

# The Homeless Question

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Currently in our city there are numerous agencies, churches, and organizations wrestling with the needs of the homeless. Two meetings held last Tuesday addressed these concerns and gave residents a chance to present their views and questions.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission had been asked by City Council to recommend revisions and add definitions for rooming houses, boardinghouses and other group living

facilities regarding zoning regulations for the homeless. During last Tuesday's MPC Agenda Review meeting, Mark Donaldson, MPC Executive Director, explained that that defining "Group Living Facilities" might "open a can of worms and we may not want to go there." He said he's been looking at similar ordinances in other cities, which address things like homeless shelters, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and housing for the handicapped. He said that housing for the

handicapped is, by state law, allowed in most neighborhoods.

"Current zoning laws don't deal with it," he said, "as different types of group housing."

The Fountain City Town Hall group, a neighborhood non-profit organization, questioned the wording of a MPC ordinance on rooming houses, specifically the usage of the term "Rooming Unit," and suggested it be deleted.

"It is our opinion that different populations in group living facilities have

different characteristics and different needs," the Town Hall letter to the MPC staff said. The group also made other recommendations, such as prohibiting parking in front of single-family homes that are converted to group living and that using "number of persons" in the ordinance would make more sense than using "rooming units."

Mayor Rogero's Plan To Address Homelessness was held that very same evening at the Cansler Family YWCA, drawing some

75 people to give input and ask questions. Hosted by Michael Dunthorn, Manager of the Office on Homelessness, the public forum began with an overall view of what the city has done in the past and what is hoped will be a plan for the future.

Dunthorn said that city is drawing lessons from the former "Compassion Knoxville" findings and that the Mayor's Roundtable hopes to work with various churches, agencies, organizations, the business community

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## FOCUS Weekly Poll\*

In January, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam began the 4th and final year of his first term in office.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Haslam is handling his job as governor?

APPROVE 74.44%  
DISAPPROVE 25.56%

Survey conducted February 13, 2014.

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

# 5th grade student at Adrian Burnett plans to raise \$20K for class trip

By Tasha Mahurin  
Tasha@knoxfocus.com

"While running for student council, everyone kept asking why I was running," 5th grade student Jordan Bishop told *The Focus*. "I decided that I wanted to help all of my 5th Grade Safety Patrol Class to have the opportunity to go on the trip to Washington, D.C. I didn't want money to be the reason for them not getting to go."

Jordan represents Mr. Green's 5th grade class on student council at Adrian Burnett Primary School. During his student council campaign, Jordan decided that he wanted to raise enough money

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Front row L to R: Jordan Bishop, Tristan Webb, Jeremy Weinberg, Matthew Matteson, Emily Davis, Stevie Fann  
Back row L to R: Keeli Williams, Kaylin Shipman, Allyson Scott, Grayson Buchanan, Chesney Harris

# A K-9 Vest, New Stadium, Zoning Appeals

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knox County Commission meets Tuesday afternoon for their Agenda work session, they will consider some 14 pages of matters including approving a grant of \$1,000 to purchase a bullet-proof vest for use by the Sheriff's Office K-9 division for one of the dogs.

The commissioners will also discuss approving a contract of \$1,343,670 to K&F Construction to replace the school stadium at Austin-East High School.

Two concerns will appeal denial by the planning commission.

Steve Hobbs is asking for rezoning of property on the north side of Hill Drive, southeast of Dutchtown Road. Mesana Investments is asking for rezoning of property south of Coward Mill Road, northeast of Pellissippi Parkway.

Other items during the work session include a resolution to recognize and honor the Fulton High School Marching Band and approve the County Mayor's reappointment of Bill Belzer to the Historic Zoning Commission.

They may also approve a grant contract of \$4,000 with the Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation for the

collection and recycling of used oil at the county convenient centers. The commission is also being asked to allocate \$29,000 in Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) funds for the administrative cost related to the demolition and construct of a single-family house at 6088 Atkins Drive for sale to a first-time buyer.

CHDO is also asking the county to approve an changed agreement with Neighborhood Housing, Inc. related to the building of four single-family homes. The commission is also being asked to approve a grant contract for

\$40,000 with the state department of health for \$40,000 for Rape Prevention Education Services, and approve a grant of \$283,300 from the state health department for Immunization Services.

The Tennessee Department of Health is also offering a grant of \$70,600 per year for Chronic Disease Management and School Health Promotion Services which will be discussed, as well as a \$39,700 state grant for tobacco use prevention and control services, which requires a \$16,100

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## Commission may support Anti-Annexation move

By Mike Steely  
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Last year Governor Bill Haslam signed a moratorium that prohibited cities in Tennessee from annexing citizens outside their city limits by ordinance. The state is only one of three that still allows municipalities to take in adjoining communities by a motion, without the consent of those being annexed. The governor's moratorium ends this May.

The state legislature is looking at House Bill 590 (HB 590) to make it a state law that cities cannot annex outside city limits without a majority vote of those citizens being annexed. The bill passed a subcommittee vote last week unanimously and is, or will be, before the house for a vote.

The Tennessee Municipal League is opposed to the change but has failed to slow or halt the bill. Their opposition is that it stunts a city's growth and future tax revenue.

Knox County Commissioner R. Larry Smith is asking the commissioners, this Tuesday, to support the bill to "abolish annexation by ordinance."

"I applaud the state legislature," he said.

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# Knox Countians Approve Haslam Term

By Focus Staff

This week's *Knoxville Focus* poll, asked the question: "In January, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam began the fourth and final year of his first term in office. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Haslam is handling his job as governor?"

Almost 75% of respondents say they approve the

way Haslam is doing his job. The district in Knox County with the greatest disapproval of the way Bill Haslam has performed in office is the First. 37.50% of likely voters inside the First District say they disapprove of Governor Haslam's performance. The First District is entirely within the confines of the City of

Knoxville. The First District is also quite likely the most partisanly Democratic in Knox County. The highest approval for Haslam's performance in office comes from the Ninth District, which is South Knoxville. 79.19% of likely voters say they approve of the job Haslam is doing. Voters in the Third District, which comprises

much of West and Northwest Knoxville inside the City of Knoxville, were just a fraction behind in their approval of the governor's term in office. Slightly more men than women approve of Haslam's performance and seniors overwhelmingly approved the governor's time in office.

## FOCUS Weekly Poll

**In January, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam began the 4th and final year of his first term in office. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Haslam is handling his job as governor?**

**Approve 74.44%**  
**Disapprove 25.56%**



By Age	Yes	No	Total
18-29	33.33%	66.67%	3
30-49	60.47%	39.53%	43
50-65	71.53%	28.47%	144
65+	78.22%	21.78%	303
Total	74.44% (367)	25.56% (126)	493

By District	Yes	No	Total
1	62.50%	37.50%	32
2	69.81%	30.19%	53
3	79.07%	20.93%	43
4	78.38%	21.62%	74
5	78.79%	21.21%	66
6	76.79%	23.21%	56
7	67.74%	32.26%	62
8	72.88%	27.12%	59
9	79.17%	20.83%	48
Total	74.44% (367)	25.56% (126)	493

By Gender	Yes	No	Total
Unknown	50.00%	50.00%	8
Female	73.93%	26.07%	257
Male	75.88%	24.12%	228
Total	74.44% (367)	25.56% (126)	493

Survey conducted February 13, 2014.

Cont. from page 1

to pay his classmates' fee of \$440 each for the AAA Adrian Burnett 5th Grade Safety Patrol Trip to Washington D.C. To everyone's surprise, this was not simply a "campaign promise." Jordan presented his fundraiser proposal to the PTSO and to the parents of the students eligible for the annual trip. He formed a committee which consists of 32+ people in order to raise \$20,000. "The fundraising is going great. We have already sold over 200 dozen Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, 68 dozen

chocolate covered strawberries, and we had our first craft show this past Saturday on the 15th," Jordan said. "We kick off a candy bar sale on Tuesday, February 28. We are all at least committing to sell two boxes and some have said they will sell six boxes of candy bars. I believe we will do very well at this portion of the fundraiser," he added. Jordan's goal is ambitious. Between school, swim team practice, and Boy Scouts, he is one busy 5th grader. However, thanks to his mother Angela and the committee, they are making

steady progress. Three community craft shows are scheduled to benefit the cause with over 25 vendors on the books: The Winter Arts & Craft Show - 2 Day Event Friday, February 21, 2014. 9:00am. - 8:00pm Saturday, February 22, 2014. 9:00 am - 6:00pm Location: The Fountain City Lions Club Building The Easter Arts & Craft Show- 1 Day Saturday, March 8, 2014. 10:00am - 6:00pm Location: The Boys & Girls Club of the TN Valley /Halls - Powell

The Spring Arts & Craft Show. - 2 Day Event Friday, March 14, 2014. 9:00am. - 8:00pm Saturday, March 15, 2014. 9:00 am - 6:00pm Location: The Fountain City Lions Club Building The fundraising deadline for Jordan and his classmates is March 25th. When asked if he thought he had a future in politics, Jordan told *The Focus*: "When I grow up, I want to be an animal control officer. I love helping people, but my true love is being able to help animals." *The Focus* wishes him well.

# The Homeless Question

Cont. from page 1

and others. The goal is to attempt to prevent or reduce homelessness, be accountable across the board, and work toward common, achievable goals. "We have the political will behind this plan," Dunthorn stated. "Homelessness is not acceptable." Results of the public comments may be included in the plan to be presented to the city council on February 27 in a Council workshop. Councilmen attending last week's public forum included Duane Grieve, Nick Della Volpe, Finbarr Saunders and Daniel Brown. From representing different local agencies, churches, and businesses came comments about the proposed plan. Each comment was written on two flip boards in front of the meeting. Comments ranged from those asking how it would be funded, if the city plans to coordinate or run the effort, how the new Safety Center will play in the plans, if the county government and the sheriff's office are part of it, if

plans are in place to deal with jail releases and mentally ill are included, and that a more creative communications system is needed between the city, the agencies, and the public. One person said that he was skeptical of plans to reintegrate the chronic homeless who have no wish to participate. Another resident said the plan should include not only housing but services as well. Another questioned if the city plans to locate or promote housing throughout the city rather than just downtown. One woman said that case management is important and funding is needed to hire more managers. Also discussed was making public transportation more available, with one person saying that the city service is not profitable now and there are few funds to expand it. The percentage of homeless in Knoxville from other counties and states was discussed with a survey results mentioned that had 68% of the homeless in Knoxville from Knoxville or Knox



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Michael Dunthorn, Manager of the Office on Homelessness, led the public forum on homelessness.

County and 80% are from Knox or adjoining counties. Each person who attended was asked to sign in and the comments, suggestions, and questions will be considered as the mayor, the staff, and Roundtable members consider strategies, public input, and federal resources. "Homelessness is a complicated issue," the Mayor noted in the announcement of the meeting, "and effective responses require collaboration among many different partners. This plan is not a solution to any single problem. It is a framework that we will use to coordinate the efforts to address both short-term and long term challenges for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless."



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# Publisher's Position

## State of the Schools Address Is More of the Same



By Steve Hunley,  
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Anyone expecting anything new in Superintendent of Schools Jim McIntyre's annual State of the Schools address had to be terribly disappointed. Recently, there has been an attempt to make McIntyre more human; the fact a public official who has been here six years needs to be humanized should be quite telling. McIntyre related some personal family history, displayed some family photos, but the main thrust of his address was more of the same.

Clearly, Jim McIntyre is not a people person. He doesn't seem to relate well to individuals and surely many of the teachers who have endured undue stress under his control and suffering have family albums as well. Not to mention the janitors, whom he wished

to contract out. The janitors certainly have faces and families, too. What teachers and janitors don't have is the superintendent's well-funded public relations machine working twenty-four hours, seven days a week on their behalf. Nor do they have the business and political elite propping them up.

McIntyre referred to his entire year of teaching experience, loaded with McIntyre's usual use of adjectives; in fact, that seems to be the Superintendent's most singular talent. If there was a Nobel Prize for use of glittering generalities, Jim McIntyre would need to add an extra room to his house to keep them all on display. Glittering generalities is a tool used by advertising companies and political campaigns. They employ vague phrases specifically designed to give one a positive feeling about a particular thing. If one listens carefully, one will note these same phrases do not convey a single particle of information. The best propagandists utilize these same glittering generalities effectively and McIntyre is positively masterful in this art form. Conversations are "great"; dialogues are "great"; there is "some extraordinary learning"

going on in our schools. His one year of teaching was an "incredible experience." Think about it.

Would you vote for a constable, who had served for all of one year to be President of the United States?

McIntyre has substituted glittering generalities for real progress. If one pays attention to the very real problems confronting the school system, one will note what is absent is any real solution. McIntyre regularly proposes what he considers to be a solutions to his rubber stamp Board of Education, assuring those gullible people he will give them the details later. Rarely ever does McIntyre lay out a specific proposal to resolve any particular problem. It's either because he's incompetent or has no answers. It's either because he's incompetent, lacks experience or both.

Jim McIntyre has clung to Governor Bill Haslam like a frightened little boy clings to his daddy's leg. The superintendent and his advisors are feeling the need to humanize McIntyre because the last year hasn't been a good one for him and whatever popularity he has enjoyed in the past is melting like a snowman in Hades. The revolt of teachers fed up with

McIntyre's imperial superintendency and parents upset by children who have been overwhelmed by over testing have pressed McIntyre and suddenly he needs to appear to be human and actually have feelings. Now, all of a sudden, we are supposed to have feelings for him and sympathize with his plight.

The fact is, McIntyre never gave a hoot about the teachers until he started getting negative publicity. He has ruled like an dictator and now the peasants are crowding around the palace and demanding his head. That would make any dictator uneasy.

If Governor Bill Haslam's "Tennessee Promise" program is approved by the General Assembly, it will have the effect of upending a lot of the bureaucracy, which has been McIntyre's biggest accomplishment. McIntyre has proven to be a superlative bureaucrat and the bureaucracy has grown exceedingly bloated and arrogant. Just how many students will truly be prepared to enter college or a technical institution after graduating from high school? My guess is all of sudden people might start paying attention to preparation rates. That would be the percentage of students



PHOTO BY TYLER BROWN AND JAMIE PRATT, FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL.

Dr. Jim McIntyre gave his annual State of the Schools address last Tuesday.

prepared to further their education or get a job and lest you forget, that really is the sole purpose of education in this country. If the great majority of these student burn up the two years of free education taking remedial courses, that will

be irrefutable proof against and completely debunk to McIntyre's claim of "extraordinary learning."

It's time for McIntyre to talk less, do more or move on.

## Commission may support Anti-Annexation move

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Smith told *The Focus* that in the past Knoxville mayors, specifically Victor Ashe, used annexation by ordinance to "come into a neighborhood and annex one house, skip several houses, and annex another." He said that 8 to 20 houses would be annexed a month and, later, the remaining houses would be taken into the city. He said that every time the city needed new budget money it would annex.

"They tried to annex Halls back in the 90s and 900 people showed up against it and the message got across," Smith said. "So the city annexed along Maynardville and Emory Road and kept us from incorporating."

"Most commercial businesses don't fight (annexation) but mom and pop businesses do," he said.

Smith said that the

solution to the annexation question and many more questions between the city and county is to form one metro government, which he says would also end duplicate services.

The fear of annexation by Knoxville resulted in the 1980 incorporation of Farragut, making it the second of only two cities in the county.

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett is also supporting the anti-annexation by ordinance bill and is asking other county mayors to get behind the effort.

As proposed, House Bill 590 would delete current language in the Tennessee Code by striking out the following, "A municipality possesses exclusive authority to annex territory located within its approved urban growth boundaries."

During the moratorium the only annexation permitted by a city ordinance that

could be approved was with the approval of county commission. Unless amended be the state legislature that "commission approval" does not appear in the bill, leaving annexation only up to those citizens that would be annexed.

HB 590 would require cities to notify effected property owners, hold public hearings, and use city funds to hold a referendum on any annexation. It requires 90 days notice to effected residents, by registered, return receipt requested mail. The county election commission would then hold the matter until the "next regularly scheduled election for the county" and offer the ballot question as a simple "Yes" for annexation and "No" against. Annexation, if passed, would be 30 days after the election commission makes the election returns official.

## Commission to consider Free Speech ordinance

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Let's say you are an employee of Knox County: a police officer, a clerk, or a school teacher. Let's say you have some criticism to say about your department or a department head. If you want to say something publically you may be silenced for fear of demotion, transfer, or firing.

Tennessee is a Right-To-Work state, which means you can be terminated without cause. Most state and local governments have appeals processes but that's only after you've been disciplined. The Tennessee "Employment At Will" statute says that an employer can hire or fire anyone at any time with or without cause, except in matters of race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, or disability.

Recently we've seen some teachers come forward and be openly critical of their administration and Superintendent James McIntyre. Many have voiced concern about losing their jobs. Many who have been dismissed have also used public forums at Commission and School Board meetings. Many more teachers and school employees have remained silent for fear of retribution.

County Commission and Board of Education sat through a "Retreat" recently with nothing on that agenda about the teacher uprising, only a brief discussion about finance and budget.

The commission has been told that although they control or approve the budget for Knox County Schools they, the commissioners, have no say in the way it is administered.

Several commissioners have voiced concern about the school administration although there's little they can do about it other than fund the system.

Or is there something?

The following appears on the Commission's Workshop agenda for Tuesday:

"Consideration of an Ordinance/Resolution of the Commission of Knox County, Tennessee to provide that no employee of Knox County shall be terminated, harassed, demoted, or receive a negative evaluation based on exercising First Amendment rights in making public statements regarding elected or appointed officials of Knox County Government."

Commissioner Amy Broyles is introducing the ordinance. She told *The Focus* she's talked with the County Law Director,

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# I Dreamed a Dream

Are you watching the Olympics? I hope so. Those fabulous, sometimes nerve-wracking, yet thrilling games between the most athletic young people in the world--and some not so young are awe-inspiring.

Let's talk about the ice skaters. While some of them do have falling spills, most of them jump right up and keep on skating as if nothing happened at all. They are there for one purpose--to win a medal and if they don't they still have had the most thrilling moments they will ever have in their lives.

After seeing the "twizzlers" and "Sal chows" I tended to get light-headed watching them. How in the world do they do that?

Well, as everyone knows, by years of practicing, by making their art the main focus of their lives. Forgetting about holidays, marriages, even education sometimes, the only aim is to be the best in the world.

I saw one pair almost make the first spot when one of them stumbled. After many years of skating together they lost their dream in a few seconds. Yet, they carried on and never stopped smiling even

when they saw their points at the end.

What fortitude! I think I would hate to be a judge in the pair dancing routines. There was one particular time when the Russian pairs stumbled and fell twice in their routine but they were given more points than one or two excellent dancers, who didn't fall at all, which I didn't think was fair.

Of course, I don't know what to look for when it comes to judging their moves but I think I might have judged more fairly in that instance. And there's a lot of ice skating to see: short programs, long programs, pairs, singles, plus team events.

Then there's the Nordic Combined. Around forty skiers, I think, travel up-hill, down-hill for I don't remember how many miles, trying to be the first at the finish line. No wonder they fall flat on their backs when they cross that line. They can hardly catch their breaths. I could hardly catch mine! Germany came in first in that race.

And what is curling? I tried to watch that and it looked boring. Then I thought, well, I don't know what the aim is, so I looked it up on Google. Curling is

related to bowls, boules, and shuffle boarding. Two teams, each of four players, take turns sliding heavy, polished granite stones, also called rocks, across the ice curling sheet towards the house, a circular target marked on the ice. The purpose is to accumulate the highest score for a game. Points are scored for the stones resting closest to the center of the house. The paths of the rocks may be influenced by two sweepers with brooms to alter the state of the ice in front of the stone.

Curling was first introduced in the Olympics in 1998. Well, I think they put curling in there so we can relax from the exciting events of ice skating, skiing, and speed skating. There's a lot more events coming up this week. Watch and enjoy!

Thought for the day: The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. Eleanor Roosevelt

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

## A K-9 Vest, New Stadium, Zoning Appeals

**Cont. from page 1**

local match.

Commissioner Mike Hammond is asking the commission to have the Public Building Authority and the county Department of Information Technology to perform an analysis of the main and small assembly rooms and recommend back to the commission on updating technology there, including adding an electronic voting

tracking system.

Commissioner R. Larry Smith is asking his fellow commissioners to express support for state legislation to abolish annexation by ordinance by a city. The act is known as "End of Forced Annexation in Tennessee Act." Tennessee is one of the few states that allow a city to reach out and annex a part of the county without a vote by those living there.

The commissioners will also consider an educational incentive payment received by Barry Hawkins, a former employee of the Trustee's Office, and consider rezoning a piece of property currently zoned for technology to commercial on Hardin Valley Road.

The agenda items will go forward to the commission's regular meeting on Feb. 24.

## Commission to consider Free Speech ordinance

**Continued from page 3**

David Duke, and he has been drafting the language for the ordinance. Both Broyles and Duke told *The Focus* there is nothing on the books of the county like the proposed ordinance.

Since teachers are county employees, along with all other county employees, the language would apply to them.

"She wanted something to show that

the commissioners were 100% behind the teachers," Duke said.

Broyles said the only recourse that sanctioned employees currently might have would be a federal law suit.

"Mayor Burchett supports (the ordinance) and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Everyone should welcome it, it's going to help everyone," she said.

## Zonings and Appeals at MPC

**By Mike Steely**  
[steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) met last Thursday despite the heavy snow and heard from Director Mark Donaldson about the city council's request to redefine "group living" in the zoning ordinances. Donaldson said he prepared a draft of the changes by comparing similar cities like Memphis, Portland, Oregon, and Raleigh, North Carolina.

After a brief report, Donaldson suggested holding a public hearing and then the commission voted to postpone a discussion on the matter for 60 days.

The MPC staff is also working on regulations on drop-off donation centers for thrift stores, with more

smaller drop off containers appearing here and there around the city and county.

The expansion of a car lot on Chapman Highway, southeast of E. Ford Valley Road, was approved with several conditions, despite objections from local homeowners. Kimberly Mayes presented additional signatures to a petition against the idea, saying that the applicant was spreading "scare tactics" that if the lot's adjoining property isn't rezoned it could become a tattoo parlor.

Attorney Arthur Seymour, representing the applicant Len Johnson, said denial of the application would amount to "an attack on car lots."

Kay Wade, who lives

across the street from the car lot, said "everyone is totally against it" and said she is concerned about the owner caring for other property he owns nearby.

A Child Day Care facility was approved along Ball Road at Zion Lane with several stipulations, including limiting the existing house there to seven parking spaces and 17 students initially and then, once place is expanded to accommodate 40 children and additional parking, that will also be permitted.

Alvin Austin, a Ball Road resident, opposed the change because of traffic along the road. "I can see cars lined up there to drop off kids," he said.

## Mayor to meet with KAT members

**By Mike Steely**  
[steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)

Last week *The Knoxville Focus* looked at possible changes coming for the Knoxville Area Transit, its various boards, and the proposal made by a consulting group about changes and improvements to provide better service and management.

On Tuesday, February 18, Mayor Madeline Rogero will meet with transit officials at 3:30 p.m. in the small assembly room in the City-County Building. The meeting information was sent to members of the Knoxville Transit Authority board members and other KAT officials on February 3rd by Terry Alexander, Executive Assistant to the Mayor. Also in the meeting will apparently be the KTA and city attorneys.

"The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the transition and get input from you regarding the qualities and qualifications you believe are critical for the next Director of Transit for KAT," the notice said.

The meeting follows the mayor announcing that a new position of "Director" is being established and resumes are being received for the position. The new director will replace

a contracted "General Manager" position, since that contract has expired. Last week, the city council approved the naming of two new members to the Advisory Committee and one to the KAT board.

Notified of the meeting were: Daniel Brown, John Lawhorn, Karen Eberle, Ken Muller, Robert (Archie) Ellis, Jim Richards, Mark Hairr, Hubert Smith, Lilliana Burbano-Bonilla, Renee Hoyos, Mary Smith William Lyons, Christi Branscom, Jesse Mayshark, Eric Vreeland, Charles Swanson, and Melissa Roberson.

Among the recommendations by the Gobis Company is the combining of two of the five groups that have authority over the city transportation system and shifting some responsibilities.

Currently, the Knoxville Transit Authority has over site responsibilities and sets policies for city busses, trolleys, taxis and private for hire cars. KAT is the operational body for the system.

The Mayor has been prompted to select a new Director and has said that any changes to the administration of the transit system will be made after a candidate has been selected.

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Our Neighborhoods

SOUTH KNOXVILLE

Part One: Chapman Highway and Vestal

As part of our continuing series focusing on “Our Neighborhoods” we begin looking at South Knoxville. That portion of the Knox County communities will include several upcoming issues as we move to highlight the important part of our county. In future weeks The Focus will come back to South Knox and journey further down Chapman Highway and into other neighborhoods.

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

At first it would seem that South Knoxville has been plagued with troubles in recent years. The Henley Street Bridge was closed for repairs, the Baptist Hospital abandoned and now much of it to be demolished, and the entire community disrupted by having to find other ways in and out of downtown.

But the bridge is now partially open, the old hospital has been sold, the south waterfront is being developed, and the businesses along Chapman Highway are recovering. Most Knoxville residents know that going to South Knoxville to shop, eat, or get to the Smoky Mountains is convenient.

South Knoxville’s history began with an early settlement of our region but it wasn’t connected to Knoxville proper by a bridge until after the Civil War. In fact, the Union built a pontoon bridge across the river and then a stone bridge was later built by General Ambrose Burnside during Union occupation. The county built a covered bridge that was destroyed by a tornado and then G. W. Saulpaw built a wooden bridge that lasted until the city built the Gay Street Bridge in 1898.

South Knoxville remained agricultural for many years. Marble was discovered and mined at what is now Ijams Nature Center and at the Candoro Marble Works in Vestal. The opening of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the completion of the Henley Street Bridge in 1931 further boosted the growth of South Knoxville.

There are many, many national and regional celebrities from South Knoxville, including the late Doris Sams, noted women’s baseball player who inspired the move “A League of Their Own.” She passed away in 2012 at age 85 and was a member of the Vestal United Methodist Church.

CHAPMAN HIGHWAY

Chapman Highway really began with the construction of the Henley Bridge. For many years, the highway was the preferred route to the Great Smoky Mountains. Motels, supermarkets, retail shops and restaurants were built along the highway



Looking north across the river in South Knoxville.

as South Knoxville grew. Today, any national-chain restaurant you can imagine exist along the highway, with probably the best-known, locally owned restaurant being Ye Olde Steak House.

Along with this commercial development, several subdivisions and neighborhood developed. The earliest of these was Lindbergh Forest, which opened in the 1920s.

The 2011 closing of Henley Bridge injured several Chapman Highway businesses and detoured shoppers and employees around the northern portion of the highway. With two lanes of the four lane bridge now open, the businesses may be recovering their losses.

Allen Miller, owner of The Disc Exchange on Chapman Highway, told *The Focus* that business is beginning to improve with the partial reopening of the bridge and, until then, it was dropping off every month. He said that there are still some detour signs along the Interstate that direct traffic away from Chapman and that the Chapman-Moody intersection is still blocked to one lane going north. He said he’s worked with the city and county to try to get the state to remove the signs and open Chapman and has talked with State Senator Duncan Massey about the situation. The completion date for the bridge’s renovation is slated for June of this year.

“There will be a flurry of activity the next two years,” promises City Councilman Nick Pavlis, who represents the area. He said the closing of the Henley Bridge was a “disaster for businesses” but added “They organized themselves” as a result.

Pavlis pointed out many positives and the potential of his District. He cited the Urban Wilderness, bike and trail

system, and the renovation of the old Baptist Hospital as contributing to South Knoxville both during construction and afterward. Pavlis said his idea to get a Historic Zoning for the former Kern’s Bakery Building on Chapman will soon be back before city council. His plan will affect only the outside of the building and he hopes to see mixed residential or retail business there. He also points to the relocation of the entry to Fort Dickerson and other improvements there like rest room facilities and a pavilion as helping the area.

Fort Dickerson is but one of many parks in South Knoxville. There’s also the new High Grounds Park, Duff Field, Mary James and Maynard Glen Park, Ijams Nature Center, Island Home Park, South Knoxville Optimist Park and Mary Vestal Park. Pavlis said there are plans to improve the Vestal Park and “I want all the parks to be touched.”

“I’ve never been more excited.

There’s a lot of work to be done,” he added.

Patrick Michael of Wood Realtors said that he’s seen a lot of interest in young professionals about living in South Knoxville because of the urban wilderness and the idea of riding their bikes into downtown. Michael lives on Island Home Avenue and serves on the Candoro festival committee.

VESTAL

The community we now know as Vestal was once a small, incorporated city known as “South Knoxville.” Like the Island Home neighborhood, the little town didn’t begin to grow until the bridges were built.

The community takes its name from the Vestal Lumber and Manufacturing Company, founded by the Vestal family. The company centered around Maryville Pike and Ogle Avenue,

where other businesses located to form a downtown area. The lumber company employed hundreds of people and was, at one time, one of the largest in the South, closing in 1962.

Mary Vestal Park, along Goose Creek, is named for the mother of the founding brothers. Today it has a Community Center with a weight room, gym, basketball, indoor pool, playgrounds, tennis courts, ball fields, and meeting rooms.

Fine marble is located in our region and in 1914 John J. Craig III founded the Candoro Marble Company. Today the company showroom is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was designed by prominent Knoxville architect Charles Barber.

Some of America’s finest monuments have marble from the Candoro works. The site is the location of events during the year.



The Candoro Marble Works house in Vestal is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

In October of last year the Aslan Foundation and the South Knoxville Alliance, along with the City of Knoxville, sponsored a “Visioning Workshop” for Vestal to find short term, low cost improvements for the community destinations like the Mary Vestal Park. The South Knoxville alliance meets tonight, at 6:30 at the Labor Exchange building next to the Disc Exchange. It’s made up of businesses in the 37920 zip code and aims to “strengthen our unique district by sharing our hidden treasures” through marketing, events, and festivals.

Newman Seay, acting President of the Vestal Community Organization, said they are planning improvements to Mary Vestal Park through a matching grant from the city, when weather permits. He said the group will match the grant through donations and labor on landscaping and brush removal. “The Roger’s Group will donate material for a sidewalk,” he said, adding that the walking trail along the creek will be improved and extended.

The Vestal group meets the second Monday of every month at the South Knoxville Community Center, which most local people simply refer to as the “Boys & Girls Club” but have not met recently because of weather. He said they notify members and Vestal residents through a newsletter they publish. He also said the group is a member of the South Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory Board.

Continue on page 2

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## Our Neighborhoods

# SEYMOUR

## Gorgeous Views, Great People

By Focus Staff

### HISTORY

Seymour's earliest notable history occurred in 1780 when the Battle of Boyd's Creek was fought between then Gen. John Sevier and his command of East Tennessee Pioneers against a large force of Cherokee who had attacked early settlers. Seymour was first officially settled three years later by early pioneer Captain Samuel Newell. A Revolutionary war veteran, Newell was a prominent politico and his home, "Newell's Station", became the first "county seat" of Sevier County. During the 1800s, the community was known as Trundles Crossroads, a name which referred to what is now the intersection of Boyd's Creek Highway and Old Sevierville Pike. However, when the Knoxville, Sevierville & Eastern Railway, which connected Knoxville with Sevierville, was completed in 1909, the community's station

was named Seymour in honor of the line's chief engineer. The local post office subsequently changed its name to Seymour as well.

### PRESENT DAY

According to the 2010 census, present day Seymour represents 12.6 square miles of Sevier County with a population of 10,919.

The community lies in a valley at the Foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and is visually bordered by Bluff Mountain and Bays Mountain. Chapman Highway, now the main thoroughfare through the community, intersects with U.S. Route 411 and Boyd's Creek Highway at the community's center.

Residents take pride in the view of the Great Smoky Mountains as one approaches the intersection from Chapman Highway.

### COMMUNITY

Seymour has grown rapidly—particularly over the last 20 years—adding some 2,000 new residents between the 2000 and 2010 census. The community itself is comprised of various businesses, schools, and churches.

The Seymour South Knox Chamber of Commerce is comprised of business leaders in the community and provides a forum for ideas that they hope will stimulate the development of consumer friendly commerce in the area. They also support the community by addressing the needs of Seymour and South Knoxville area and strive to promote business support for the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department.

Home of the Eagles- Seymour has an elementary, intermediate, middle, and high school. An active community, Seymour Primary, Intermediate, Middle, and High School have all been

recipients of U.S. Cellular's Calling All Communities campaign. The contest awards \$150,000 to the school that garners the most online votes from the community. In 2012, Seymour Middle School rallied the most votes to take home the \$150,000. In 2011, Seymour Primary School was the big \$150,000 winner, and Seymour High School won \$100,000 the year before. Seymour Intermediate School one \$25,000 in the campaign last year. Additionally, Seymour is home to King's Academy, a private Christian school whose origins date back to 1840.

Seymour is home to various local churches— including Seymour First Baptist Church and Seymour United Methodist Church among others. The area is also home to Eusebia Presbyterian Church which was founded 228 years ago, 10 years before Tennessee became a state.

Local residents and businesses look forward each year to the

Seymour Christmas Parade— a two decade long community tradition which benefits the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department.

### FUTURE

Recently, a highly controversial movement began to incorporate Seymour. Many residents oppose incorporation and the higher taxes and expanded government that might accompany it— while a small group of proponents argue that the community would benefit from the additional revenue in the way of sidewalks or a community center. According to state law, a large portion of the proposed city has been designate as "rural" which would prohibit it from being part of the incorporation; however, this has done little to deter those who support incorporating.

While the future is uncertain, Seymour has a rich history and a track record of positive growth. The community has a bright future and will continue to thrive.

# SOUTH KNOXVILLE

## Part One: Chapman Highway and Vestal

Cont. from page 1

One of the annual highlights in the Vestal community is the South Knoxville Arts and Heritage Festival, locally known as "Vestival" and the celebration is scheduled for May 10 this year. Trudy Monaco is a founder of the festival, which started in 2001, and is already working on plans for this year's event.

"We hope to have a little Opera with the Marble City Opera. There are two stages and there's a kick-off the evening before the event," Monaco said. She told *The Focus* the festival is "eclectic" and may also feature the rock band The Vestal Riders and the Knoxville Persian Music Ensemble. In addition to the two stages, the carriage house at the Candoro site usually features "mountain" music performances and jam sessions.

Inside the historic Candoro building itself will be an Art exhibit, with this

year's focus on quilts.

The idea of the "Vestival" is to remind people of their heritage and one tent will feature local and regional history.

"It's so important when people in a community know their story, it gives them pride," she said. Monaco asked that anyone, especially older local people, get in touch with her and take part.

You can get more information about Vestal and the festival on the internet at [candoromarble.org](http://candoromarble.org).

“,”

KNOXVILLE MAYOR  
MADELINE ROGERO

"My husband Gene and I love living in South Knoxville, because it's truly a special place," Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero told *The Focus*. "It's got



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Mayor Burchett took a day to visit several South Knoxville businesses such as Allen Sign Company (above) January 2012 to find out how business was affected by the Henley Street Bridge closure.

great neighborhoods with lots of tree canopy and strong neighborhood organizations. The scenic beauty is remarkable."

"The recreational assets are outstanding, and they're getting continually better. Our growing Urban Wilderness has achieved national recognition as an outdoor recreation destination, and it's a key economic development asset - not just for our city, but for the region and state," Mayor Rogero said.

The Mayor added that there will be a lot of excitement in South Knoxville in 2014 due to carefully planned City projects starting to take shape - with "a lot of dirt being moved," as she puts it. For example, the City's new Suttree Landing Park

and Waterfront Drive will be underway on Knoxville's South Waterfront, and a redesigned entrance to Fort Dickerson Park on Chapman Highway will be built that will enhance functionality, safety and aesthetics.

But the biggest dirt moving of all will be the long-term redevelopment of the former Baptist Hospital site by private developers. Blanchard & Calhoun Commercial Corp. is proposing to roll out a mix of luxury apartments, student apartments, a hotel and retail and office space - an investment of some \$165 million along the South Waterfront, according to Rogero.

"It will be exciting to watch as the transformation of the waterfront

unfolds," Mayor Rogero says.

KNOX COUNTY  
MAYOR TIM  
BURCHETT

"South Knoxville is an important part of the Knox County economy, and I'm happy to see increased traffic at businesses along Chapman Highway now that the Henley Street bridge is partially reopened. During the closure, I and my staff focused on organizing cash mobs to raise awareness and increase traffic to businesses affected by the bridge closure. We even put together a successful two-day festival, SouthFest, which focused entirely on drawing families

from across Knox County to South Knoxville," he said.

"These efforts helped keep traffic moving through South Knoxville during the past few years. Since then, we've continued to focus on supporting locally-owned companies by targeting businesses and restaurants county-wide, not just south of the river. If Knox County residents make a point to support locally-owned businesses, we all benefit, no matter where you live or work. Small businesses have always been, and continue to be, the backbone of our economy, and it's important that we all continue to support them any time we can," Mayor Burchett concluded.

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

## Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Estes Kefauver had quite nearly managed the impossible by getting himself elected to the United States Senate in 1948. Kefauver took advantage of E. H. Crump's mistake in refusing to back Senator Tom Stewart for reelection.

The state of the national Democratic Party that year was divided beyond all hope. President Harry Truman had been opposed by many Democrats for renomination and virtually nobody believed he could win the general election. Florida U. S. Senator Claude Pepper urged fellow Democrats to reject Truman and draft General Dwight D. Eisenhower as the nominee. Truman did receive the Democratic presidential nomination, but unhappy Southern Democrats bolted the convention.

Southern Democrats, bitter about the civil rights plank adopted at the convention, rallied around South Carolina Governor Strom Thurmond. The far left of the Democratic Party was already supporting the presidential candidacy of yet another candidate, former Vice President Henry A. Wallace who was the nominee of the Progressive Party. Harry Truman would have to face not only the Republican candidate, New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey, but also Strom Thurmond and Henry Wallace in the general election.

In Tennessee, Henry Wallace would not be a factor, but E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County machine, was preparing to compound his previous political mistakes. Once having been notorious for not only allowing black folks to vote inside Democratic primaries, but actually encouraging them to do so, Crump was preparing to support the 'Dixiecrats'. For years, the Shelby County organization had extended government services to the black community and the machine paid the poll taxes for those African-Americans who wished to vote. Of course they were expected to vote the Crump ticket and they did.

Crump, a millionaire businessman, liked the way things were and felt threatened by the civil rights plank in the Democratic Party platform. E. H. Crump was not interested in changing the fundamentals of the Southern way of life. The Memphis Boss announced he would support Strom Thurmond and the Dixiecrats.

Tennessee Republicans believed the split in the Democratic Party might well pay dividends for them and they nominated

serious candidates for both governor and the United States Senate. Legendary country music star Roy Acuff was the GOP nominee for governor and B. Carroll Reece was the nominee for the Senate.

Reece had been the Congressman from Tennessee's highly Republican First District off and on since 1922. In 1946, Reece retired from Congress as he had been elected as Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Reece presided over the election that returned Republicans to power, albeit briefly. The GOP took control of both houses of Congress in 1946 with a slogan that resonated with voters weary of sacrifice and deprivations relating to the recent world war, "Had Enough?"

Reece was quite wealthy and began touring the state in a shiny new Cadillac, leaving his campaign advisers horrified. They quickly changed vehicles to give Reece the appearance of a man of the people.

Tennessee Democrats were nervous, not only because the party was divided, but Roy Acuff was drawing enormous crowds. The gubernatorial candidate and his Smoky Mountain boys would entertain the audiences with music while Carroll Reece usually made the speeches. Reece, like Crump in the recent Democratic primary, charged that Congressman Kefauver was too sympathetic to Communism. Kefauver hit back that Reece, who had served in Congress for twenty-six years, had never given the Tennessee Valley Authority the support it deserved; in fact, Kefauver told Tennesseans, Reece had been opposed to the TVA.

Some believed that Crump might be induced to support the Republican ticket, such as the Memphis Boss's antipathy for Gordon Browning and Estes Kefauver. Crump's personal friend and political partner, Senator K. D. McKellar, had already endorsed the Democratic ticket, including President Truman, as well as Browning and Kefauver. McKellar was a loyal Democrat and refused to budge regardless of what Crump himself did. McKellar even made a personal financial contribution to the state campaign fund. Senator McKellar also raised some \$30,000 for the Democratic campaign.

E. H. Crump never gave the Republicans any help in the general election and 1948 proved to be a terrible year for Republicans. Harry Truman beat Thomas E. Dewey and



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Sen. Estes Kefauver & Silliman Evans, 1952

the Republicans lost control of the Congress. The Republican ticket fared no better in Tennessee. Estes Kefauver defeated Carroll Reece for the United States Senate by almost two hundred thousand votes. Gordon Browning returned to the governor's mansion after beating Roy Acuff by a margin of two to one.

The biggest loser in the 1948 was E. H. Crump who had lost not only both the gubernatorial and senatorial elections, but had alienated himself from the national Democratic Party by backing the Dixiecrats. Crump's only tie to the national party was his old friend McKellar. Of course Crump still ruled in Memphis and Shelby County. Hopeful opponents, thinking Crump's power and influence had seriously diminished, fielded a slate of candidates against the Crump ticket in the next election. To their surprise, the Crump ticket won easily.

Estes Kefauver had not yet taken the oath of office before running afoul of his powerful senior colleague, Senator Kenneth D. McKellar. McKellar had been dining at the elegant Mayflower Hotel, where he lived while in Washington. Evidently one of Kefauver's supporters and friends approached the old senator and suggested that he and Kefauver would take care of some of the political patronage, if McKellar didn't mind. McKellar *did* mind and the famous McKellar temper erupted. The gentlemen left in quick retreat and Senator McKellar sent a blistering seven-page letter to Kefauver accusing the Congressman of dishonesty. McKellar pointed out Kefauver had assured him that the Congressman wanted to "cooperate" with him. Senator McKellar sarcastically noted that Kefauver's idea of cooperation was to do all the operating and leave the "co" to McKellar.

McKellar also likely embarrassed Kefauver by noting that the Congressman had campaigned in the general election without supporting the candidacy of Harry Truman and had anticipated Truman's defeat by having recommended a Republican for an important federal appointment.

Kefauver, apparently sensing trouble with the irascible McKellar, had sent word that he wished to come by McKellar's office and the old senator closed his letter saying he was still welcome to come. McKellar, once retired from the Senate, related the spat with Kefauver and claimed to have chased the surprised Kefauver out of his office while brandishing his cane. It was certainly in character for the old senator.

Evidently Kefauver somehow managed to placate McKellar, if only briefly, as McKellar observed Senate decorum and escorted his new colleague down the aisle to be sworn into office. Kefauver was the eighth senator from Tennessee to serve with K. D. McKellar.

The personal relations between the two men did not remain cordial for long. The two constantly bickered over patronage and McKellar was infuriated by one of the few instances when Kefauver got his way. McKellar was backing the reappointment of Reed Sharp as U. S. Marshal for Middle Tennessee, while Kefauver supported another individual. Kefauver claimed Sharp had supported Strom Thurmond and the Dixiecrats, which was apparently enough for Harry Truman to refuse to reappoint him.

Kefauver also managed to thwart McKellar's desire to give former senator Tom Stewart a plum in the form of an appointment as attorney for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in Nashville. Senator Kefauver wasn't keen on giving any kind of

position to his former opponent and the appointment never came through.

McKellar demonstrated his power inside the Senate when the two disagreed over judgeships in Tennessee. McKellar had introduced a bill to provide Tennessee with a fourth federal judge. Kefauver wanted the new judge to be a "roving" judge and hear cases in different parts of the state, a notion which displeased McKellar. Despite being a member of the Senate's Judiciary Committee, Kefauver found himself routed by McKellar, who took the dispute to the floor of the United States Senate.

Although aging and increasingly more often ill, Senator McKellar had lost none of his shrewdness in managing a bill inside the Senate and his disdain for his younger colleague was plain for all to see.

According to Kefauver's biographer, Charles Fontenay, Kefauver's Administrative Assistant, Charles Neese, believed the dislike of Senator McKellar helped to isolate Estes Kefauver in the Senate. Kefauver would never be personally popular with his colleagues; quite to the contrary in fact. Kefauver's reputation as a loner and a maverick was, according to Neese, largely due to the dislike of the powerful McKellar during the four years of two served together.

The Southerners were especially powerful inside the United States Senate and most of the powerful committee chairmanships were held by Southerners. Southern senators tended

to be reelected by their respective states and in a body where seniority brought increased power and influence, the Southerners occupied positions of real power. By and large, Estes Kefauver was detested by his fellow Southern senators.

Having the luxury of running once every six-years rather than every two-years as he had to do while in the House of Representatives, Kefauver invested in a home for his family. New Mexico senator Carl A. Hatch (author of the famous Hatch Act) was returning home after having retired to accept a federal judgeship and Kefauver bought the Hatch house. It was a comfortable home, one which the Kefauver children enjoyed tremendously. The Kefauver household was an informal one and the Kefauver children's friends came and went as they pleased, which apparently never bothered either senator or Mrs. Kefauver. The house was chock full of happy children and pets.

The Kefauvers enjoyed a pleasant life in the nation's Capitol and Estes bought himself a new Packard sedan, although he rarely ever drove himself, save for when he led family excursions. The senator also bought his wife Nancy a sporty new Studebaker convertible.

Life in Washington was good for Estes Kefauver and his family.

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# Dal Gene

Dal Gene ...that's what everyone called him from birth until sometime after he went away to college. Then he became Dallas or Dal, and the "Gene" disappeared. Even at the young age of seventeen, he was older and much wiser than this years.

According to our parents, this first-born child was almost perfect. He rarely cried; he played by himself happily; he was polite to all. His life was almost perfect...at least until his twin brothers arrived. Then havoc poured into the household. Quiet was replaced with racket and raucous play by two boys who were so rowdy that their parents fenced them in the front yard as one would do dogs. Through it all, Dal Gene remained the perfect child.

Little did our parents know that nothing gave the eldest child



By Joe Rector  
joerector@comcast.net

more pleasure than tormenting Jim and me. He'd grab our teddy bears and pummel them while we wailed. When we refused to make him sandwiches or complete his chores, he'd wait until our parents left home for a while and then threaten to leave home for good. He walked to the woods at the edge of the yard and stood until cries and capitulation from us floated to him. Then he'd come back and be served like a king.

One of his demands was that Jim and I take the blame for things that occurred around the house. On one occasion, he pushed me onto a bed, and the frame collapsed. He begged until I agreed to take the blame for the accident.

Our dad died August 31, 1965, at the age of 53. The family moved numbly through the visitation, funeral, and burial and then

went back at to life. Suddenly, the man whom we loved, respected, and feared wasn't there. The emptiness gnawed at all of our hearts. It was worse for Mother. She now took sole responsibility to rearing three boys on a teacher's salary.

That's when Dal Gene stepped up. He was then a senior in high school. In helping Mother, our big brother began persuading, then cajoling, and finally shaming us into doing the things that were right. Jim and I rebelled at times, but when he left for college, the emptiness returned.

Jim and I began our freshman year in high school, and with it came all sorts of changes. Most of them involved the normal temptations associated with adolescence. We began smoking to fit in with older guys, and we downed our first alcohol. Dal chastised and reminded us about the trouble we'd be in if Mother discovered our participation in these activities.

"Daddy Dal" mailed scathing letters to us younger brothers when Mother talked about the difficulties she encountered with us. He especially chewed our butts for being disrespectful to her and for failing to help around the house. Again, we straightened up for a time because we didn't want to let him down.

Dal's fathering didn't end after our high school years. We all attended Tennessee Tech University, and there he rode herd on us concerning our grades and behavior. Sometimes the blues would envelope me, and I always knew I could go to Dal for advice and for answers, even if they weren't necessarily the ones I wanted to hear. He and his wife Brenda took us under their wings and helped us through the gate from youth to adulthood.

Even after Jim and I married and began our families, we looked to Dal for advice. He'd walk us through problems until we could see the paths to follow. At other

times, we'd call just to talk about music or to share jokes. Over the years, we'd become good friends and close brothers.

Dal died in 2003; he lived only a few weeks past his 54 birthday. By then, our kids had grown up, and we were on the edge of 50 ourselves. The loss was devastating. Not only did we lose a brother but we also lost a surrogate father. Dal had become a different kind of father by then as he and Brenda had taken in four nephews and nieces and had become their parents. Their pain over his death might have been deeper for them, but I'm not sure how.

What I know is that my brother died too early. He'd had been a father for 38 years of his life and missed out on just being young. I'd like to have the chance to say thanks to him for all he did.



## From State Representative Harry Brooks

I hope everybody stayed safe, warm and fed during the snowfall last week. It seems as Nashville is the only place in Tennessee to not receive any snow.

That means we were able to stay busy here at the Capitol and continue working on legislation.

The bill regarding the sale of wine in grocery stores will be voted on by the House of Representatives General Assembly on February 20. This has been generating a lot of headlines, and I wanted to remind you all that the passage of this bill would lead to a local referendum. Each community would have the opportunity to hold a vote to decide if they wish to have wine sold in their local grocery stores. It would not create a state law mandating such sales.

We've been working very hard in our committees this year. There are more

bills being processed and worked on than in recent years. Committees are expected to finish their work on legislation by the end of March, giving us enough time in the General Assembly to discuss the bills and vote.

I mentioned a few weeks ago that bills go through the process of amending throughout its lifespan. It is rare to find a bill that contains the exact same language when it goes to vote that it had when it was introduced.

### Advanced placement courses

Another issue I wanted to address is advanced placement classes in high

schools. There is a pilot program in many Knox County high schools that would pay for any test costs associated with that AP course.

I requested a local community education foundation fund, as well as state funds, to assist in paying for these tests, which are available at Halls High School, Gibbs High School, Carter High School, Karns High School and South-Doyle High School. I encourage parents and students to look into AP courses when choosing classes next year.

### School bus bill update

Two weeks ago I mentioned that the bill

regarding school bus lifespans passed through the Senate Education Committee and would be seen by the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee.

The House version of that bill is scheduled to be seen by the House Transportation Subcommittee on February 19.

There are two other bills with similar language assigned to various committees throughout the Senate and the House. The sponsors of each of these bills are working with Representative Kelly Keisling and Senator Janice Bowling to have a single bill that will be discussed and voted on by

each committee.

This is an example of how thousands of proposed pieces of legislation can be dwindled down by the time voting in the General Assembly begins.

I am excited about having the opportunity to serve the people of Tennessee and especially those of the 19th District. Please let me know how I, or my office, can be of service to you. I can be reached at my Nashville office at 615-741-6879 or rep.harry.brooks@capitol.tn.gov. It is an honor to be your representative.

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PHOTO BY KARA MCKAMEY

Devin Smith, Grace Christian Academy quarterback, looks for a receiver in a TSSAA playoff win over Oneida this past season. Smith is a member of the UT football program's Class of 2014 as a preferred walk-on.

# Grace Christian QB calls Tennessee's offer 'awesome'

By Steve Williams

What more could Devin Smith ask?

As a "preferred walk-on," the Grace Christian Academy standout is going to get the chance to be the starting quarterback at the University of Tennessee!

Sure, it's a long shot, a dream many boys in this area have had.

But Smith has his foot in the door at Neyland Stadium, so to speak. Just think how many others would like to be in his shoes.

Being a preferred walk-on in the Vols' Class of 2014, explained Smith in an interview via e-mail, means he gets everything the scholarship signees receive except yearly tuition. In time, he also will have an opportunity to earn that.

A lot of things, pointed out Smith, led to him taking the preferred walk-on route.

"But the biggest thing that really made my decision was when I met with coach (Butch) Jones, he said that he expects me to come in June 1st and get in the rotation and compete for the starting position at Tennessee. He said he was going to give me the opportunity to do just that. So knowing that they were going to give me a shot was awesome."

"And also growing up in Knoxville and being a UT fan helped my decision as well." Mike Bajakian, Tennessee's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, came to Grace Christian practices and watched Smith throw against a live defense.

The 6-4, 190-pound Smith was a senior captain for Grace last fall. The pro-style quarterback completed 170 of 250 passes for 3,031 yards and 29 touchdowns with seven interceptions in

helping lead Coach Randy McKamey's squad to a 12-1 record. The Rams advanced to the TSSAA Class 2A state semifinals before losing to eventual state champion Trousdale County 34-27.

Smith received offers from Kentucky Christian University, ETSU and Lindsey Wilson College (Ky.).

"One of the biggest reasons I chose to go to UT was the coaching staff," stated Smith. "They treated me so well and I felt welcome. Also, they treat preferred walk-ons the same way they do guys on scholarship, so knowing that I will get all of the world class amenities was great."

Smith, who wants to major in Business Management, will start at UT June 1, working out with the team and attending classes. He said "normal walk-ons" don't start until late August.

Smith will come in as the Vols' No. 5 QB, behind four scholarship quarterbacks. He also is the only quarterback in Tennessee's Class of 2014.

This time last year, Charlie High, Christian Academy of Knoxville's state record-setting quarterback, was a preferred walk-on at UT, but transferred to Tennessee Tech before the start of the 2013 season.

"Yes, I know Charlie," answered Smith. "I didn't get the chance to meet with him and discuss this opportunity."

Heading into college, Smith said he feels like his strengths as a quarterback "are my arm strength and my accuracy. But I could definitely work on my touch passes and deep balls."

Devin's going to get that opportunity, and wearing Orange and White doing it.

What more could he ask?

## You Mad Bro? Local Sports Talk Radio Anger Grows

By Alex Norman

Consistent readers of this column have noticed how much joy I get from local sports talk radio shows. I don't have official confirmation, but at last count I believe that there are approximately 493 local sports talk radio shows that folks can listen to in the Knoxville market.

Former Vols, including Erik Ainge, Jayson Swain and Steven Pearl have their own shows on Tennessee Sports Radio (WVLZ AM). Was Jenis Grindstaff not available? Does Constantin Ritzmann not want to do the morning drive shift?

Established writers like Dave Hooker, Chris Low and John Brice have local sports talk shows as well. Former TV guys like Steve Phillips host shows too, as do local veterans to the sports radio game like Tony Basilio, who has had a show on every radio station in Knoxville over the past two decades. Ok. This is an exaggeration. Only 98% of them.

The local leader is on afternoon drive. John Wilkerson and Jimmy Hyams, aka "John and Jimmy" on Sports Animal 99 (WNML), could just say the word "Fulmer" over and over again for four hours and still get listeners.

There is a wide variety of choices, with just about all of these programs ready, willing and able to talk Tennessee athletics.

There is one other constant... the insanity of the callers.

There's Small Mike... or Cattleman. Or whatever he calls himself these days while getting banned from show after show. There's Titans Bill. There's Coalfield Herman. There's Ricardo. And Josh from Clinton. They have followings as big as some of

**Continue on page 2**

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# Rosser ready to put his ‘stamp’ on Central football

**By Steve Williams**

Bryson Rosser has literally been around the game of football all of his life. His dad was a high school head coach for 28 years.

It was only natural Rosser was eager to accept the Central High post, even though he was the offensive coordinator and head coach in waiting at Hackensack High School (N.J.), his alma mater.

At 30 years old, Rosser got “the itch.” And just like a Bobcat, he scratched it. “Yes, I do believe this was the next step in my career,” said Rosser via e-mail, after he was announced as the Bobcats’ new head coach Feb. 3. “It has been a career goal of mine as a coach and I felt that this was a great opportunity for me to grow and mature in my coaching career. Especially in a place I am familiar with.”

Rosser knows Central football because one of his previous coaching stops was at Oak Ridge, another

District 3-AAA member. Rosser was OR’s offensive coordinator on Scott Blade’s staff.

Prior to going to Oak Ridge, Rosser had been Blade’s offensive coordinator at Nashville Hillsboro when the Burros beat Maryville 10-7 in the 2008 Class 4A state finals.

When Blade left Oak Ridge to take the Independence High job in Thompson’s Station prior to last season, Rosser returned to coach in his New Jersey hometown, where he had been quarterback on two state championship teams, including a No. 7 nationally ranked squad.

Rosser said what intrigues him most about being head coach at Central is “the ability to put my stamp on this program. It is a school that is rich in pride and tradition and I am looking to build on that.

“Central is a school with a great number of student-athletes and anytime you get a chance to

have a positive impact on the lives of young people and a community it really goes with my philosophy of life.”

Rosser, a four-year starter at quarterback at Tennessee State University, will adopt a power running game combined with an up-tempo spread offense that has proven to be very successful at all three programs.

Coach Blade said his former assistant “will make an excellent addition” to Central High. “His knowledge of the game and passion for young people is outstanding. The program will be in good hands under his leadership.”

Blade replaces Joe Hassell, who was not retained after a three-year record of 13-18 and one playoff appearance.

“Coach Rosser is an enthusiastic and innovative football coach with unlimited potential,” said Central principal Jody Goins. “He will work tirelessly to produce a product

that our community will be proud of on the field and off the field.”

J.D. Lambert, Central athletic director, added: “Coach Rosser is known for his ability to develop offensive skills. Having been a part of three state championships as a player and coach, he is a proven winner. He also has the character and passion to lead our players in a positive way on and off the field.”

Central had over 30 applicants for the job, Lambert said.

“My playing experience combined with my coaching career has helped me grow and continue to learn,” said Rosser, whose father, Barry, was a longtime coach of the Eastside High Ghosts in Paterson, N.J.

“Playing quarterback all my life, from elementary through college, has helped me develop in my ‘knowledge of the game.’ Being able to develop offensive skills and



Bryson Rosser

innovate has come from learning as a graduate assistant on a college level and the multiple years as an assistant coach at a number of places. I have had the great opportunity of working under some great coaches in the beginning tenure of my career.”

# West Uses Defense, Tempo to Beat Tigers

**By David Klein**

Overcoming a shaky start and lots of turnovers, the West Rebels used a full court press and pushed the tempo on offense in the second half to speed by the Lenoir City Tigers 57-45 Tuesday at Farragut. West’s Ahmad Shell led the Rebels in scoring with 17 points and was one of three West scorers in double figures at the first round District 4AAA game.

In the first half, both teams were sluggish as they turned the ball over repeatedly. West turned the ball over on its first five possessions. West led after the first quarter by a football score of 7-6 and 18-15 at the end of the first half. Max Bacon led the Rebels with five points

at halftime and would end up with 16.

“We started off slow,” Shell said. “Not too much execution going on offense. We were playing nervous,” he emphasized.

Lenoir City began the second half with a quick 5-0 run, but West would answer with an 8-2 run to draw to four points. The Rebels then took the lead for good 29-27 on a driving layup by Shell.

The Rebels turned a two-point lead at the end of the third quarter into an early 7-point lead in the fourth on the strength of their press. West Coach Chris Kesler said it was defense and a conscious decision to push the tempo that led to the Rebels’ success.

“Halftime, we said look,

we’re going to bring pressure, pick up tempo and see if we can get them sped up, get us sped up,” Kesler said. “I told them, I just need you to play. I anticipated them being tight, but not that tight. Once we got tempo up, jitters would go away, and they would just naturally start playing basketball,” Kesler said.

Lenoir City cut it to four, but the Rebels pushed the lead back up to 10 points on one basket each from their three leading scorers, including senior forward Peyton Lara, who had 11 points.

“He’s that solid centerpiece,” Kesler said of Lara. “When he rebounds and plays defense and gets those buckets, it helps us

out a lot on the perimeter a great deal and helps us be successful.”

West made some free throws in the final minutes and advanced to the second round of the district tournament with the 12 point win. They will play the Farragut Admirals at 6 p.m. on Friday, February 14 in a game postponed from Thursday because of snow.

“The key to beating Farragut will be rebounding, stopping their second chances, getting them to play at our pace,” Shell said.

“They make free throws, so we gotta make sure we stay out of foul trouble, cause once they get to the free throw line, they don’t miss that much,” Lara said.

# Wolves pull upsets, will play for third place

**By Ken Lay**

West Valley Middle School’s boys basketball team endured a long regular season.

The Wolves battled injuries and limped to a 3-10 finish in the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference.

“We couldn’t get everybody clicking,” West Valley coach Chuck Comer said. “We had a lot of injuries and that was really frustrating for us but the kids fought hard.

“It wasn’t until after Christmas until we got everybody together. We lost a lot of close games.”

The Wolves (7-13) were seeded 12<sup>th</sup> in the 14-team James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Basketball Tournament.

It might’ve been easy for West Valley to fold. But as Comer said, his team always fought hard despite injuries to Tanner Corum, Justin Kettrell and Jake Klenck. Klenck pulled a tendon in his leg and later hurt his back.

The tournament provided the Wolves with the opportunity to start anew and West Valley made the most of its second chance.

The Wolves rode a crest of momentum into the semifinals where they battled top seed Northwest (which went 13-0 in the conference and breezed past Powell in the quarterfinals).

West Valley battled valiantly before the Rangers,

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## You Mad Bro? Local Sports Talk Radio Anger Grows

Cont. from page 1

the hosts themselves.

I’ve always thought that sports talk radio is the everyman’s therapy. They can’t complain about their jobs to their boss. They can’t get their families to show them respect. But gosh darn it, they can make a phone call and yell for five minutes complaining about how Vols coach Cuonzo Martin likes to call time-out immediately following a key made basket, killing momentum.

I don’t know when the switch was flipped. Maybe it has always

been there... but more and more, local sports talk radio has become the outlet for the angry.

There are a large percentage of local sports talk radio listeners that never call. There are a large percentage of callers that would like to have a sensible discussion about a topic.

But callers are becoming more and more irrational, and that is dumbing down the Tennessee fan base.

Look no further than calls during a coaching change. The amount of local sports talk radio calls with people believing that Jon Gruden was going to be the next Vols football coach was staggering.

Remember the anger from local sports talk radio callers during Philip Fulmer’s final season? Those were NSFW... and not safe for anyone.

What about the constant screaming during those 12 months following Derek Dooley’s historic loss at Kentucky?

Some local sports talk show hosts did nothing but fan the flames in that situation, either to boost ratings or because of their

allegiance to the University. Personally, I prefer my hosts to at least pretend to be objective. Yelling at callers because they disagree with you isn’t the right way to do radio.

If you were to drop someone into the city that had never been to Knoxville before, and forced them to listen to nothing but local sports talk radio for a day, they’d think it was a city made up entirely of the insane.

So, I am making a plea to the local sports talk radio caller. Before the host welcomes you, take a deep breath... think pleasant thoughts... and calm the heck down.

I’d prefer to hear someone give coherent reasons why they don’t believe Cuonzo Martin is the right coach for the Vols, instead of screaming “We need Bruce!” over and over again.

If the Vols basketball team fails to make the NCAA tournament for the third straight year, the calls for Martin’s firing will increase, and the angry tone in those calls will as well.

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# Carter Hornets are state's top-scoring basketball team

The old saying in sports about "offense sells tickets and defense wins championships" comes to mind when considering what Carter High School's boys basketball team has done on the court this season.



By Steve Williams

The Hornets, under new coach Joby Boydstone, didn't win the District 3-AA regular season championship, but they averaged 92.3 points per game, which just might make them the highest scoring team in Knoxville prep basketball history.

"Their scoring average is No. 1 in the state and No. 2 in the nation among schools reporting to Max-Preps, which is about all of them," team statistician Raymond Wynn said Friday.

Carter, which was scheduled to play homestanding Union County in an elimination game this past Saturday night, scored 100 or more points nine times in the regular season. But sometimes hitting the century mark wasn't enough. The Hornets actually were 6-3 in games when they scored 100 or more points.

Overall, Carter was 19-7 overall in regular season play and finished 6-4 in the district. Win or lose, the Hornets have been exciting all season, and an attraction.

"I've noticed an increase in the turnout of fans at home and on the road this season," said Wynn, a longtime Carter supporter. "They've come to check it out. We all want to be entertained."

In their highest scoring output of the season, Carter defeated Gatlinburg-



PHOTO BY DANIEL NEEDHAM

**Carter High's Jordan Bowden slams the ball through the net for two of his game-high 19 points in the Hornets' 85-74 win over Union County on Feb. 7. Carter averaged 92.3 points per game in the regular season -- tops in the state!**

Pittman 114-90 on Feb. 4.

Only three times this season have the Hornets scored under 80 points.

In 26 games, Carter scored 2,400 points and allowed 2,032 points.

Boydstone brought his fast-paced style of play from Georgia. "Disciplined chaos" is what he calls it.

"His offensive style is very energetic," said Tucker Greene after the Hornets pulled out a 85-74 win over Union County at home on Feb. 7. "If you don't run, you don't play. Every time down the court. You've got to keep running and running. If you stop running, he'll get you out to get your breath and get some new legs in."

"It's been real effective, because we're all fast. Many of us played football, so we work on our speed every practice throughout the year. So when you run in basketball and run in football, it just carries over. You're doing the same thing you did in the last sport."

"The transition wasn't hard at all, because in

football you're running sprints and in basketball you're running a new thing called system, which is kind of the same thing."

Greene is joined by footballers Hank Black, Charles Mitchell and Toy 'Shawn Winton on the basketball team.

Jordan Bowden and Blake Dutton join Mitchell, Black and Greene in the Hornets' starting lineup.

"I think we can go far," said Greene, who helped lead Carter to a 9-1 record in football last fall. "Tonight we didn't have our best game, but we still came out with a W. When we put things together like we have before, nobody can beat us. Our goal is MTSU."

That's the site of the TSSAA state tournament.

District tourney action finishes up this week and then it will be on to the regionals and Sub-State play.

If you're a prep basketball fan, and the Hornets are still in the running, they would be worth checking out, if you haven't already.

## Gilley to play soccer at Pfeiffer University

**Cont. from page 3**

Gilley also noted that Pfeiffer boasts women's soccer program that's on the rise.

"The [women's] soccer team won the Carolinas Conference last season and is on their way to building a very good program," she said. "Elijah Denton is the head coach and his

team is where I want to be."

She also noted that her future teammates played a role in her decision.

"All the girls made me feel right at home and they made me feel like they wanted me to be there," Gilley said.

She also said that she found the campus and the

soccer facilities aesthetically pleasing.

"I will never forget how I was practicing at the Open Event and during the scrimmage, as I was looking around the field and the scenery, I knew then and there, that Pfeiffer University is where I was meant to be," she said.

## Wolves pull upsets, will play for third place

**Cont. from page 2**

who had a first-round bye, pulled away over the final six minutes and recorded a 42-23 victory.

Northwest, which out-scored the Wolves 25-11 after halftime, used a 16-7 fourth-quarter run to put West Valley away.

"The kids played hard," Comer said. "They're a great team and they're just so explosive."

"You can be down by two or four points and then they make steals and hit layups and you look up and you're down by 10 or 12."

The loss was far from devastating for West Valley, which will play Carter Tuesday in the third-place game of the tourney Tuesday at

5:45 p.m. at Karns Middle School's Thomas L. Duff Memorial Gymnasium.

While the Cinderella story won't result in a tournament title and thus not have the happiest of possible endings, Comer said he was pleased with the way that his squad seized its second chance.

"I think these guys wanted to come in here and show some people a few things," Comer said. "I think they wanted to show people that they could play."

Well, West Valley certainly proved its point.

The Wolves opened the tournament Feb. 7 with a narrow 53-52 road win over Holston, the tournament's fifth seed as Cam Whaley,

an all-county standout, and Drew Pember each scored 13 points. Colten Tyler added 10 points to help the Wolves eliminate the Hurricanes in East Knoxville.

The win at Holston set up a meeting with fourth-seeded Halls at Karns on Saturday, Feb. 8 in the quarterfinals.

The Wolves were ready for the Demons and used a 52-42 win to advance to the semifinals.

There, Whaley and Dakota McGowan both scored 10 points to lead the Wolves to another upset win.

"In [the games against Holston and Halls], we played well together," Comer said.

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## Inequality

When I started my sab-batical a friend advised me to be careful and not pro-voke my wife. I assured her that a married man north of sixty knows the rules. Becky and I have a successful marriage and the key aspect is equal-ity strengthened by the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 4:12. Though I was the bread winner, she man-aged our home, and both of these roles contributed equally to the success of our family.

You may find it strange, but I like to go to the gro-cery store; Becky encourag-es this quirk because she does not. In one sense I find this strange because in general women like to shop – men just buy. This was recently demonstrat-ed when I was sent to the grocery to buy a certain parmesan cheese that was on sale. When Becky was returning the full price cheese, she explained

to the young man at the Kroger’s Customer Service desk, “My sweet husband is recently retired and I sent him for...” As I sheepishly looked on I saw the clerk nod with understanding as he interrupted my wife and said, “Give it to me.” On behalf of all husbands I later thanked him.

As a conservative and Constitutionalist I believe in equal opportunity under law. However, inequality is a reality of this universe. I needn’t whine about not being a great football player like Peyton Manning or not having the same measure of grace as my wife.

The acme of Enlighten-ment thought was cap-tured in our Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson. His noble words hold “these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” Jefferson went on to say that we are all “endowed by their Creator

with certain unalienable Rights,” and to secure life, liberty and happiness, “Governments are insti-tuted among Men.” The Founders established for us a representative repub-lic predicated on the rule of law that mandates we all be treated equally under the Constitution, our operat-ing agreement of civil order. This does imply equal out-comes.

In 2008 United States Senator and Presidential candidate Barack Hus-sein Obama stated that he taught Constitutional law for ten years and he prom-ised he would not use Exec-utive orders of the Presiden-cy like George Bush. At his inauguration Obama swore (twice) to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitu-tion of the United States.” Truthfulness appears to be a problem with this pres-ident, and his exercise of an “imperial presidency” even disturbs liberal Con-stitutional Law professors like Jonathan Turley. The professor is mystified why the media and Democrats don’t join Republicans and conservatives in opposing this “dangerous” shift in power of the Obama pres-idency. He accuses the people of being “enablers” of Obama’s assault on the Constitution. Pro-fessor, seventy-four per-cent of Americans oppose Obama’s usurpation of power through Executive

Orders. Mark Levin and many others have shouted the warnings for years. The mantra, “I hope he (his poli-cies) fails” has been around since January 2009. In this late hour the professor cries out to Congressional Democrats to reassert Leg-islative power and restore Constitutional balance.

Actually, Congressional conservatives have tried to rein in the profligate spend-ing of Obama and the Dem-ocrats, and were pilloried. Senator Rand Paul is also trying to restrain Obama by suing him over the NSA brouhaha. Don’t hold your breath for any speedy redress. The last option is impeachment, but the cry of racist would ensue. We’ve seen that opposition to the One is labeled as big-otry not policy.

Some years ago I wrote about the novel “Atlas Shrugged” by Ayn Rand. I see innumerable parallels between that dystopian vision and our own reality. Even our politics (the busi-ness of the people) is col-ored by Orwellian speech. Obama’s presidential parrot...er, spokesman, along with Nancy Pelosi and the New York Times, now tell us that not work-ing is “liberating.” They say that when men are freed from working at jobs they don’t like to buy health-care or food they can then pursue artistic endeavors or be home with the kids

since Obama-care and the welfare state supply a safety net. It’s wonderful that those who work will pay for food stamps, unem-ployment, and healthcare subsidies of those who don’t. How wonderful that Obama raised the minimum wage of government con-tract workers by Executive Order. Those mean com-panies will now have to pay their workers more. Never mind that the cost will be passed along to those who still work and pay taxes.

Again in this election year we hear the Democrat feel-ing-based cry for raising the minimum wage. Factually, only 1.2% of those who still work do so for the minimum wage, which was designed as entry level pay for those without skills. The expec-tation is that by learning skills, being reliable and working hard, wages will rise to retain the worker as a valuable employee. Experts agree that rais-ing the national minimum wage will have no meas-urable effect on the economy. However, as a hypothet-ical exercise let’s raise the wage of McDonald workers to \$20 an hour. Will you be willing to pay \$10 for a Big Mac so that the burger chef has more? There is a price for everything and the market is a better way to assign value than our erstwhile President who has never run a lemon-ade stand and promotes

inequality and class war-fare at every opportunity.

Let’s conclude with the biggest issue of our day: Obama-care. Some have argued that we voted for government healthcare, twice. The problem is it’s more expensive, more restrictive and, according to the CBO (Congressio-nal Budget Office), it will cost America another 2.3 million jobs and still leave thirty million uninsured. Is there equality under law when Obama can decide every morning who must comply with his law and who doesn’t?

Hillary Clinton and Obama call themselves “modern progressives.” The major news media call them-selves journalists. They are largely to blame for not reporting Obama’s policies without their progressive bias. However, equally cul-pable are many Americans who seem more interested in reality TV and their plea-sures than civic virtue.

These choices have been made before. In 100AD Tacitus said of his fellow Roman citizens, “They have surrendered their rights to live as free men.”

Pogo said it best, “We have met the enemy and he is us.”

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

# UT Medical Center offers heart healthy programs

## Healthy Living Kitchen Offers Free Cooking Class

Find out the important facts and figures about your personal car-diovascular and pulmonary health at The University of Tennessee Medical Center’s HeartWise event scheduled for Saturday, February 22, 7:30 a.m. – noon in the medi-cal center’s Heart Lung Vascular Institute. At HeartWise, UT Medi-cal Center physicians, nurses and other health professionals will offer several free or discounted health screenings and health edu-cation talks related to heart, lung and vascular disease.

The health education programs at Heart Wise are open to all. Those age 50 and older, or with a family history of heart disease are encouraged to participate in the health screenings offered during the event. The screenings include:

- Comprehensivecardiovascular

risk assessment, including cho-lesterol/glucose testing, carotid and AAA ultrasound evaluation and EKG. Cost is \$30. Fasting is required for this screening.

- COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) screening. Free screening.

The free health education pro-grams being offered include the following:

- Eating Healthy, the Mediter-ranean Way
- Healthy Living Kitchen free cooking demonstrations

The medical center will offer free parking that day for those coming to the Heart Wise event. For more information about Heart Wise, visit online at [www.utmed-icalcenter.org](http://www.utmed-icalcenter.org). or to schedule a screening or reserve a seat for the cooking class, call 865-305-6970.

The Healthy Living Kitchen team will offer a free cooking class in conjunction with Heart-Wise, a comprehensive com-munity wellness fair, on Satur-day, February 22 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at UT Medical Cen-ter’s Heart Lung Vascular Insti-tute. An educational program on the Mediterranean diet, fol-lowed by the free cooking class will teach individuals how to incorporate simple, delicious recipes into every day meals. Both are free, but registration is required.

Research has shown that the traditional Mediterranean diet

reduces the risk of heart dis-ease. An analysis of more than 1.5 million healthy adults dem-onstrated that following a Med-iterranean diet was associat-ed with a reduced risk of death from heart disease and cancer, as well as a reduced incidence of Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases.

“Eating a Mediterranean diet can help promote health and help prevent disease,” said Jane Kelly, RN, CWPC, nurse specialist and lifestyle coun-selor with the Healthy Living Kitchen team. “This diet is one your whole family can enjoy and

follow for good health.”

HeartWise is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. until noon on Febru-ary 22 and will be held in the Heart Lung Vascular Institute at UT Medical Center. In addition to the cooking class and the program on the Mediterranean diet, the event will offer a com-prehensive cardiovascular risk assessment (\$30), a free COPD Pulmonary screening, and other educational programs.

For more information on HeartWise, or to schedule a screening or reserve a seat for the cooking class, call 865-305-6970.

## Five Medication-Free Strategies to Help Prevent Heart Disease



Featured Speaker  
Rachel Bowman, M.D.

While heart disease may be one of the leading causes of death, that doesn’t mean you can’t take steps now to help reduce your risk. Although you can’t control all of your risk factors, like family history, there are some key heart disease prevention steps that you can take. Join Dr. Bowman as she presents five strategies to preventing heart disease.

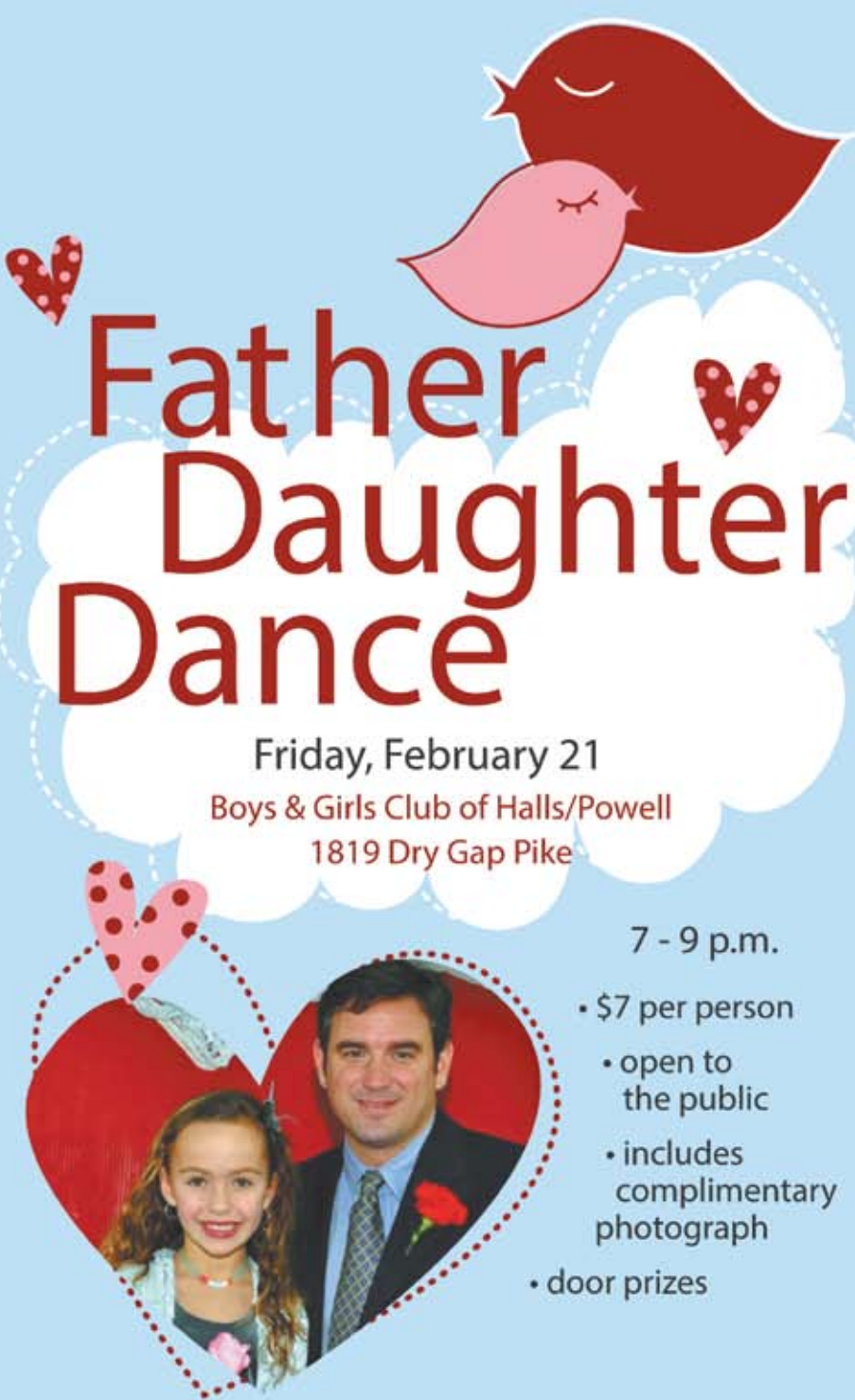
**Tuesday, February 25**  
**Noon**  
**Turkey Creek Medical Center**  
**Johnson Conference Center**  
10820 Parkside Drive

Lunch included. Space is limited.  
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Tennova.com  
1-855-836-6682  
Member of the medical staff






# Father Daughter Dance

Friday, February 21  
Boys & Girls Club of Halls/Powell  
1819 Dry Gap Pike

7 - 9 p.m.

- \$7 per person
- open to the public
- includes complimentary photograph
- door prizes

All proceeds benefit



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF HALLS/POWELL

For information and in the event of bad weather conditions,  
Contact 865.232.1218 or visit [bgctnv.org/fatherdaughter](http://bgctnv.org/fatherdaughter)

# Faith

## Heart Health

If you have a history of heart problems, you will likely have an arteriogram. It would be good if all people took a spiritual arteriogram to discover your heart health. So for a few moments, I invite you to let dye flow through your bloodstream to help locate some blockages in your spiritual health.

In order to go through this procedure, let me offer a few questions for your consideration. The first question: "What in your life disappoints you?" When we face major disappointment, it may be revealing something in our life that is more important than God.

The second question: "What do you find yourself often complaining about?" Ask someone close to you about your usual complaints, because often we do not even know what we complain about. For example, if you often complain about a lack of respect at work, perhaps what others think of you is more important than what it should



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

be. What you complain about reveals what is important to you. The third question: "What are you spending your money on?" Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21). Look at your receipts and find out what is most important to you. Obviously there are needs of food, shelter, and clothing, but beyond these how do you spend your money and how much are you giving toward the work of the Kingdom of God?

The fourth question: "What do you worry about?" Sometimes we care about something or someone so intensely that it captures our heart. We fear losing this and it robs our sleep and peace. If this is the case, this is taking the place of God.

The fifth question: "Where do you go for comfort?" Do you turn to comfort food, a six pack, pornography, video games, pain killers, or to God? It is not a matter of whether

life will fall in around you but when. And when the ceiling drops in, where will you turn? Difficulties of life are opportunities for us to lean on the Lord.

The sixth question: "What makes you mad?" If you can't stand losing, perhaps your idol is being the best all the time. When you are cut off by a crazy driver, how is it that person can suddenly rule your emotions? A quick temper reveals what is important to you.

The final question: "Where does your imagination take you?" Our dreams tell much about what we think about. Why do you think about these things? Is your desire to glorify God with your life or for others to glorify you?

Hopefully this heart check will help you identify possible problem areas that you need to surrender to the Lord. Let God be your source of strength and hope.

(Questions posed by Kyle Idleman in "Gods at War," pages 37-40).

## HALLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Corner of Hill Road and Fort Sumter Road  
922-4210 • [www.hallschristian.net](http://www.hallschristian.net)

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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# MARCH 1, 2014

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856-546-0001

Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Youth

7:00 p.m.

Bus Ministry -

For transportation call 546-0001.

### Seymour United Methodist

The Boy Scouts will host a pancake breakfast and pinewood derby competition on Friday, Feb 21st, at 5 p.m., continuing at 5AM on Saturday, Feb 22nd, in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Tom or Becky Moak for further information.

Next Sunday, Feb. 23rd, there is a Finance Team meeting scheduled for 12:15 p.m.

For further information about the church and events, visit [www.seymourumc.org](http://www.seymourumc.org).



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# House to Home

## A 'Staycation' at Blount Mansion

We've had a weird winter and it seems it is ice and snow every other week with very little sun and warmth in between. It's a good time to take a day away from the house and get downtown to visit some of the city's by-gone days. There are lots of things to do and much to see, so gather up the family and get downtown on a weekend when the parking is free and so are many of the sites.

The winter has also been an odd time at the historic Blount Mansion, with the estate closed since September for renovation. It looks like it will be reopening soon and the staff has been busy during the closing.

Katie Stringer, Director,

### A Day Away



By Mike Steely

much needed to the 222-year-old house, which may be the oldest frame house in Tennessee. It shares that claim with the John Carter Manson in Elizabethton. The Blount home was built in 1792 and the Carter house was built between 1775 and 1800.

Hearnes told The Focus that improvements, which are about 98% completed, include new mechanical and electrical systems, doors, and a new security system. The mansion has also had new underground work to run utilities. He said that previous work

and David Hearnes, Assistant Director, have been watching the renovation work and sorting through items, old correspondence and official records. The current repairs and upgrades were

done to stabilize the building actually did the opposite and severely affected the structure. A timber specialist was consulted and made recommendations on how to best repair the old home.

Stringer says that stage two involves painting, woodworking, repairs and carpentry. She said that Governor Blount's birthday is March 26th, and she hopes the mansion will be open by then and welcoming visitors. Stringer added that the public reopening will take place without the furniture, so that visitors can see the original interior.

The small mansion was built by William Blount, the first and only governor of the Southwest Territory, as his home and seat of government. Blount was appointed Governor of the territory by President George Washington and also acted as Indian Agent, so treaties and talks were held at the home. He was also active in preparing Tennessee

for statehood and, afterwards, served the state in other capacities including as U. S. Senator. Senator Blount was the first senator to face impeachment for dealings with the notorious John Chisholm in an attempt to secure Florida and Louisiana from Spain and deliver it to England. The impeachment was later dismissed.

Over the years several owners and residents have lived there, including Blount's half-brother, Wiley, the Mc Clung Family, and John Mason Boyd. It was visited by many Cherokee Chiefs, Andrew Jackson, John Sevier, Andrew Michaux, and John Chisholm. Another visitor to the house during the Civil War was Bell Boyd, a noted Confederate spy.

The mansion was acquired in 1926 through the efforts of Mary Boise Temple and the Bonnie Kate Daughters of the Revolution. Today it is operated by the Blount Mansion



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

*The Blount Mansion may be reopened soon after much renovation. The mansion's Visitor Center is open every day Tuesday through Friday with a display of mansion furniture and a Civil War exhibit.*

Association. You can help preserve the area's first capitol by becoming a member and contributing and you can even use PayPal at <http://tinyurl.com/BMADonate>.

Although the mansion has been closed, the Visitor's Center is open Tuesday through Friday each week and features an exhibit of furniture from the frontier period and a Civil War exhibit. The Blount Mansion is located downtown at 299 West Hill Street.

You can call for information at 525-2375 or email the director at [Director@blountmansion.org](mailto:Director@blountmansion.org).

While you're there you might want to walk up the hill to the Old Knox County Courthouse and pay your respects to Tennessee's first governor and patriot John Sevier. He and his first and second wife are buried there and, in the walls of the building, are the tombstones from their original graves.

### Standing Tall on the Court (Part VI)

## Life on the farm

He scored over 2,000 points in both his high school and college careers. He became a college All-American and was later named to Carson-Newman's Team of the Century. He played softball for 22 years and was named to the Knoxville Softball Hall of Fame. Despite his achievements in athletics, however, Tommy Everette may best be known these days as a teacher, coach, and principal. After spending 31 years with Knox County Schools, this former school administrator enjoys retirement on his farm in Corryton.

Even while he was with the schools, Tommy spent summers doing farm work. Our father always enjoyed seeing him and his father-in-law, the late Reed McKelvey, going up the road on their tractors headed to a hayfield. Everette has been married to his high school sweetheart, the former Carolyn McKelvey, for 47 years. Carolyn is a Carson-Newman graduate and taught in Knox County Schools for 33 years. She recalls riding on a bus to one of Tommy's All-Star games and holding their two-year-old son on her lap. In front of them sat the legendary Kentucky coach, Adolph Rupp, for whom Rupp Arena is named. What a special moment that was to tell their son about later in life.

Carolyn shared more memories of her years growing up in Corryton. She would ride her bicycle up Boruff Road to McGinnis Grocery on the corner of Boruff and Emory Roads. With the fifty cents her mother had given her, Carolyn bought a loaf of bread, bologna, and a carton of "dopes." "That's what we called them," my mother said when I repeated the comment to her. I had forgotten the word we used



By Ralphine Major  
ralphine3@yahoo.com

for carbonated beverages back then, but I remembered hearing our grandfather call them "dopes," as well. I was intrigued by Carolyn's comment about "dopes" and mentioned it to Coach Bob Dagley.

"That's what we called them," he said. Even the "son of country storekeepers," Perry McGinnis, told me those exact words, too. While "dopes" was a part of our everyday language back then, those refreshing bottles of cold drinks were usually reserved for cookouts or parties.

The Everettes have a son and a daughter who followed in her parents' footsteps and became a teacher and coach. They have one grandson, one granddaughter, and one granddog! Animals are a common sight on their farm; goats, donkeys, and cattle roam the grounds. In retirement, the tables are turned. Instead of Tommy receiving reports, he has to turn in nightly reports on the animals to their granddaughter! Tommy and Carolyn are members of Clapps Chapel United Methodist Church.

Sitting on the wraparound porch overlooking the Everette farm is a perfect place to reflect on where you have been---and enjoy every moment of where you are today. "I would like to thank Coach Dagley for being more than just a coach," Tommy says. "I realize how fortunate we were to have had him as a coach. For me personally, making me focus on life after basketball helped me stay focused after a very successful career in basketball." Those comments speak well for the coach---and the player! (This is No. 25 in the series on the Eagles' incredible season and the closing segment on Tommy Everette. The series will resume in the coming weeks.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Halls Republican Club

The Halls Republican Club will meet on Monday, February 17, 2014. Fellowship and snacks from 6:00-7:00 p.m.; meeting from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club of Halls/Powell, located at 1819 Dry Gap Pike just off of E. Emory Rd. across from Brickley-McCloud Elementary School.

Guest speakers will be Republicans running for various offices in the upcoming election: Greg McMillan, Patty Jane Lay, Ray Jenkins, Billy Stokes, and Kristi Davis. The Judiciary Bench have been invited to come

and will be given an opportunity to speak briefly.

### Healthy Choices class

Healthy Choices, a plant-based FREE cooking class, to help prevent/reverse some cancers, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, will host Melody Prettyman, gourmet chef as seen on 3ABN TV at its next monthly meeting, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 11th in the church fellowship hall at the North Knoxville 7th-Day Adventist

**Continued on page 4**

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<b>READY TO EAT PUDDING</b> <b>\$1.00</b> 4 PACK SNACK TIME Chocolate 10 OZ. ORANGE JUICE .....2/\$1	<b>DECAF HAZELNUT COFFEE</b> <b>\$2.99</b> 12 OZ. COMPARE AT \$3.00 6.5 OZ. FRENCH VANILLA CREAMER .....59c	<b>CHILI</b> <b>\$7.99</b> 106 OZ. STAY WARM 8.5 LB. ASSORTED BREAD BOWLS .....\$3.99



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## Fresh Lemon And Ginger Muffins

2 TBSP coarsely chopped, peeled fresh ginger root  
Zest from 1 or 2 lemons, grated fine  
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, at room temperature  
1 cup granulated sugar  
2 eggs.  
1 tsp baking soda  
1 cup plain yogurt or buttermilk  
2 cups plain flour  
1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice  
2 TBSP granulated sugar

Heat oven to 375°. Grease 12 muffin cups or use foil or paper baking cups. Finely chop the ginger. Finely grate the lemon peel so you have two table-spoons. In a large bowl, beat butter and the 1 cup sugar with a wooden spoon or electric mixer until pale and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Add ginger and lemon peel. Stir baking soda into yogurt or buttermilk; it will start to bubble and rise up. Fold flour into ginger mixture one third at a time, alternating with the yogurt. When well blended, scoop into muffin cups. Bake 18 to 20 minutes, or until lightly browned and springy to the touch.

While muffins bake, mix lemon juice and the 2 TBSP sugar in a small dish. Stir until sugar dissolves. When muffins are baked, remove from oven and let cool 3 to 5 minutes in pan. Remove from pan and dip top into lemon juice and sugar mixture.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cont. from page 3

Church, 6530 Fountain City Road. Participants must pre-register by March 8th to be assured of samples, meal service, and hand-outs. Call Kathy at (865-314-8204) or go online (www.KnoxvilleInStep.com)

to register.

## Inskip Neighborhood Association meeting

The Inskip Neighborhood Association will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. at the Inskip Baptist Church on Rowan Road. The association is discussing items

of concern including traffic, the need for sidewalks, litter pickup and beautification. All Inskip residents are invited to attend. Officer Travis Porter has been assigned as Liaison for the area.

## Board of Trustees meeting

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Richard L. Bean Juvenile Service Center will be at 1 p.m. on February 20, 2014 in the main courtroom of the Carey E. Garrett Juvenile Court Building located at 3323 Division Street.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE:

**Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization - Executive Board Meeting, February 26, 2014.**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, February 26, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Topics to be considered: Resolution to Amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program, CMAQ Update; and other business.

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

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