lead by third quarter's end and it appeared that the two rivals would take things to the wire.

It didn't quite happen that way.

Powell stormed out. The Panthers opened the frame with an 11-0 run and opened a 28-18 lead with 3 minutes, 15 seconds left in the quarter. Skylar Stalcup gave Powell a 10-point lead and from there, the Panthers never looked back.

Powell's defense was also stingy after halftime as the Demons scored just 10 points over the final 12 minutes.

"The defense was the key for us," Courtney said. "This was what a Powell-Halls game is supposed to look like."

"Both teams played their guts out and both teams played great defense. This is a great rivalry and [Halls] coach [Bill] Warren does a

great job."

For his part, Warren, the longtime Demons' coach was disappointed that his squad failed to capitalize on its height advantage.

"We missed a lot of layups," he said. "We had a height advantage and we didn't take advantage of it."

"We didn't work the ball inside and when we did, [center] Jordan [Biliter] didn't shoot it."

Powell, on the other hand, boasted a balanced scoring attack.

Trysten Palmer led the way with nine points and scored four points in the final quarter when the Panthers seized control of the game. Matt Grimm scored eight points and buried a crucial 3-pointer to give the Panthers a 26-18 lead with 4:32 to go in the game.

"Matt Grimm hit a game-changing three and Trysten made some big plays in the fourth quarter for us," Courtney said.

Stalcup added six points for the Panthers.

Cody Scott led the Demons with 10 points.

Cuonzo isn't only UT coach with work to do

Cont. from page 2

and the lead instructor for magazine Inside Pitch.

UT's once-proud track and field program is past due for a change. Since J.J. Clark was named director of a combined men's and women's program in 2010, the Tennessee men's teams have scored a total of 8.75 points in the past four NCAA outdoor championships. Last season, the Vols only scored 0.75 points on a seventh

place tie in the pole vault and the Lady Vols failed to score.

The Vols won their third NCAA outdoor title in 2001 and still had a top 5 team as late as 2007. They also have fallen off in SEC meets, having finished 9th, 8th, 10th and 11th in the conference from 2010 through 2013.

Are there internal problems inside UT's volleyball program? Four players transferred about

this time last year, including two-time All-American Kelsey Robinson. After winning the SEC title in 2011 and going 22-5 and making the NCAA field in 2012, the Lady Vols tumbled to 9-23 overall and 1-16 in SEC play in 2013 under longtime head coach Rob Patrick, a past two-time National Coach of the Year.

In replacing legendary Coach Pat Summitt, Holly Warlick did an outstanding job in her first season with

the Lady Vols last year, but this season's team has been inconsistent of late and is 4-3 since starting out with an 11-game win streak. Warlick's squad also has dropped to No. 12 in the latest AP rankings, below standards for the UT women's program.

Warlick's squad will have a chance to make some noise on the national scene tonight (Jan. 20) when undefeated and No. 2 ranked Notre

Dame visits.

In their recent slide, the Lady Vols lost at Stanford, were defeated by LSU at home and lost at rival Vanderbilt by 11. The UT women only won by a 67-63 margin Thursday night at Mississippi State, a program that is an all-time 0-35 against the Lady Vols.

Is there reason for concern? If UT did have to make a coaching change in the future, my top candidates at this time would include

former Lady Vols now in the coaching ranks – Nikki Caldwell (LSU), Jody Adams (Wichita State) and Kellie Jolly Harper (Missouri State).

And UT's AD should keep an eye on Tyler Summitt, Pat's son, who is in his second season as an assistant coach at Marquette. He will be a head coach someday.

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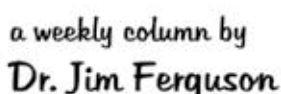
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Unlike some of my friends, I'm not a fan of the 70s pop group, ABBA. You may know something of their music from the 2008 movie "Mamma Mia!" Nonetheless, I recently went with them to an ABBA concert and stumbled across this week's essay. The Swedish performers were dressed and sang just like the original group members who were also from Sweden, and brought to mind the finest quality of Elvis and

We recognize that strokes damage the brain and occur when blood flow to the brain is interrupted. This most commonly occurs when a clot forms over a ruptured cholesterol (fat) laden plaque. Strokes can also occur when clots pass to the brain (embolize) from a fibrillating heart or if a blood vessel ruptures. The same pathophysiology (disease

Coordination and connection between the two halves of the brain is extensive across a neural trunk deep in the brain called the corpus callosum. You may have heard about a

I asked several of my musically trained friends about my linguistic observations from the ABBA concert. They were all well aware that speech is different when sung. The thought is that words are sung phonetically and allows the performer to overcome language and dialects. Furthermore, singers learn rhythm and patterns of songs and can mimic the original performers even if sung in a foreign language. Interestingly, someone who stutters, like the country crooner Mel Tillis, doesn't stutter when they sing. Music therapy has even been used to help stroke patients with their speech and communication problems by emphasizing rhythm and melody.

In a previous essay I described the Myers-Brigg's typology which demonstrates a person's dominant traits and their shadow talents. Maybe my latent writing talent was a shadow trait brought to light by *The Focus*. Thank you, *Knox Focus*!

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

Dr. Aaron and Imelda Margulies

For more information on how to get involved in Making Strides Knoxville as a sponsor, volunteer, team, and/or participant contact your local American Cancer Society at

(865)558-4057 or amy.fields@cancer.org. Interested East Tennesseans may also follow the event socially at facebook.com/makingstridesknoxville or twitter.com/msabcknoxville

Continue on page 2

Tennova.com

Pellissippi State hosts Medic Mobile in Hardin Valley

Medic Regional Blood Center will host a blood drive at Pellissippi State Community College's Hardin Valley Campus on Jan. 22.

The Medic Mobile is scheduled to be at the campus, 10915 Hardin Valley Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 22. The community is invited to participate in the blood drive. The Medic Mobile will be parked in the faculty/staff parking lot No. 1 near the J.L. Goins Administration Building.

Medic, a nonprofit organization, supplies 27 area hospitals with volunteer donations. Medic representatives

say there is a need for all blood types. Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age and weigh at least 110 pounds. Donors should not fast before arriving. Medic suggests that donors eat a meal and drink fluids approximately three hours prior to donating. Participants also are asked to present photo identification and a list of current medications.

For more questions about donor eligibility, visit www.medicblood.com. For more information about Pellissippi State, visit www.pstcc.edu or call (865) 694-6400.

200 pairs of shoes donated to children by City on a Hill Church

Christmas is a time for wonder and magic, and this past year, new shoes.

While most kids were excited to receive toys and fun gadgets under the tree, some local kids received a very special Christmas gift a little early this past Christmas, a new pair of shoes.

City on a Hill Church, located in the Knoxville Center Mall, partnered with sponsors Sears, RVs for Less, Vicky Bailey Realtor, Texas Road House, and Mountain Empire Promotions to bring the joy of Christmas to over 200 kids in the form of some pretty cool new kicks.

The church offered the children and their families a fun afternoon of music and games, sweet treats, and even a visit from a singing Santa and a dancing Grinch. Some children even got in on the act, dancing with the Grinch and Santa on stage.

One boy who participated in the dancing fun suffers from asperger's syndrome and astonished his mother with his willingness to show off his dance moves for the crowd.

"He never does this!" she said to church staff with a smile.

Kids were given the chance to meet Santa for a photo and show off their new shoes on stage.

The Christmas Shoe Giveaway Project is the creation of Pastors Tony



City On A Hill Church's Youth Pastor picks up shoes from Sears for the event.

and LaShea Colson. The Pastors admit that the idea of giving away so many shoes for Christmas was a large task, especially since the idea was birthed during the church's Back To School backpack giveaway event in August, but the church members took on their Pastors' vision with bake sales, road blocks,

and other fundraising efforts; and with the help of the sponsors, the congregation delivered on their Pastors' vision.

The mission of the Christmas Shoe Giveaway Project was made clear when Pastors Tony and LaShea delivered one of the pairs of shoes to a local student.

"The boy quickly

changed is shoes before leaving and as he walked out he stopped for a moment and looked at his new shoes. Immediately, he had a new walk."

Pastor Tony said. "Its not about the new shoes, its about the new walk."

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Summit's Hospitalist Services Division (Statcare) Adds New Physician

Summit Medical Group, the region's leading primary care organization, welcomes Dr. KJ Shankar to Statcare Hospitalist Services.

Dr. Shankar is a graduate of Madras Medical College in India. For the past five years, he has been a hospitalist with Mountain States Health Alliance.

Summit's Statcare division provides care for hospitalized patients and includes more than

60 physicians working with mid-level providers at the following hospitals: Parkwest, Fort Sanders Regional, North Knoxville, Physicians Regional and Laughlin Memorial. Hospitalists also provide care at area nursing homes, transitional care units and long term acute care hospitals.

For more information about Summit Medical Group, visit www.summitmedical.com.

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Husband-wife team

Cont. from page 1

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is the largest network of breast cancer awareness events in the nation. This event also supports the American Cancer Society's unique mission to fight breast cancer on all fronts and save lives by helping people stay well by reducing breast cancer risk or finding it early; helping people get well by providing information and support during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking breast cancer research and by fighting back by encouraging lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight.

American Red Cross Issues New Pet First Aid App

Pets are an important part of many families, and a new Red Cross Pet First Aid App puts lifesaving information right in the hands of dog and cat owners so they can provide emergency care until veterinary assistance is available.

The Pet First Aid app gives smart phone users instant access to expert information so they learn how to maintain their pet's health and what to do during emergencies.

East Tennessee Regional Chapter Executive Michelle Hanks said, "The Pet First Aid App provides step-by-step instructions, videos and images for more than 25 common first aid and emergency situations including how to treat wounds, control bleeding, and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies."

Additional topics include burns, car accidents, falls and what to do for cold- and heat-related emergencies.

Other features in the app

- allow pet owners to:
- Create a pet profile including tag identification number, photos, list of medications and instructions.
 - Use the list of early warning signs to learn when to call their veterinarian.
 - Use "click-to-call" to contact their veterinarian.
 - Find emergency pet care facilities or alternate veterinarians with the "animal hospital locator."
 - Locate pet-friendly hotels.
 - Test their knowledge with interactive quizzes and earn badges that they can share on their social networks along with their favorite picture of their pet.
- History shows that people have not evacuated during disasters because they did not want to leave their pets behind. The Red Cross app contains resources to help owners include pets in their emergency action plans.

KCHD offers general infection control guidance

Protect yourself and your loved ones during flu season

With seasonal flu activity high in Tennessee and especially in East Tennessee, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is encouraging everyone to follow some basic precautions to slow the spread of the influenza virus and stay healthy.

"As we begin to see more and more cases of influenza this flu season, we want to remind everyone of some simple steps they can take to help keep themselves, their families and especially the medically fragile healthy," said KCHD Director Dr. Martha Buchanan. "First and foremost, if you haven't gotten your flu vaccine, please get one now."

KCHD will provide free flu vaccinations to any person living in Knox

County while supplies last. Those interested can receive vaccinations at KCHD's main location, 140 Dameron Ave., or the West Clinic, 1028 Old Cedar Bluff Rd., beginning Monday, Jan. 13. Clinics are open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. KCHD's Teague Clinic, 405 Dante Rd., in North Knoxville will remain closed Monday, Jan. 13 for repairs from a burst pipe.

Basic Precautions Against Influenza:

- Wash your hands well and often. Scrub your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer than contains at least 60 percent alcohol.

- Cover your cough or sneeze. People with flu can spread it to others up to six feet away. Most experts believe flu viruses are predominately spread by droplets produced when people cough, sneeze or talk.
- Stay home if you're sick and keep your children home if they are. Stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.
- Limit visits to sick friends and relatives in the hospital. Area hospitals are seeing an increase in flu patients. To protect yourself from the flu, postpone visits to the hospital.
- If you are sick, please do not visit the elderly, children or those who have chronic health conditions.
- Remember it's not too late to get vaccinated. A flu vaccine is the

best way to protect yourself and those around you from influenza and its potentially serious complications.

These steps are especially important to protect those with a higher risk for complications, including children younger than 5 and especially those under 2; people age 65 and older; pregnant women; and people with certain chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease and asthma. Symptoms of influenza can include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, runny nose, tiredness, diarrhea and vomiting. People with a high risk for flu complications should see their health care provider if they experience any of these symptoms.

Sleep Disorders Center Receives Accreditations from American Academy of Sleep Medicine

Parkwest Medical Center announces that its Sleep Disorders Center recently earned a five-year reaccreditation for In Center Sleep Testing and received a new accreditation in Out of Center Sleep Testing (OCST) from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM).

To receive accreditation in these programs, Parkwest Sleep Center completed a thorough application process and provided supporting documentation that demonstrated the center's high standards

for patient care and its continued contribution to the advancement of sleep medicine.

"These hard-earned accreditations demonstrate that Parkwest is not only continuing to provide excellent care for our patients, but is also implementing the newest technologies in order to diagnose and treat common sleep disorders and conditions within the patient's own home," said Rick Lassiter, president and CAO of Parkwest Medical Center.



Pictured left to right are: Parkwest's Rick Malone, Dave Baker, Dr. Berta Bergia, medical director; Brenda Wilson, Michelle Spradlin, Brandy Hall, Gwen Crenshaw and Greg Belcher, manager. Not pictured: Shane Endicott, Gwen Mashburn, Renee McDonald, Walter Sweat and Dr. Bert Hampton.

Faith I Value

"What does God value?" The things that God values, we should value.

God says He values life. God created life to be good and sacred. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body" (Psalm 139:13-16).

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart" (Jeremiah 1:5).

God knit us together and even before conception He knew us.

We seem to live in a culture of death. We hear about another school shooting and it doesn't even phase us anymore. Stats on abortion don't seem to affect us because the number is so big. Since the Supreme Court's decision on Jan. 22, 1973 (41 years ago), ruled in favor of Jane Roe, over 56 million abortions have taken place in America alone. When the Supreme Court



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

made its decision back in 1973, their thinking was "every child a wanted child." They were worried about child abuse. This is strange logic. If you carry that thinking through, if the government allows you to kill a baby, then it stands to reason that hitting and abusing a child seems more acceptable. Both are wrong. The truth is, since the legalization of abortion, child abuse has increased between 400% and 500%.

Ronald Reagan made an interesting statement: "All of those in favor of abortion have already been born." God loves life, and we should do all in our power to love and support life as well. God might be calling you to volunteer with Hope Resource Center (www.hoperc.org) or the Pregnancy Help Center (www.ccetn.org) in Knoxville.

God not only values unborn life, He values the present life as well. We want to value every person, because they were created in the image of God. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the

full" (John 10:10). Yet obstacles stand in the way of abundant life: poverty, abuse, labor trafficking, and human slavery (sex trade - 8 out of 10 human trafficking cases involved the sex trade). God might be calling you to foster care, to adoption, to being a mentor of an at-risk youth. With the growing elderly population, God can use you to visit shut-ins, work with meals on wheels (www.knoxcac.org), or visit those isolated in nursing homes. Find a place to serve as a volunteer and show the love of Christ.

God also values eternal life. We believe the current circumstances are not the final word. A situation might seem helpless, but God has a plan. "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20). Let God use the pain and His healing in your life to bless others. We forgive because we have been forgiven. We show mercy because we have been shown mercy. If our citizenship is in heaven, it changes everything, and His values become our values.

Church Happenings

Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church

Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church, located in the heart of the Karns community at 7753 Oak Ridge Hwy., would like to wish you a "Very Happy New Year." Rev. Catherine Clark Nance invites you and your family to join the congregation and enjoy our many activities and mission projects. Beaver Ridge has a very active youth program. Starting this month, the youth will have Tuesday Hang-Out with "OPEN DOORS." This program will give middle school and high school youth the opportunity to come to the Family Life Center Gym after school on Tuesdays from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. to hang out. Church and community youth are all invited! BR looks forward to meeting some new faces through this program. The youth is also planning a Spring Retreat April 4-6 to the Ocoee Retreat Center. The cost will only be \$85 per person and will include all meals and activities. Call the church office for more information at 690-1060. www.beaverridgeumc.com

com Healthy Choices

Healthy Choices, a plant-based Free Cooking Class, to help prevent/reverse some cancers, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, will conduct its next session, "Soups, Salads, & Sandwich Fillings," at the North Knoxville 7th-Day Adventist Church, 6530 Fountain City Road, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, in the church fellowship hall. Space is limited, so call (865-314-8204) or go online (www.knoxville11-step.com) to register.

Seymour United Methodist Church

Tuesday evenings offer a "Low Impact" exercise class at 5:45 p.m., followed by a regular exercise class at 6:30 p.m. Contact leader, Amy Gattis for details.

The regularly scheduled fellowship meals continue this Wednesday evening, Jan. 22nd at 5:15 p.m. Following, there will be various small group studies beginning at 6:00 p.m.

These Wed. small groups include Divorce Care, Grief-Share, Single & Parenting, DC4K (Divorce Care for Kids), a Women's Bible

Study and Discipleship which is continuing from last fall and winter. Some require a study guide/lesson book.

Looking ahead, the 2014 weekend session for "Divine Rhythm" for ages 18 - 35 is scheduled for Gatlinburg Jan. 31st through Feb. 2nd.

Don't forget, as this new year of 2014 gets into full swing, to pray about and make your own personal financial pledges in support of all of SUMC's many ministries.

Please call the church office at 573-9711 for additional information.

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Creamy Mushroom Soup

8 oz Baby Portobello mushrooms, chopped
1 stalk celery, chopped (optional)
1 cup chopped, onion
1/2 stick + 2 tablespoon butter
7 TBSP all purpose flour
3 cans chicken or beef broth (beef makes a heartier soup)
1 cup milk
sour cream and / or chives for garnish (optional)
Salt & Pepper to taste

In a 2 quart pot, saute all of the mushrooms, onions, and celery in butter until soft and golden brown. When done, remove from heat and stir in flour. Blend thoroughly and add the broth.

Bring to a boil, then add the milk, stirring continually. Add salt & pepper to taste. Garnish with a dollop of sour cream & a sprinkling of chives. Great with a sour dough or crusty bread.

Marinated Mushrooms

1 lb small button mushrooms (quarter the large ones)
16 oz Italian dressing (use your favorite brand or even home made)
1 tsp minced garlic
1 TBSP fresh herbs (use your favorite. Fresh parsley or cilantro works well)
1 tsp salt
1 TBSP lemon juice
1/3 cup sliced pickled banana peppers (Use more or less depending on how hot you want it to be)
1 small can sliced black olives, drained

Clean mushrooms and trim stems. Toss mushrooms, olives, and banana peppers in a non-metallic container. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over mushrooms. Cover and marinate at least overnight, stirring occasionally. Serve with toothpicks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Knox County Republican Clubs meetings this week

The Halls Republican Club will meet Monday, Jan. 20 at the Boys & Girls Club of Halls/Powell located at 1819 Dry Gap Pike just off of E. Emory Rd. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. with fellowship and snacks at 6 p.m. The speakers for the night are the Tennessee State Executive Committee members who represent Knox county.

The South Knox Republican Club meets Thursday, Jan. 21 at Gary Underwood Park on Moore Road. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

The Powell Republican Club meets Thursday, Jan. 21 at Shoney's on Emory Road. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. knoxgop.org

K-Town Sound Show Chorus Open House

Women of all ages who enjoy singing are invited to



The Samuel Frazier Daughters of the American Revolution's Holiday Event was held at "Sam" Wyrosdick's home on December 21 and celebrated Doris Owen's 25 Year Certificate for her membership in the NSDAR. She is Congratulated by (l to r) "Sam" Wyrosdick, Hostess and Chapter Treasurer, and Jyl Smithson Riehl, Chapter Regent.

participate in a Global Open House event: KTown Sound Knoxville Premier A Capella Show Chorus, part of Sweet Adelines International. The

Open House will take place at Fountain City Presbyterian Church located at 500 Hotel Street, on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 6:30

p.m. For more information, please call Betsy Blumenkamp at (865)385-8454. www.ktownsound.org

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