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Commission listens to teachers

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Who exactly controls discussions at the upcoming County Commission and Board of Education Retreat? This was a question at last week's commission meeting, with some of the commissioners voicing some concern.

"The last retreat was more or less structured by the school administration; I think it should be between the school board and the commission," Commission

Tony Norman said. "We have no information on its structure. Last year's retreat had marginal benefit and I'd like to hear more about it."

Commissioner Mike Brown told the other commissioners that he felt the teacher issues have been controlled by a spin doctor. "We've been spun all around," he said, voicing his opinion on the administration's handling of the Teacher Survey.

Commission Chairman Brad Anders explained that

he and School Board Chair Lynne Fugate will both run the retreat, which will be held at Maryville College on February 7 and 8. He offered the commissioners a summary of what would be discussed, who would be attending, and promised time for "open discussion."

The School Board/County Commission hybrid Joint Education Committee also came up during the discussion on the retreat. The Joint Education Committee is slated to have its final

meeting the day before the retreat begins and Commissioners and Joint Education Committee members Sam McKenzie, Amy Broyles and Mike Hammond agreed that the past meetings were useful and asked that meetings continue, with or without a facilitator.

"If you think it is helping, we will serve," McKenzie told Commission.

"We're making progress and addressing issues head on," Broyles said.

Hammond agreed, saying,

"I think it's useful, we can talk and be frank." He also mentioned that the Teacher Survey will be discussed again at the February retreat and added that he believes that "money and budget" are the main issues contested between the two elected bodies.

Following the discussion about the retreat, the commission went on to other business but reconvened at 4:30 to hear from teachers. Several of the teachers

Continue on page 2

FOCUS Weekly Poll*

Do you support the sale of wine in retail food stores such as convenience stores, grocery stores and big box retailers such as Walmart and Target?

YES 61.42%
NO 38.58%

Survey conducted January 30, 2014.

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

Is 'the thaw' here to stay?



By Bob Becker
Meteorologist

After the past several winters have been so mild, many have been caught off guard by the cold of the past few weeks. First I will say that I am a big believer in patterns in weather. Drought is often followed by flood and extreme warmth can be followed by cold. So this winter has not been that much of a surprise to me.

I do NOT consider myself an expert at all on the topic of Global Warming or lack of it, but I can tell you that the position of the jet stream (a river of air about 20,000 feet above us) guides all our weather systems and greatly determines what type of weather we will see, especially during the winter months. If you follow weather, you will see when the East is cold, the West is normally warm. As a matter of fact, the west has suffered from little rain during what is normally their wet season along with mild weather while the Central and Eastern parts of the United States have seen this cold. Our national snow cover is the lowest it has been since 2006. While we have heard about all the snow and ice in the East and the South, the West has been literally storm-free due to this very persistent pattern that the jet stream has been locked into. This pattern has brought us shot after shot of Arctic Cold. You probably thought we had reached a season low on the morning of January 7, when Knoxville officially hit 2 degrees,

Cont. on page 3

Lady Hawks notch comeback win over West



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Hardin Valley's Brie Carter (32) dribbles past West High's Mini Palay in the Lady Hawks' 75-59 victory over the Lady Rebels last week on Senior Night at HVA. STORY ON C1.

Dr. Harold Middlebrook honored



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Dr. Harold Middlebrook (pictured center with daughter, Arlene Bennett) was recognized by the entire County Commission last week in honor of his retirement.

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Dr. Harold A. Middlebrook retired recently as founder and senior pastor of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ. He moved to Knoxville in 1977 and has been long active in civil rights. He serves as chairman of the Martin Luther King Commission and has won many honors, including the Whitney Young Award.

Tuesday he was honored by the Knox County Commission on a motion from Sam McKenzie and was joined by all the commissioners and his daughter, Arlene Bennett, for a photo.

"I have not died, I'm just retiring from pastoring. I love this community," he

told the meeting. He also led the commissioners and visitors in prayer.

"Don't forget the least, the left-out, and those who seem to be lost. No country is absolutely perfect, but when we work together life can be better," he said.

In his youth, Dr. Middlebrook was active in voter registration and the NAACP. Dr. Middlebrook was present with Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis at the hotel where King was killed. He has served on many national and local organizations and plans to stay active in the community.

Dr. Middlebrook married the Betty Mock and they have three children, two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

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Focus on the Law

State Income Tax

You may have heard that one of the many reasons the Great State of Tennessee is an especially wonderful place in which to live and do business is because it does not have an income tax. This

is not completely accurate. True, there is no tax on earned income such as wages. There is even a proposed amendment to Article II Section 28 of the Constitution of Tennessee to explicitly prohibit the general assembly from levying, authorizing or otherwise permitting any state or local tax upon payroll or earned personal income or any state or local tax which is measured by payroll or earned personal income. This proposed amendment will be on the ballot in the 2014 general election. However, if approved, this amendment will not prohibit any tax in effect on January 1, 2011 or prevent the adjustment of the tax rate of any such tax. This caveat refers to the income tax that we currently have in place in Tennessee:



By Sharon Frankenberg,
Attorney at Law

the Individual Income Tax.

Enacted in 1929, this tax was originally called the Hall income tax after the state senator who sponsored the legislation. The tax

is imposed on individuals and other entities receiving interest from bond and notes and dividends from stock. The tax applies to individuals, partnerships, associations and trusts that are legally domiciled in Tennessee. A person who is legally domiciled in another state but maintains a place of residence in Tennessee for more than six months of the year is also subject to the tax; this does not apply to military personnel and full-time students who are legally domiciled in another state. The income a person receives while legally domiciled in Tennessee is subject to the tax. Some items considered in determining "legal domicile" are: where you are registered to vote, where you maintain your driver's license and where you maintain

your permanent or principal residence (as opposed to a temporary residence like a vacation home).

There are numerous distinctions and examples of what is and is not taxable under this law. Taxable income subject to the Individual Income tax includes dividends from stock in: all corporations, insurance companies not licensed to do business in Tennessee, all holding companies, and state-chartered banks outside Tennessee not doing business in Tennessee. On the other hand, dividends from national banks and Tennessee-chartered banks are considered non-taxable. The individual income tax guidance available on the State Department of Revenue's website should be reviewed very carefully before filing a tax return.

Any person 65 years of age or older having a total annual income below \$33,000 for single filers and \$59,000 for joint filers is exempt from the tax. Total annual income includes income from all sources including social security income. Income from

stocks and bonds of pension trusts and profit-sharing trusts which are exempt from federal income taxation are also exempt from the state income tax. This includes such accounts as IRA and 401(k) accounts. Distributions from IRAs and 401(k) plans are also exempt.

There is an exemption of the first \$1,250 taxable interest and dividend income for single filers and \$2,500 for married couples filing jointly. All taxable dividend and interest income exceeding this exemption is taxed at the rate of 6%. Five-eighths of the income tax revenue collected from the Individual Income tax is deposited into the state's general fund. The remaining three-eighths is distributed to the city or county where the taxpayer resides. You should absolutely consult an attorney or tax advisor for assistance and advice with your individual situation. Sharon Frankenberg is an experienced attorney licensed in Tennessee since 1988. Her office number in Knoxville is (865)539-2100.

Commission listens to teachers

Cont. from page 1

present at Commission had previously addressed the school board and reflected on what the school board has heard several times: teachers continue to be in disagreement with their central office, their principals, and the board of education. Monday's meeting marked the first time that County Commission, who controls the school system's budget, gave teachers a venue to publicly voice their concerns.

Commissioner Norman's

insistence on keeping the item on the agenda as a "teacher revolt" spearheaded the discussion.

"Hang in there, this isn't over, this is just the beginning," Norman told the teachers.

McKenzie asked the law director if the commission could actually discuss school board items on their agenda and received a yes. Basically the commission was told they could discuss items and pass a school budget, but could not tell the school board how to spend

the budget.

Mike Brown said flatly that he would not vote for an increase in a school board budget.

Several teachers described the situation as a moral crisis, a movement, discontent, a revolt, stress, and "just plain wrong." One teacher wondered publically if much of his personal problems are because he tried so hard to achieve a high score. Another said that although his students have very high scores, he has received two letters saying he could be dismissed. Two teachers asked where the grant moneys that Knox County schools had received were spent, one saying "certainly not in my classroom."

At the conclusion of the public forum by teachers, the commissioners made statements.

Brown told the teachers to "Never give up, never give up." He said he had four teachers in his neighborhood who have left teaching in Knox County because of the workload and stress.

Hammond said he understands and mentioned family members who are teachers. He said his daughter, a teacher of eight years, left teaching because of the new system although she doesn't teach in Knox County. "I want to thank you for speaking your mind," he said.

Commissioner R. Larry Smith said, "We're going to take a lot of this to the

retreat."

McKenzie said they will be taking some "hard questions" to the retreat and called the situation "an encouraging dialog." He also said that "no evaluation process is perfect."

Commissioner Jeff Ownby told the teachers, "You are the experts. I'm going to look at the (school) budget closer."

"I commend you for standing up, it was a great risk, please continue doing it," Ownby added.

Brown asked the other commissioners if they had read the 163 comments made by the teachers following the survey and added that the recent announcements of a few changes constitutes "throwing you guys a bone," directing the comment to the teachers in the audience.

"We hear you," added Broyles. "This is a moment when our children are learning from us." She also said she is opposed to excessive testing and was optimistic about the outcome.

Commissioner Richard Briggs said the hard work of the teachers is evident by the improved test scores of the students and pointed to national publications that pointed to Tennessee's improvement.

Norman said that the emotions of the teachers were undeniable. "Who knows what will come of the retreat," he said. "We're just getting started."

FOCUS Weekly Poll

Do you support the sale of wine in retail food stores such as convenience stores, grocery stores and big box retailers such as Walmart and Target?

Yes 61.42%
No 38.58%



By Age	Yes	No	Total
18-29	100.00%	[None]	2
30-49	58.62%	41.38%	58
50-65	65.66%	34.34%	166
65+	58.82%	41.18%	238
Total	61.42% (285)	38.58% (179)	464

By District	Yes	No	Total
1	66.67%	33.33%	33
2	50.88%	49.12%	57
3	69.57%	30.43%	46
4	72.46%	27.54%	69
5	64.62%	35.38%	65
6	47.17%	52.83%	53
7	66.67%	33.33%	39
8	57.41%	42.59%	54
9	58.33%	41.67%	48
Total	61.42% (285)	38.58% (179)	464

By Gender	Yes	No	Total
Unknown	64.71%	35.29%	17
Female	59.15%	40.85%	235
Male	63.68%	36.32%	212
Total	61.42% (285)	38.58% (179)	464

Survey conducted January 30, 2014.

School Board, Commission prepare for Retreat

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Prior to this weekend's retreat between the Knox County Commission and the Knox County Board of Education, the elected education board members are holding two meetings. Today they will meet in a work session at 3 p.m. and then again on Wednesday.

This Thursday, the special Joint Education Committee, made up of appointed members from the commission and BOE, meets for its final official session at 4:30 p.m. in the Andrew Johnson Building with facilitator Dr. Steve Joiner. Joiner's contract is expiring and there's some question as to whether the special committee, formed to iron out disagreements between the commission and BOE, will continue to exist.

On the Joint Committee's agenda is a discussion on the next day's retreat. They will also discuss "possible guidelines to manage future conversations between the Board of Education and the County Commission." That should be a talk about special commission's possible existence or what might replace it.

There is also a presentation on the communication processes developed for the committee and their recommendations on managing school real estate, who owns which schools and property, and who controls the sale of vacant school property.

Dr. Joiner is scheduled to summarize the year-long discussions at the end of this final meeting with BOE member Karen Carson and Commissioner Sam McKenzie wrapping up the meeting with their comments.

On Tuesday, February 11th, Superintendent McIntyre will present his "State of the Schools" address in a public meeting at Hardin Valley Academy at 6 p.m.

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County revising Commission Rules

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

If revised rules are adopted by the Knox County Commission, its Committee on Committees might be boosted in authority and have a larger say in the appointments of members to standing committees.

Four commissioners could be leaving this year with the upcoming elections and that means four new members possibly being seated. Current commissioners are working to revise the rules before the election. Changes could involve the controversial travel rules, snow days, appointments, and dealing with "consent" items.

The Rules Committee met last Monday for several hours, attempting to iron out said changes to the current rules from a 23-page handout filled with red-ink notations. Much of the discussion involved rules concerning travel by the commissioners outside the city. A dispute between two commissioners erupted late last

year with one being criticized for missing a meeting because of travel and attending a conference that another council member felt was unnecessary.

So the main questions discussed last week were what the overall travel budget would be, who would approve the travel, and how to handle the one required conference that representatives from Commission must attend.

Finance Director Chris Caldwell said that if travel and lodging is anticipated by a member they should put the cost in the travel budget request. He said the current budget is \$21,000 and approval of the out-of-area conferences and events are currently approved by the Commission Chairperson.

"In recent years we have cut travel," Commissioner Amy Broyles said. "It is less than 5% of the budget."

Commissioner R. Larry Smith suggested that all travel appear in the "Spread of Record" so it would appear

on the clerk's records.

There were also some suggestions that each official trip paid for from the travel budget generate a trip report.

Commissioner Mike Brown suggested that anticipated travel be submitted to the Chair and "vetted by the commission."

Broyles pointed out that this would be a policy change. She added that sometimes commissioners have taken vacation days in order to attend conferences. She went on to ask what would happen if a commissioner wanting to attend an event received a "no" vote from the full commission.

Broyles argued it should be a decision by the Chair and Commissioner Mike Hammond agreed as long as any trip stays with the budget. Brown added that any additional trips beyond the budget should be approved by the commission.

Once a year, at least two commissioners must attend the National Association of

Counties. Mike Brown suggested that more than the required two commission members might attend the national meeting if it doesn't exceed the travel budget.

Commissioner Sam McKenzie called the proposed changes "a solution in search of a problem."

The Rules Committee also discussed when the meetings would be cancelled because of weather, how long any commissioner could speak to a discussion, when they should be recognized to speak, and that the member who introduces a matter should speak first. They discussed what should be done with "unruly" commissioners or members of the public, how applicants for hire in the county should be considered and required to be registered voters, and deadlines for adding items to the agenda.

They discussed the possibility of publishing county meetings on the internet rather than in a newspaper of "general circulation" but

were told by the law director that the Tennessee Press Association is against the idea.

Empowering and activating the Committee on Committees was the focus of some discussion on how Commission committees are chosen, with the idea of giving the "Committees" group more power. Hammond said he would like to see that happen. Brown said he'd like to see the committee members appointed for two years, not one. Current commissioners on the Committee on Committees are Sam McKenzie, Amy Broyles, Jeff Ownby, Dave Wright and Mike Brown, with Wright being the Chair.

The Committee on Committees chair would be appointed by the Commission Chair. The Committee on Committees would then appoint the chairpersons on the various committees, like Audit, Finance, etc., and those chairpersons would select their members. There was some discussion in the



Commissioner Mike Brown

Rules Committee about having the members of all the committees approved in a full Commission vote.

There was also some discussion on how public speakers at meetings should identify themselves and give their address, with a suggestion to have a home address given rather than a mailing address or business address.

Any changes to the rules of how the commission operates must go before the entire commission for consideration of the many changes in the 23 pages. The revised rules would take effect upon adoption.

Is 'the thaw' here to stay?

Cont. from page 1

only to see the thermometer reach -1 the morning of the 29. This has also literally pushed all the Pacific Storms up into Canada keeping the western part of our country so dry.

This same pattern has also kept our precipitation to very small amounts. When the jet stream drops well to the South, it brings the cold air with it, but this year it has also shut off the moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. If you want snow, you need moisture. We have seen a series of Clipper systems ride the jet stream the past few weeks. They get the name "Clipper" as they move very fast. They clip along and therefore don't have much moisture with them. They normally get in and out of our area very quickly, drop little in the way of snow and then bring more cold air back to the area as they leave. Does that sound familiar of this winter so far? This past week, snow lovers finally got their wish when the Gulf moisture was able to push Northward into our area. We had snow from Waco, Texas to freezing rain in New Orleans and sleet in Mobile, Alabama. It was a rare weather event. Enough of this southern moisture did make it into our area for many of us to see 3-5 inches of snow, with more in other areas. The air was so cold, there was never any doubt it would be all snow.

The question was how much moisture would make it to the North?

Well, now the entire upper air pattern is changing for the first time in awhile. The jet stream is lifting back to the North and taking the cold air with it. If you keep up with the national weather, you have probably seen where the West is seeing the first rain and snow in weeks. That is a very sure sign the pattern has changed. This will not only bring us a big change to warmer weather but as moisture returns, we will see more precipitation, only this time as rain. By the early-middle part of this week, some rain may even be substantial.

Either way, we will see weather more common to us here in East Tennessee. Does this mean 'The Polar Vortex' won't return? I can't say that for sure and I'm really not a big believer on the long range forecasts, except now and then when something looks certain. As co-owner of an Internet Forecasting sight, I can tell you we try to keep people safe and forecast as accurate as possible at www.LocalWeatherTn.com and www.EastTnStormTeam.com or www.Facebook.com/EastTnStormTeam as well as www.WeatherInTheSmokies.com

So enjoy 'The Thaw' while it's here and I hope you have a better understanding of how it came and why it's leaving. It's all based on the jet stream-upper air patterns.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Pictured left to right at last week's American Meteorological Society Smoky Mountain Chapter lunch meeting are Jeremy Buckles, Meteorologist and Lead Forecaster of East TN Storm Team; Joanne Logan, President of the Smoky Mountain Chapter and Environmental Climatologist, UTK; Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd, Past President of the American Meteorological Society; Ken Weathers, WATE Meteorologist; Matt Hinkin, Chief Meteorologist, WATE; and Wolf Naegeli, PhD, Senior Research Scientist at UTK's Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment.

Perfect Storm, perfect timing President of AMS visits Knoxville Chapter

By Dan Andrews
andrewsd@knoxfocus.com

Braving the iced roads and snarled traffic from Atlanta, the President of the American Meteorological Society travelled to Knoxville Thursday to speak with members of the local chapter of the American Meteorological Society Smoky Mountain Chapter at the Four Points Sheraton in Knoxville. For the chapter, the timing could not have been more perfect. Twenty-four hours earlier, Dr. Shepherd was

being interviewed by multiple national news outlets, including CNN, about the surprise snowfall last week.

The snowstorm which paralyzed Atlanta created an easy possible excuse for Dr. Shepherd to cancel the meeting. However, he did not, and instead turned down widespread national media organizations' requests for interviews so he could keep his commitment in Knoxville. While the topic of Atlanta was on many people's minds, it was not a

major topic during the meeting.

Instead, in a laid back atmosphere, Dr. Shepherd spoke about a wide range of meteorological topics ranging from advanced mobile radar to new cutting edge technology. Among the more interesting topics included the certification process of meteorologists trying to achieve the prestigious AMS shield. Currently, many Universities are offering online courses that do not satisfy the rigorous

Continue on page 4

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THE KOKO KEY

Holston Middle to Present Disney's 'Aladdin Junior'

You may have seen them at area malls or at the historic Tennessee Theatre.

Wherever they perform, they are sure to draw a crowd.

Organized in 2009, the Holston Middle School

Kids in America Show Choir will be performing "Disney's Aladdin Junior" on February 6-8, 2014, at the Holston Middle School Auditorium.

The audience will "travel" to "Agrabah, City of Enchantment, where every beggar has a story and every camel has a tail."

All of your favorite characters are in this stage adaptation of the Disney hit, including Aladdin, Jasmine, and of course, the Genie. It promises to be an evening filled with "magic, mayhem, and flying carpet rides!"

The Academy award-winning score, which includes "A Whole New



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

World" and "Friend Like Me," is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Reserve your ticket now to find out if Aladdin can save Princess Jasmine, if he will live up to his promise to the Genie, or if he will lose everything after Jafar's vicious attacks.

Director Natalee Beeler Elkins, Choreographer Daniel Lineberger, and the Holston Middle School Kids in America Show Choir invite you to join them on their magic carpet rides, February 6-8, as they present Disney's Aladdin Junior.

Show dates are: Thursday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m.; Friday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 8, at 2:30 p.m.; and Saturday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$6 general admission and \$4 for



PHOTO BY HARVEY ELKINS

Performing Friday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. are Lakyn Jones as Genie, Devon Huff as Aladdin, and Sophie Vandergriff as Jasmine.

students and senior citizens. Online reserved seating is \$9 general admission and \$7 for

students/seniors. Tickets can be purchased online at www.seatyourself.biz/holstonms.

Tickets will also be available at the door upon arrival. For more information, contact

Natalee Elkins at 865-385-8601 or e-mail: kidsinamericashowchoir@gmail.com.

Perfect Storm, perfect timing

Cont. from page 3

requirements of the AMS. However, brick and mortar schools traditionally have no problem. Another topic of interest involved the replacement of The Weather Channel with Weather Nation on Direct TV. The group also discussed ways of getting the community more involved in meteorology.

The Knoxville Focus asked Dr. Shepherd about how the general public can get involved in helping the meteorological community. "There are all kinds of citizen scientists' efforts one can take," Shepherd replied. "Like Cocorahs where you can take rain gauge measurements every day. There is an app you can download called 'Mping' and report precipitation types to the National Severe Storms Lab. Or you can become a volunteer spotter for the National Weather Service by taking classes."

For young people interested in weather, Dr. Shepherd advised the following: "One of the things I would advise is to try to get a nice booklet like the AMS weather book which is a really neat book that I read a version of when I was young. Try to find

professionals in your area that are doing weather, perhaps like people on TV, or perhaps people from the Department of Energy, or TVA, and see if you can visit or shadow them around for the day."

For people interested in joining a group, the AMS-SMC is an excellent organization with affordable dues costing individuals twenty dollars a year. The AMS-SMC is open to anyone in East Tennessee with an interest in meteorology, atmospheric sciences and related fields. The purpose of the organization, according to their website, is "To foster the growth of operational meteorology and the atmospheric sciences in East Tennessee by providing the community with a social and scientific point of contact for meteorological, hydrological, and other related scientific interests; to encourage collaborative research among its members; and to engage in continuing education on the latest developments in the various branches of the hydro-meteorological and atmospheric sciences."

For more information, visit www.ametsoc.org/chapters/smokymnt.

Three Uncles

Something about family warms our hearts, even though all of us have plenty of ghosts in our closets. Those relatives bring more happiness than sadness, more good memories

than bad dreams. I've been thinking of three uncles, my mother's brothers, and saying a silent "thank you" for their presence in my life.

Uncle Charles was the "baby of the family." He was a tall, "aw shucks" kind of man. Most of the time, a smile stayed on his face. The man had as many child-like qualities as we did. Charles Balch enjoyed life, and he loved his kids. Oh, like most of us dads, he had some glaring shortcomings that caused some hard feelings, but nobody could stop loving him.

Uncle Charles eventually went to work at Oak Ridge after World War II. The work there was secret, as it's always been. However, from what I've gleaned from others with whom he worked, the man was a pure genius. As the story goes, at time Charles was awing the entire staff, including scientists and managers, at the plant. He was blessed with a raw intelligence that kept him on par with others



By **Joe Rector**
joerector@comcast.net

who'd spent years in formal education. That same genius is present today in his son Charlie, who is now 61.

Uncle Ed was our favorite uncle during our childhood.

He'd completed his military career with service in WW II, Korea, and as an ROTC instructor at Xavier in Cincinnati. He earned a degree in accounting and worked with the IRS in Covington, Ky. As a sideline, Uncle Ed became an excellent photographer who shot weddings almost every weekend.

Uncle Ed and Aunt Rosie visited at least once each summer. They'd load up their convertible and head south. For the next week, the couple took a carload of nieces and nephews on trips to the mountains, restaurants, or other fun places. Because they had no children, complete attention turned toward us and on showing us a good time. I suppose our parents enjoyed their visits as much as the kids since the adults got breaks from their charges for at least a couple of days.

The third brother was Wayne. He was the quiet one. When he walked by, women swooned at his good looks, chiseled shoulders

and wry smile. Wayne Balch also served in WW II, and then he came home, married Nellie, and became the father of three children who also have proven to be intellectually gifted. He built a house next to our grandparents and made sure they were okay. Wayne worked at the same paper mill as my dad, and he worked shifts that so often kept him confused as to what day or time it was. On one occasion, he missed a ride with others to work, and his life was spared when that car crashed with a train not far from his house.

Wayne had a dry sense of humor. He'd say something and then let that smile creep across his face. His smile was infectious and drew others toward him. He loved his kids and protected them during some tense times in their lives. Never did he speak ill of another person, regardless of how vicious that person might have acted toward him. Just

the other day a man mentioned Wayne and ended the conversation with this: "Wayne Balch was the best man I ever met." He was one of two or three persons I knew who was purely good.

These three brothers fought in Europe during WW II, and as fate would have it, they met up at one point. It was a happy time for them and for the folks back home who read the news account of their meeting and knew, at least for that day, they were all safe and alive.

Wayne passed first when congestive heart failure sapped his energies and then his life. Uncle Ed passed next, and within a year, Uncle Charles and my mother also left us. I suppose they're back together again as a family and are enjoying an eternity together. They showed us the blueprints for being better individuals. Let's hope we live up to their standards.

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The Hashtag Project

By Focus Staff

A new crowd sourcing Twitter project has revolutionized communication in Knox County during storms and dangerous situations. #Knoxwx is a simple program that allows people, government agencies, and businesses to communicate real time situational information during times of emergency directly to the public. The program calls upon the public to report storm related information with the hashtag #Knoxwx. A hashtag is a social media device that categorizes and streamlines information.

The program was placed in full effect this past week due to the snow storm. With 961 Twitter posts, 648 individual users, and over 1.3 million impressions, the project appears to be very successful. The plan is 100 percent voluntary. It's intended to streamline Twitter communications during emergencies, severe weather, major breaking news and catastrophic events. The plan does not replace current hashtags in use by news, government, and public relations organizations. What this plan does is supplement the hashtag system with a universal hashtag.

The way it will work is that during a major event, the community will unify behind one hashtag.

Then, when reporting on disasters, car accidents, inclement weather or anything relating to the situation, the majority of media, public relations and government officials would use that hashtag in addition to their own: #knoxwx for weather-related situations, #knoxem, for most other emergency situations.

The intent of the program is to allow the public a simple and easy way to stay informed. It allows businesses, schools, public relations

firms, and government organizations to unify all under one hashtag making what would normally be a complex maze of information, a direct stream of information.

The program is still in its infancy, but has gained widespread approval among the community and continues to grow with each use. To date, the program has been implemented in two instances. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide real time information which will allow the community to be safer. This program will also ease the strain of people seeking

Continue on page 2

How to form a Neighborhood Watch

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

If your neighborhood is having theft, vandalism, drug traffic or other problems, then a Neighborhood Watch group just might be a good idea. It's not a complicated process and looking out for each other's property and safety could help a lot.

Officer Ricky Gallaher, Knoxville Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, says that you can begin by asking your neighbors if they are interested in forming a Watch. You can do that by printing flyers and going house to house leaving the printed information on the doors, with information about your telephone number or email address. He also recommended including neighborhood churches and businesses in the Watch group.

Officer Gallaher can help guide you through the process. He will meet with you and deliver a package about how the Neighborhood Watch system works. Then you can set up a neighborhood meeting, notify Gallaher where and when it will be, and a liaison officer will attend and talk with the group. Gallaher says the meeting should be in the evening and can be at a home or other place, like a church or school. After several meetings, which can be monthly, an officer that patrols your neighborhood would be assigned to attend the meetings. He said some Watch groups also meet by email or each quarter.

Neighborhood Watch signs are provided after several meetings and your Watch information goes to the city for inclusion in the list of Watch groups.

The Watch group should include creating a personal support group, watching each other's homes while they are away, checking on each other after a disaster, swapping keys and keeping a list of who to contact in case of an emergency. The guidelines also suggest working on a preparedness

Continue on page 2

New Hybrid Electric Buses Delivered

The City of Knoxville is pleased to announce the delivery of three hybrid electric buses for the Knoxville Area Transit fleet. An additional three electric hybrid trolley-style vehicles will follow within the next few months. These new buses will hit the streets within one to two weeks, after KAT operators and maintenance staff have been fully trained on the new technology. The vehicles are full-sized buses that will run on some of KAT's busier routes, including Kingston Pike, Broadway and Magnolia Avenue.

These clean diesel hybrid-electric vehicles will provide much greater fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs than conventional transit buses. These are KAT's first hybrid electric buses.

"These new efficient buses will further the City's sustainability goals and offer continued air quality improvements," said Mayor Madeline Rogero. "With KAT's new and better route frequencies we see more and more people leaving their cars at home and catching the bus. The hybrid vehicles even further improve the benefits of taking transit."

KAT's passenger counts have been climbing consistently since 2010, with the opening of Knoxville Station.

Continue on page 2

ADVENTURES IN MEDIA ADVERTISING: 58 YEARS AND RUNNING



This week's Brown Bag Lecture will be held at noon, Wednesday, February 5, and offer insights into behind the scenes of children's shows and news programs, according to host Hal Ernest.

In a media career spanning 58 years, Hal Ernest has done it all, including an early job at NBC in New York and stints as both television news anchor and children's program host.

Now in his 47th year as account executive for Knoxville advertising agency Lavidge and Associates, Ernest is busier than ever.

Join Hal as he shares behind-the-scenes stories of his career on local television and discusses the relationship between television and advertising. The Brown Bag will also include a screening of classic 1950s-era television commercials produced by Lavidge and Associates, including the classic Lays Three Little Pigs Commercials.

The lecture is held in conjunction with the exhibition, "Live! On Air! and In Your Living Room," on display through February 23, 2014.

The exhibit is rich with vintage clips from the

old Cas Walker Farm and Home Hour, Bonnie Lou and Buster, Jim Clayton's Startime, early television commercials, and much, much more.

A 1960s living room and a backdrop of from the Cas Walker Show bring the era to life. The exhibit is presented by the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound, a division of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection.

The program is sponsored by 21st Mortgage and is and free and open to the public. The lecture will begin at noon at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville. Guests are invited to bring a "Brown Bag" lunch and enjoy the lecture. Soft drinks will be available.

For more information on the lecture, exhibitions, or museum hours, call (865)215-8824 or visit the website at www.EastTNHistory.org.

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The Hashtag Project

Cont. from page 1

information via telephone. The program was developed by *Knoxville Focus* reporter Dan Andrews. According to Mr. Andrews he developed the program after researching Twitter analytics, the Amber Alert System, and ICE (In Case of Emergency.) "The idea is to use aspects of the mass notification of the Amber Alert," he explained. "Combine that with the idea

of the simplicity of the ICE program. Then harness the power of social media. With all three elements you have a powerful notification tool that allows the public to let others know what exactly is happening during a dangerous situation."

The program is currently being spearheaded by the East Tennessee Society of Professional Journalists. The organization took on the project to act as a conduit in order to bring the

community together. The organization had members meet with government, media and local businesses months in advance to get feedback.

One government agency, the Knox County Mayor's Office, was very proactive in this program. Mayoral Communications Manager Michael Grider, was instrumental in the planning process. Mr. Grider participated in early beta testing, which eventually led

to the simplified hashtag #knoxwx.

The public is also strongly encouraged to participate. During the recent snowstorm, many participants were reporting snowfall totals and dangerous road conditions. However, information such as cancelled events, business closings, and other information is strongly encouraged. For more information please visit #knoxwx.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Knox County Communications Manager Michael Grider tweets from the City-County Building.



Rosie's World

A few words of wisdom

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.

If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense.

Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.

Why is it at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

Scratch a cat and you will have a permanent job.

No one has more driving ambition than a boy who wants to buy a car.

There are no new sins;

the old ones just get more publicity.

There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. It could be a right number.

No one ever say says, "It's only a game" when their team is winning.

I've reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.

Be careful reading the fine print. There's no way you're going to like it.

The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.

Do you realize that in about forty years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?

Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind, and the ones who mind, don't matter.

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

New Hybrid Electric Buses Delivered

Cont. from page 1

In June of this year, KAT's 15-minute frequencies on routes such as Kingston Pike and Broadway have resulted in even higher ridership numbers. KAT anticipates that hybrid buses will be an additional attraction for potential transit users.

In an article in the February, 2009, issue of

Automobile magazine, Steven Sherman writes about his experience with clean diesel hybrid-electric buses in Ann Arbor:

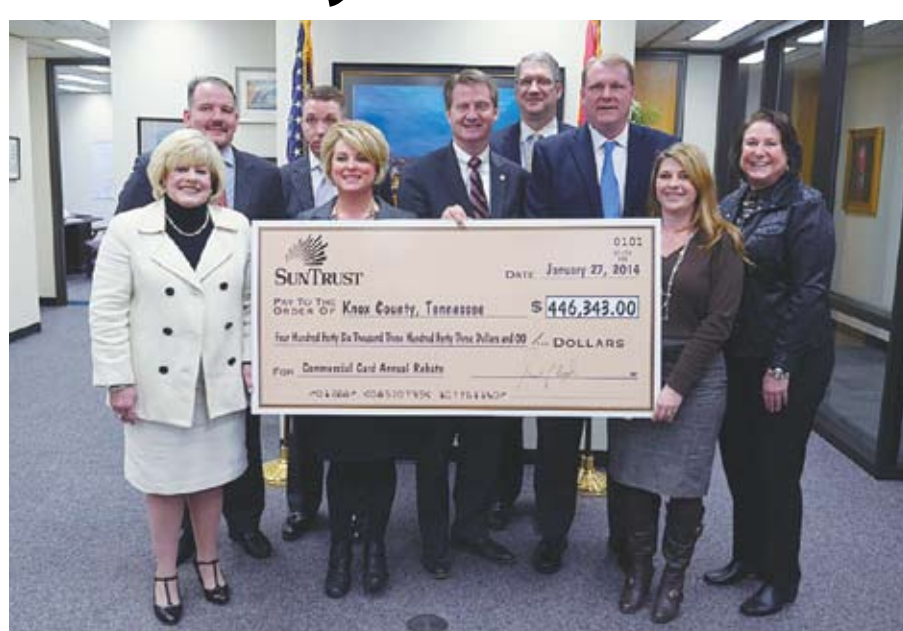
".....the hybrids are 30 percent more efficient, half of their extra cost will be offset by fuel savings. Maintenance costs are expected to drop by 30 to 50 percent, because the hybrid's regenerative

braking doubles the life of the friction brakes and lowers the stress on suspension components. While it's impossible to assign a dollar value to clean air, the hybrids also provide emission reductions ranging from up to 50 percent for CO2 and NOx to 90 percent for carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter."

(GREEN: The Ride: AATA Gillig Hybrid Electric Bus)

Hybrid electric/clean diesel vehicles are an expensive investment, at approximately \$620,000 each. However, these buses were purchased through a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant, which was 100 percent federally funded.

SunTrust presents Knox County with rebate check



(front row, left to right) SunTrust First Vice-President Mona Parsons, Knox County Purchasing Program Manager Janice Orr, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, Knox County Purchasing Director Hugh Holt, Knox County Purchasing Program Coordinator Lori Holmann, SunTrust Vice-President and Card Program Officer Kathy Morris (back row, left to right) SunTrust First Vice-President Eric Anderson, Knox County Finance Director Chris Caldwell and SunTrust City President Grant Boyd.

Last week, SunTrust Bank presented Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett with a \$446,343 E-commerce card rebate check.

Knox County earned the nearly half-million-dollar rebate from the use of its E-commerce cards during the 2013 calendar year. This amount surpassed 2012's rebate by more than \$128,000, a 40 percent increase.

"I appreciate the work of Knox County Purchasing Program Manager Janice Orr and the rest of the purchasing department for their help in ensuring such substantial savings for Knox County's taxpayers," said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. "The E-commerce card rebate program shows there is a real-dollar value to efficiency in government."

One unique impact on

the 2013 rebate was smart construction planning with Carter Elementary School. Since the construction of Carter Elementary was managed by Knox County staff, and thanks to a partnership with Knox County Schools, technology purchases were put on the card resulting in an additional \$100,000 in rebates.

Over the past three years, Knox County has

received more than one million dollars in rebates. The Knox County Purchasing Department identifies opportunities to utilize the cards for various county transactions with third party vendors, and has saved Knox County millions through cost-avoidance by consolidating the E-commerce card program.

How to form a Neighborhood Watch

Cont. from page 1

plan and reporting unusual or suspicious behavior, all with the idea of reducing and preventing crime. The key to a Neighborhood Watch success is communicating between citizens and the Knoxville Police.

You can get more information on the City of Knoxville web site. There may already be a Watch group in your

neighborhood and you can find it on the Knoxville Neighborhood Association web page.

"When some emergency happens you should call 911 and you can discuss things at a meeting of your Neighborhood Watch," he told *The Knoxville Focus*.

Officer Gallaher can be reached at (865)215-1519.

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

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

By 1946 Estes Kefauver had been in Congress for seven years and was contemplating a race against Tennessee's most powerful political figure, United States Senator Kenneth D. McKellar. Although little known outside his own Congressional district, Kefauver was relatively young and energetic while Senator McKellar was seventy-seven years old and slowing down. McKellar had been in Congress since Estes Kefauver was a mere eight years old.

McKellar had defeated the cream of Tennessee political elite to get to the United States Senate and stay there; former governors Malcolm Patterson and Ben W. Hooper, Senator Luke Lea, House Minority Leader Finis Garrett, future Congressman Howard Baker, and Knoxville Mayor James A. Fowler had all lost to McKellar at one time or another.

Senator McKellar commanded an army of patronage appointees in the State of Tennessee and presided over a political organization that stretched from one end of Tennessee to the other. From Mountain City to the banks of the Mississippi River in Memphis, there were literally tens of thousands of Tennesseans for whom Senator McKellar had done a favor at one time or another. Despite his reputation for being irascible, McKellar could be courtly and extended every courtesy and consideration to any Tennessee who approached him. McKellar's reputation for going to extreme lengths to help any Tennessean was well deserved.

McKellar's own political organization was allied with that of E. H. Crump, the lord and master of Shelby County and Memphis. The two were personal friends as well as political allies and they had ruled Tennessee politics almost completely since 1932. No governor or U. S. senator had been elected since that time without the support of either McKellar or Crump.

Although aging and increasingly ill, Senator McKellar remained a formidable candidate. Widely respected by the people of Tennessee and held in affectionate regard by many of his constituents, McKellar's personal prestige was actually enhanced with the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1945. K. D. McKellar was at the peak of his power inside the United States Senate. In effect Chairman of two committees due to the incapacitation of Virginia Senator Carter Glass, McKellar sat as the Acting Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and served as

Chairman of the Post Office and Post Roads Committee. McKellar had also succeeded Glass as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, a largely ceremonial post, but with the death of FDR, it put him in line for succession to the presidency. President Harry Truman, a senator himself before being elected vice president in 1944, recognized the power of McKellar and invited the old Tennessean to sit with his Cabinet, a recognition of McKellar's influence not lost on his constituents.

Estes Kefauver and K. D. McKellar did not like one another. McKellar often-times derisively referred to the Chattanooga Congressman as "Cowfever", a derision shared with Harry Truman. McKellar also gleefully informed Crump that Kefauver had claimed Thomas Jefferson, a son of Virginia, as a Tennessee president while at the 1944 Democratic National Convention. McKellar told Crump, "He is about as stupid as they make them."

Kefauver quickly discovered he could not obtain the necessary financial and personal support to successfully challenge the old senator. Kefauver traveled to Nashville to talk to possible supporters, including Silliman Evans, publisher of the Nashville Tennessean, which was bitterly opposed to both Senator McKellar and the Crump machine. Even Evans was doubtful about the wisdom of Kefauver running against McKellar, concluding such a race would be "almost futile."

Kefauver's visit to Nashville was in sharp contrast to a similar visit by Senator McKellar in January of 1946 just a few days after announcing he would run for a sixth term in the United States Senate. Virtually nobody noticed Congressman Kefauver coming to Nashville while much of Nashville's political and business establishment gathered to welcome Senator McKellar.

As McKellar's entourage approached Nashville by automobile from Memphis, endorsements rained down upon the old senator's head. Tennessee's junior U. S. senator, Tom Stewart, issued a glowing endorsement of his senior colleague, as did Congressman Tom Murray of Jackson.

McKellar's arrival in Nashville coincided with the senator's announcement of federal money pouring into Davidson County for a variety of projects. It amply demonstrated the power of McKellar, as well as the benefit of his seniority to Tennesseans.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Portrait of Senator Estes Kefauver, 1951

Kefauver left Nashville without any fanfare and returned to Chattanooga where he concluded challenging McKellar directly was perhaps not a good idea. Kefauver announced he would seek reelection to Congress, causing McKellar to write Crump sarcastically that apparently the demand had been such that Kefauver could not disappoint his friends and forgo reelection to the House.

The stubborn Kefauver needlessly involved himself in the Senate race by supporting Edward Ward "Ned" Carmack against McKellar. Carmack had run a surprisingly strong race against Senator Tom Stewart in 1942 and only the election returns from Shelby County had saved Stewart from defeat.

Kefauver's open support of Carmack's candidacy infuriated some of the most powerful politicians inside his own Third Congressional district. Hamilton County Judge Wiley Crouch was strongly for McKellar's reelection as was Sheriff Burch Biggs, the boss of McMinn County.

According to Kefauver's biographer, Charles Fonteny, Judge Crouch made his displeasure with Kefauver well known, growling, "I'm going to beat the hell out of him."

Friends of Kefauver begged Judge Crouch to talk to the Congressman.

"I never can find him," Crouch snapped. "He's always speaking in New York or Chicago or somewhere."

Finally Judge Crouch relented, saying, "I'll talk to him tomorrow afternoon at the Read House. He'll have to be there, though. I'm not going to wait for him."

Kefauver balked at the edict and it took considerable effort to persuade him to fly from the Capitol to Chattanooga to keep the

appointment with Judge Couch.

The amiable Kefauver attempted to start the conversation by greeting the judge and asking how his wife was, causing Couch to snarl, "You don't give a damn how Mable is!"

The two talked for an hour and a half and left the hotel arm in arm. Still, Couch's first loyalty was to Senator McKellar and he was not fully committed to Kefauver's reelection. Another meeting was called and the two met at a downtown Chattanooga eatery and resolved their differences and Judge Couch signed Kefauver's petition to run again.

Kefauver did get a primary opponent in 1946, almost entirely due to his flirting with the idea of running against Senator McKellar. Fortunately for Congressman Kefauver, his opponent was not a quality challenger, although it was a bitter campaign.

W. F. "Pup" McWhorter went so far as to denounce a member of Kefauver's Congressional staff as a "pink", causing the sensitive young man to walk into the Congressman's office and tearfully offer up his resignation. Kefauver sat him down and refused to accept his resignation, telling the young man politics could be "pretty mean" sometimes.

Kefauver, cobbling together the feuding factions inside the Democratic Party in his own district, managed to gather the support of virtually all of those opposed to McKellar, as well as those politically potent enough to cause him real concern who remained loyal to the old senator. One odd endorsement of Kefauver's candidacy for reelection to Congress in 1946 came from Memphis; the Boss himself announced he, too, backed Kefauver.

Senator McKellar crushed Ned Carmack, beating him badly without even once returning home to Tennessee to campaign in person. It was a remarkable feat, especially in light of the fact Carmack had quite nearly beaten Senator Stewart in 1942.

Estes Kefauver easily turned back the challenge of the hapless "Pup" McWhorter and returned to Washington, but his thoughts about running for the United States Senate had not diminished; in fact, if anything, they had intensified.

Kefauver immediately began to consider running against Tom Stewart in 1948. A campaign against Senator Stewart was not so daunting an enterprise as facing the redoubtable McKellar.

Tom Stewart had first been elected to the United States Senate in 1938, a special election to fill the remainder of the term of Senator Nathan L. Bachman who had died in 1937. Stewart was urged to run for the Senate by Senator McKellar and was promptly endorsed by Mr. Crump. Stewart was running in a three-way race against Senator George L. Berry, who had been appointed by Governor Gordon Browning, and Congressman J. Ridley Mitchell. Senator Stewart had been reelected in 1942, once again with the full support of Senator McKellar and Crump. His reelection bid had been less than impressive and the Memphis Boss was utterly appalled by the fact Stewart would have lost

the nomination without the votes from Shelby County. Crump's doubts about Tom Stewart were to grow over the next six years and have a major impact upon Estes Kefauver's political fortunes.

Estes Kefauver began quietly canvassing all across Tennessee to see what his chances might be were he to challenge Tom Stewart in 1948. There was little reason initially for Kefauver to think McKellar and Crump would not support Stewart for reelection. Nor was there reason to believe Senator Stewart might not actually be in a stronger position in 1948. Stewart was a highly amiable and kindly man and tended to the constituent service that had kept McKellar in office for decades. Senator Stewart had also strengthened his relationships with many of Tennessee's politically powerful local leaders. Stewart's name recognition was also far higher than that of Kefauver statewide.

The Congressman's friends were much more encouraging about a possible Senate bid against Tom Stewart than they had been about a potential challenge to the powerful McKellar.

As 1948 approached, Estes Kefauver looked more and more like a candidate for the United States Senate. He would be the beneficiary of the single greatest mistake of Edward Hull Crump's long political career.

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Pellissippi State campuses host free Black History Month events

Pellissippi State Community College is celebrating Black History Month with numerous events at its five campuses throughout February. Activities are free and the community is invited.

The Magnolia Avenue Campus starts the month-long activities with "Healthy Pell: Campus Health Fair," Wednesday, Feb. 5. Each Friday in February, the site hosts an African Jazz Cafe in the Lobby.

The Division Street Campus

offers two films in February: Disney's "Ruby Bridges" on the 11th and "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" on the 20th. Both are at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Lounge.

The Magnolia Avenue Campus hosts a "History of African-American Music: Freedom Songs, Blues and Jazz" 9-11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the Community Room. The presentation features local jazz artist Kelle Jolly.

The Blount County Campus presents the documentary

"The Underground Railroad" Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the Educational Resources Center.

At the Hardin Valley Campus, Feb. 21 brings "A Celebration of African-American Art, Music and Literature." The event is in the Goins Building College Center, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. It features an art display, performance by the Vine Middle School African Dancers and Drummers, poetry reading by Oak Ridge poet Rose Weaver, and "Taste of Soul Food."

Also at the Hardin Valley site, Feb. 27 the community is invited to a Faculty Lecture Series presentation: "John Brown: Maniacal Egotist or Moral Crusader?" by Joy Ingram, an associate professor. The talk is at 2 p.m. in the Goins Building Auditorium.

Throughout the month, African-American history exhibits will be on display in the Community Room of the Magnolia Avenue Campus, the Lobby of the Strawberry Plains Campus, the Student

Lounge of the Division Street Campus, and the Educational Resources centers of the Blount County and Hardin Valley campuses.

The theme of the display at the Magnolia Avenue Campus is "All About That Jazz"; Division Street, "Embrace African-American Heritage Board of Fame"; and Strawberry Plains, "African-Americans of Influence."

Other ongoing events include African tea and coffee tastings:

- Hardin Valley, Goins

Building Rotunda, 8:30-10 a.m. Wednesdays

- Division Street, Student Lounge, 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays

- Strawberry Plains, Lobby, 9-10:30 a.m. Mondays

For more information about Pellissippi State, visit www.pstcc.edu or call (865) 694-6400. To request accommodations for a disability, contact the executive director of Human Resources at (865) 694-6607 or humanresources@pstcc.edu.

Empty Schools topic of BOE meetings

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In recent years some empty schools and property owned by the Knox County Schools or the County Commission have been sold to developers, leased to community groups, or simply allowed to sit unused. This week the Board of Education (BOE) looks at updating policies concerning vacant property.

One property, the old Carter Elementary School gymnasium, may be leased to the Boys & Girls Clubs for use for five years with an option to renew the lease agreement four times.

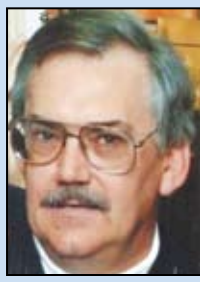
Excess and unused schools around the county have been discussed also by County Commission, which authorized the sale of the Old Knoxville High School recently for senior apartments. The city also is moving to sell the old Mechanicsville School for senior housing. The question has been who owns which schools. When the city and

county merged their schools, the city gave the "active" schools to the county, but the county has schools, facilities, and properties that may belong to the school system, the school itself, or other parties.

So dealing with disposition of empty schools has been discussed and now there are several items on the BOE agenda for their workshop today and their regular meeting Wednesday. One motion revises the description of "surplus" vacated facilities; another speaks of "Retirement of Facilities," and the other deals with the "Processes for managing real estate and facilities." The "Alterations and Modifications to Facilities" may also be on the agenda.

Also on the agenda is authorizing \$1,343,670 for replacement of the Austin-East stadium on a bid from K&F Construction.

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

If you've ever been to the Arlington National Cemetery, located just across the river from our nation's capital, I'll bet you didn't know the history of the large white mansion on top of the hill. It overlooks downtown Washington and is almost surrounded by graves of our nation's military veterans. If you stand at the Eternal Flame for John F. Kennedy or visit Robert or Teddy's graves nearby you can look up the hill and see the Arlington House. Next to the mansion is a smaller building which now holds the Robert E. Lee Museum.

Arlington Mansion

The mansion, in fact, had once been the home of Confederate Army Commander Robert E. Lee and was built in 1818 by slaves owned George Washington's grandson as a memorial to Washington. The builder's daughter married then U.S. Colonel Robert E. Lee. Lee freed the slaves in 1862 under the request of his late father-in-law. Many stayed on the estate. His wife, Mary Curtis Lee, actually owned the house although Lee was in charge of maintaining it.

Lee was initially opposed to the states separating from the Union but chose his home state, Virginia, during the conflict. It is said that President Lincoln had asked Lee to head the Union Army but the career military man chose the South. He left Arlington for the war but his wife and family remained there for a while, eventually leaving the home in care of their former slaves, hoping to return. Apparently Robert E. Lee never returned to stay there.

During the conflict, the cemeteries in Washington were filling up with Union dead and a search was conducted to find a suitable site. A few soldiers had been buried some distance from the Arlington House but on estate property and in 1863 several bodies were interred in Mrs. Lee's rose garden near the home, over some family objection.

The U.S. Army eventually took control of the house, which would have offered a dangerous cannon site for Rebel forces had the area been captured. After the war, the government paid Lee's estate \$150,000 for the estate.

In 1866 a tomb for unknown soldiers was built and more than 2,111 remains were placed there, joining some 1,500 Union soldiers already buried there by that date. Today the Arlington Cemetery, administered by the U. S. Army, holds more than 25 burials each day and has more than 15,000 graves.

While I was stationed in Washington, D. C. with the

U. S. Coast Guard, I was called on many times to be present at burials. Although I was never a pallbearer, I was part of a multi-service contingent that reverently observed burials. I remember having to keep my dress uniform ready at all times for such duty and it was an honor.

My wife and I have visited Arlington Cemetery several times. I was surprised to find that the bridge at the base of the cemetery that crosses the Potomac River leads directly to the Lincoln Memorial. Many early promoters of a national cemetery there thought it only fitting that the Union dead should be buried on the estate of the Confederate Army commander. In 1901, Confederate soldiers who died in the Washington area, including Northern Virginia, were brought to Arlington and buried in a special section.

Every half hour in the summer or every hour during winter months, there is a Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns and if you've never see the service you should plan to attend.

Arlington and Washington, D. C. are only seven hours from Knoxville. There's so much to do and see that you could spend a couple of weeks just taking in the sites. There's lots to do along the way as well, like Woodrow Wilson's home in Staunton, Va., the arch at Natural Bridge, Va., or a side trip to Harper's Ferry, WV. Fairly new in D. C., are the World War II memorial, the Korean War memorial, and the FDR memorial.

If you haven't been to Washington or Arlington it's less crowded in the winter and beautiful in the spring, especially during the Cherry Blossom Festival.

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Lady Hawks notch comeback win over West

By Ken Lay
 The recent snow hampered practice plans for Hardin Valley Academy's girls basketball team --- and the lack of gym time was evident early in Friday night's game against West High School.
 The Lady Hawks would eventually celebrate Senior Night with a 75-59 District 4-AAA victory over the Lady

Rebels but HVA had trouble in the first half.
 West (1-20 overall, 0-12 in the district) led throughout much of the opening half and opened a 25-12 advantage midway through the second quarter on a pair of foul shots by Brianna Tate.
 The first few chapters of this Senior Night saga might have belonged to the Lady Rebels but HVA coach

Jennifer Galloway and the Lady Hawks (11-11, 5-7) didn't panic.
 Galloway implemented a full-court pressure defense that would eventually force things to come unraveled for the Lady Rebels.
 The Lady Hawks steadily and methodically chipped away at the deficit. They closed the second stanza on a 16-8 run and trailed 33-28 at halftime.

"Our kids played hard but it just took us awhile to find our groove," Galloway said. "We didn't have any practice time because of the snow."
 "We're a team that does better with structure."
 After halftime, the Lady Hawks continued to press and trap and force the Lady Rebels into turnovers. Hardin Valley turned the West High miscues into

transition baskets.
 Hardin Valley opened the third quarter with a modest 8-2 run and took the lead for good when Lacy Cantrell converted a three-point play to give the Lady Hawks a 36-35 edge with 5 minutes, 35 seconds remaining in the third quarter.
 Hardin Valley, which led 52-44 by the end of the third quarter, really blew

things open when its pressure defense really kicked into high gear.
 The Lady Hawks scored the first 10 points of the final stanza to open a 62-44 advantage and all but put the Lady Rebels away.
 Hardin Valley senior guard Katie Smartt sparked the fourth-quarter surge by scoring 10 of
Continue on page 3

New head coaches in prep football

Five new high school head football coaches have been named in *The Knoxville Focus*' coverage area since the 2013 season.
 In addition to Jeff McMillan at Carter, who is featured in this week's Focus, they are John Allen at Powell, Jerry Cooper at Seymour, Tobi Kilgore at Karns and Morgan Shinlever at Bearden.
 Another vacancy is expected to be filled soon at Central
 The Focus will have stories on other new coaches in upcoming issues.

McMillan, defensive guru, reconnects with Carter football

By Steve Williams
 When Jeff McMillan played football for Carter High School in the mid-1970s, the "Green Hornets" were beginning a 10-year period when they were known more for their defense than anything else.
 Almost 40 years later, McMillan, who has earned a reputation of being one of the state's best defensive coordinators, is Carter's new head coach.
 It's a perfect fit.
 "Carter was known for good defenses
Continue on page 4



Jeff McMillan (left) was announced as the new head football coach at Carter High School by Dr. Chad Smith, the school's athletic director.



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Champion Northwest Rangers are going to turn it up a notch

By Steve Williams

The Northwest Rangers rolled through the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference regular season and posted a 13-0 league record.

The talented 17-member team often built big leads and first-year Coach Cassen Jackson-Garrison would pull starters to give reserves playing time.

Jackson-Garrison indicated last week his top players will get more minutes in the upcoming post-season tournament.

"We'll let the starters stay in there and rotate in other players," he said. "I'm going to let them go at it."

Look out for a stampede to the title.

The Blue and Orange Rangers, who won six

games to capture first place in a Tipoff Classic at Eagleton in Blount County, will bring a 19-0 overall record into the Knox County tournament, which starts Thursday with first-round girls games. Boys first-round games are Friday.

Northwest, which received a first-round bye, will play the Powell-Bearden winner in Saturday's quarterfinals at Karns Middle School.

A big factor in the Rangers' success has been "the unselfishness of the players," said Jackson-Garrison, a standout running back at Central High and Vanderbilt who turned 29 last week.

"We have 17 guys who could play regularly on other teams in the county."

Northwest is led by six players, with seventh grader Nigal Davis and eighth grader DJ Mitchell sharing playing time at point guard.

Other starters are seventh grader DaShaun McKinney, a 6-1 post; eighth grader Ishon Harding, a 5-11 post; seventh grader Roman Robinson, a 6-foot shooting guard; and seventh grader Teahzawon Hodge-Harper, a 6-foot shooting guard.

Eighth grader Josh Berry is one of the team's top reserves and outside shooters from 3-point range.

Other members of the team are Jordan Gillespie, Edward Lacey, Coryean Davis, DaQuan Willis, Cozy Clark, LaRon Dixon, De'Vante Patrick, Zion

McCray, Reggie Jones and Laderia Agnew.

McKinney leads the team in scoring with a 14-point average, said Coach Jackson-Garrison. Robinson is close behind with a 13-point average. Other starters also average close to 10 points.

Middle school games have 6-minute quarters and the Rangers "usually score a minimum of 55 points per game," said Jackson-Garrison.

Northwest's style of play is "really fast paced," said the coach.

"To play Northwest basketball, you're going to have to play with us."

And keeping up with the Rangers this season hasn't been easy.

"We are aggressive on our full-court press the

entire game," Jackson-Garrison added.

Northwest's goal is no surprise.

"Win the county and improve on what we've already started and established," said coach.

And that's not all.

"I want these young men to become more than just good athletes," said Jackson-Garrison, who recently began work in the Oak Ridge Police Department as a patrolman. "I treat them like my own kids. I hold them to high standards."

The future for Northwest boys basketball also looks bright.

"We are only going to lose about three or four players," said Coach Jackson-Garrison.

Knox County Middle School Standings, Seedings

The Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference's regular season standings for 2013-14, with win-loss records in parenthesis, and seedings for post-season tournament, which starts Feb. 6:

GIRLS

1. West Valley (13-0)
2. Cedar Bluff (11-2)
3. Powell (11-2)
4. Halls (10-3)
5. Vine (9-4)
6. Karns (8-5)
7. Farragut (6-7)
8. Carter (6-7)
9. Holston (5-8)
10. Northwest (5-8)
11. Bearden (3-10)
12. South-Doyle (2-11)
13. Gresham (2-11)
14. Whittle Springs (0-13)

BOYS

1. Northwest (13-0)
2. Vine (11-2)
3. Karns (10-3)
4. Halls (8-5)
5. Holston (7-6)
6. Carter (7-6)
7. Farragut (7-6)
8. Bearden (6-7)
9. Powell (6-7)
10. Cedar Bluff (6-7)
11. Whittle Springs (4-9)
12. West Valley (3-10)
13. Gresham (3-10)
14. South-Doyle (0-14)

Lady Wolves post perfect league mark, eye tournament title

By Ken Lay

Throughout Alex Comer's tenure as girls basketball coach at West Valley Middle School the Lady Wolves have been regulars in the semifinals and finals of the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament.

West Valley will likely be around for the final day of the Tournament on Feb. 13 and that's nothing new.

But the Lady Wolves recently won their first Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference regular-season championship under Comer, who replaced the legendary Tim Goddard as head coach five years ago. Like Comer, Goddard led West Valley on many deep postseason runs during his illustrious

career.

The Lady Wolves won their first regular-season in several years by going undefeated in the league and winning 13 conference games. They went 18-3 overall and will begin their quest for a tournament title on Feb. 8 at Karns Middle School's Thomas L. Duff Memorial Gymnasium.

The tournament was supposed to get underway late last week before Tuesday's snowstorm, which dumped two-and-a-half inches of the white stuff on parts of Knox County, forced a one-week postponement. The top-seeded Lady Wolves and Cedar Bluff, the tournament's second seed, has a first-round bye. Tournament play opens Thursday throughout Knox County.

The Lady Giants and West Valley will join the fray when the tournament shifts to Karns on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Comer said he looks forward to leading the Lady Wolves, who lost in last year's tournament championship to Northwest, on another postseason run.

"This is the fun time of the year for me," Comer said. "This is when I stop coaching and start cheerleading. I've already taught them what I know and this is the time for them to go out and have fun. This is the time for them to go out and enjoy the moment."

"Everything you do during the regular season gets you ready for the tournament. Some coaches say, and to some extent I agree, that

the regular season is the hard part. The tournament only lasts a week."

West Valley has a talented squad as always. Top players include: Jalayah Manning (an eighth-grade guard, who transferred from Bearden and is a captain for the Lady Wolves this season and made the all-county team as a seventh grader with the Lady Bruins last season); Trinity Lee (an eighth-grade guard and two-year starter and captain); Annaka Hall; Maddie Hull; Tytiara Spikes and Kendall Clark.

Comer has the luxury of having five good ball handlers when all his starters are on the floor.

"All five of our starters can handle the ball against the press and that makes

us hard to guard," he said.

West Valley may have gone undefeated in conference play but Cedar Bluff defeated the Lady Wolves in an early-season tournament but West Valley avenged its loss to the Lady Giants in conference play.

"We lost to them in Eagleton and they had us down 22-0," Comer said. "We played them a little better in the [league game]."

West Valley has a long road ahead but the biggest journey begins with a single step. The Lady Wolves will open tournament play against the winner of the Carter-Holston game Thursday in Strawberry Plains.

And the coach knows that his squad will be in for three tough battles if it is to cut down the nets next

week at Karns.

"This is my first team to win a regular-season championship and that's special," Comer said. "You know that, as the top seed, that you'll get everybody's best shot. We just have to take things one game at a time."

First-round matchups Thursday include: Whittle Springs at Powell; Gresham at Powell; South-Doyle at Vine; Bearden at Karns; Northwest at Farragut and Holston at Carter.

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Coaches award top KIL football players

By Ken Lay

It was truly a banner season for Knox County High School football teams in 2013 as Fulton and Webb completed back-to-back state championships and West played for the Class 5A State Title for

the first time in school history.

Catholic, Grace Christian Academy and Christian Academy also made deep playoff runs in the recently concluded campaign.

Those schools were heavily represented on the All-KIL Football team,

which was recently selected by the county's coaches.

The Falcons, who went 15-0 en route to their second consecutive Class 4A State Championship, had 11 players named to the squad. Those athletes included Penny Smith (quarterback); Darryl Rollins-Davis (running back); Xavier Hawkins (wide receiver); Akeem Cooperwood (offensive lineman); Michael Scates (offensive lineman); Tyler Stokes (defensive line); D.J. Campbell (linebacker); Sidney Jackson (linebacker); Kenny Marsh (linebacker); Dmonique Williams (defensive back) and Lennox Roper (defensive back).

The Spartans also won their second straight Division II-A State Championship in 2013. Webb coach David Meske, who guided his team to the title, was named Coach of the Year.

Defensive back Todd Kelly Jr. was named Defensive Player of the Year. Other Webb players honored included: Matthew Melton (defensive back); Brant Mitchell (linebacker); Andrew Campbell

(defensive line) and Robby Strachan (fullback).

The Rebels went 13-2 and dropped a 28-27 heartbreaker in their first-ever Class 5A Title Game, also had multiple selections named to the squad. West running back Nathan Cottrell was named Knox County's Offensive Player of the Year.

Other West players selected were: Leon Humphrey (offensive lineman); Khalil Watford (defensive line); Cody Underwood (linebacker); Noah Hoxie (linebacker); Max Bacon (defensive back) and Alex Burch (defensive back).

Catholic, under first-year head coach Steve Matthews, reached the Class 4A semifinals before being beaten by Fulton, was rewarded with multiple picks to the squad including: Wyatt Price (kicker); Logan Irwin (offensive lineman); Josh Silvey (defensive lineman); David Hamilton (linebacker) and Will Martinez (defensive back).

CAK, which went 6-7 and reached the Class 3A Quarterfinals before falling to District 4-AA rival Alcoa, **Cont. on page 4**

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Farragut edges Bearden 55-51

By David Klein

Bearden vs. Farragut is a rivalry like none other in Knoxville. The Admirals and the Bulldogs proved that Friday night in the girls' rivalry basketball game. Both teams played tough, aggressive, physical defense throughout the game. There were numerous jump balls, with players from both teams diving for loose balls and battling in the air for rebounds. It's the kind of play to be expected when the two West Knoxville rivals get together. Farragut led from start to finish, defeating their arch rival Bearden 55-51 Friday night in a game filled with defensive intensity.

"Bearden played tough. It's a big win for us," Farragut Head Coach Jason Mayfield said. "It's just a physical game," he continued. "We play so well (on defense), good help defense," Mayfield added.

Farragut and Bearden dueled to a 29-27 halftime lead for the Admirals. The Admirals had a 7-point lead after the first quarter, but Bearden battled back on the strength of its 3-point shooting behind Lexus Norwood. Madison Maples led the Admirals in scoring in the first half and would end up with 17 points in

the game.

The Bulldogs went on a 5-0 run to start the second quarter, but Maples put an end to that run. The Admirals pushed the lead back to seven before the Bulldogs clawed back to trail at halftime by just two points.

Both teams struggled offensively in the third quarter. The Admirals' Kristen Freeman broke a three and a half minute scoring drought for both teams. Farragut would push the lead to seven points on

Maizan Hudson's 3-pointer.

Bearden would draw within two points on Chandler Greer's three pointer. But then Farragut's Miranda Burt came up with a big three-point play. She somehow dug the ball out of a pile of bodies and layed it in and converted the free throw for a 45-40 lead. Bearden cut it back down to three points on Erin Walsh's three-pointer, but Farragut hit a pair of free throws in the last seconds of the game to hold on for the 55-51 win.

Walsh finished with 21 points for the Bulldogs. Farragut improved to 21-2, 11-1 in District 4AAA. Bearden is now 19-5, 8-4 in District 4AAA.

Lady Hawks notch comeback win over West



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Hardin Valley's Brooklyn Battle lunges to make a defensive play against West High's Brianna Tate in a District 4-AAA game at HVA Friday night.

Continued from page 1

her 18 points in the fourth quarter.

Smartt said that she's hoping that this victory will propel the Lady Hawks to success.

"This will be a real confidence booster for us," Smartt said. "We'll probably see them again in the district tournament.

"When we play as a team, I think we can play with any team in our district."

In addition to Smartt's 18 points, Hardin Valley got

18 from Brooklyn Battle. Cantrell scored 14 and Brianna Carter, another senior, also scored 14 points.

Freshman Bekah Hampton scored eight points in the second quarter and provided the initial spark in HVA's comeback.

West had three players score in double figures. Tate and Kennedy Blalark shared game-high scoring honors with 19 points each.

Monica Hundley added 13 points for the Lady Rebels, who led 16-8 after the first quarter.

When the Event Means More than the Game

By Alex Norman

These days it is all the rage in the National Hockey League to play outdoors. This year alone, five games will have been played without a roof. In Ann Arbor, Michigan, Los Angeles, California, The Bronx, New York and Chicago, Illinois, huge crowds have shown up or will show up.

Not because the quality of play is spectacular. As a matter of fact, the ice surface is never top notch and it takes players a while to get used to the foreign surroundings. The reason fans show up is because the experience is so rare... the chance to see a hockey game with a huge crowd in a place like Yankee Stadium or Soldier Field.

Other sports have similar

unique experiences. It's why you see college basketball games played on an aircraft carrier like the USS Carl Vinson. It's why the Lady Vols played a basketball game under the stars at the home of the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2000. Whatever it takes to get the sports fan (and their credit card) on board.

On September 10th, 2016, Tennessee fans will show up in droves for a college football game against Virginia Tech at Bristol Motor Speedway.

This has been an idea talked about for decades. It is finally becoming a reality.

Last year the University of Tennessee athletic department announced that 40,000 tickets have

been secured. That's the initial amount handed to each school. 35,000 of those tickets have a deposit placed for them, and the other 5,000 tickets will be for UT students.

"The overwhelming response to the Battle at Bristol speaks to the passion of our amazing Tennessee fans," said Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics Dave Hart in a statement released by the University of Tennessee athletic department. "Our fans' excitement and their strong and immediate response to the Battle at Bristol game, which is still 32 months away, says everything you need to know about the most devoted fan base in the nation."

Yes, that is true, but it is also a fan base beaten down by six straight seasons of mediocrity, under four different head coaches.

And while head coach Butch Jones and his staff have done a spectacular job on the recruiting trail, there is no guarantee that in 2016 the Vols will be anything more than what they are now... a 5-7 team.

People are signing up for tickets to the Battle at Bristol because they are Vols fans. That is true. But they are also signing up because this could be a once in a lifetime event. You could camp out that entire week near the track, just like NASCAR fans do twice a year.

You could be part of the largest crowd to ever witness a college football game (estimates have seating for as many as 150,000 fans at the World's Fastest Half-Mile).

Years from now, you'll be able to tell your grandkids that yes... I was at that game.

Would it be nice for Tennessee fans to be rooting for a team that is back in the national rankings? Sure. But that's why fans will be at the game.

The sightlines will be brutal for many spectators. Imagine sitting behind an end zone. You might be 200 yards from the other end zone.

Traffic leaving the track will be a nightmare. Bristol post-race traffic makes

Vols post-game traffic look like the Autobahn.

But that won't matter. This is an event. It's a happening.

And it's no surprise that Tennessee announced they are in discussions with Bristol Motor Speedway to obtain more tickets that they can sell to Vols fans in the future.

So the next time you hear someone with a wild idea about playing a sport in a non-traditional venue (NBA game at Wimbledon? MLB game at Lambeau Field?)... Don't laugh...

In 2016, they are going to play college football at a NASCAR track.

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A nice wish, a Super question and snow days at Rec Hall

A little over 48 hours after Florida handed the Tennessee men's basketball team its worst defeat of the season, a voice was heard in the darkness:



By Steve Williams

"Right now I just wish fans would stay on board with this team and this coach."

Maybe you heard the comment, like I did.

In case you didn't, I'm here to tell you who made that wish:

Bruce Pearl. That's how the former Tennessee coach ended an interview on WNML's The Sports Animal last Monday night.

Pearl sounded sincere. I thought it was a nice

verbal gesture. That's the latest, anyway, in the best soap opera going in UT athletics right now.

In case you've missed a month of episodes, there appears to be a growing segment of the Vols' fan base which would like to see Pearl brought back as coach, if Cuonzo Martin, current coach, fails to get his team in the NCAA tournament for the third straight year.

There are a few who are even pulling for Cuonzo and the Vols to fail, so Pearl will have a chance to be UT's coach again after his 3-year showcause - for lying to the NCAA - ends in August.

A little over 48 hours

after Bruce aired his wish, Tennessee turned in one of its best performances of the season in beating Ole Miss.

Some fans got back on board. Stay tuned.

SUPER MONDAY: The day after Super Sunday. Since I'm writing this on Super Friday, the Super Bowl has yet to be played.

With that said, on Super Saturday, Peyton Manning will be one day from playing the one game that will determine his legacy in the NFL, or so some say.

I have often heard that one game does not make a season. So how can one game make a legacy?

I'M NOT going to raise

my index finger and shout "We're No. 1" if Tennessee's 2014 football recruiting class is ranked the best in the nation.

Wednesday - national signing day - is a big day on paper, the culmination of a lot of work by Coach Butch Jones and his staff. But having "recruiting celebrations" across the state - dinner in Knoxville, breakfast in Memphis and lunch in Nashville - is like making an appetizer the main course.

When Tennessee gets it done on the field, and wins a SEC championship, then it will be time to shout "We're No. 1" and have a feast.

SNOW DAYS: Knox County students getting

out of school most of last week because of the snow and cold weather had me reflecting on such times when I was going to school in Clinton back in the late 1960s.

It was pretty much a tradition for basketball-loving boys in Clinton to show up at the Rec Hall on snow days, and make a day of it.

The court we played on was about half regulation length. Best I remember, each team had three players on it, maybe four. When we played 5-on-5 on that small court, it got a little crowded.

We called our own fouls and kept our own score.

The team that won would stay on the court and get to keep playing. When a team

lost, it would go to the sidelines, and have to wait its turn.

This was the day and age of Pistol Pete Maravich, Ray Mears and Ron Widby, the SEC TV Game of the Week and String Music. The best basketball shoes in those days were the Converse Chuck Taylor All Stars, with the gray soles.

We played all day at the Rec Hall. Recreation director George Margrave or his assistant, Claude Cardin (I hope that's the right name) let us in on those cold snowy mornings. A lot of us boys were having so much fun, we probably forgot to tell them "thank you."

Graham, Third Quarter Key for Bulldogs in Win Over Admirals

By David Klein

A decisive third quarter push was the difference for the Bearden Bulldogs as they defeated the Farragut Admirals 64-52 Friday night at Bearden. Jack Graham poured in 25 points to lead the Bulldogs in scoring. He did it a variety of ways too, hitting 3-pointers, nailing free throws, and inside layups.

"Farragut's always a big one," Graham said. "We got it circled." Graham has become the Bulldogs' biggest offensive threat this season. "This year I've really had to work on getting to the hole a little better, he said. "I've taken the mindset that I need to do whatever I can do to help the team win."

Bearden Head Coach Mark Blevins added, "The whole defense (Farragut's) is geared to stop Jack."

Neither team scored the first three minutes of the game. That changed when Graham set the tone for the night, making two free throws and nailing a three-pointer for a 5-0 lead. The Bulldogs would go on to a narrow 22-19 halftime lead in a physical, defense oriented first half.

Bearden was about to break the game open. The Bulldogs turned a three-point halftime lead into a 17-point lead by the end of the third quarter. Graham had 12 points in the quarter, including a basket at the buzzer. But it was the

Bulldogs' defense that sparked Bearden's offense in the quarter.

"A couple of things, defensively we picked up, we got a couple of steals and easy buckets. We were able to bust a couple of three's to try to get Jack out of the triangle (Farragut's defense)." Bearden outscored Farragut 23-9 in the third quarter.

The Admirals tried to rally in the fourth with a full-court press, but Bearden beat it time and time again with long passes to Jason Smith, who scored four consecutive unguarded layups. "They were all such difficult shots, weren't they?" Blevins asked. "Wide open on all of them. I was just hoping he catches the ball."

As Bearden goes into a key schedule stretch, Blevins said the team is taking it one game at a time. "This was big for us because we can't have a losing season," Blevins stressed. "With all the things with our schedule, with the injuries we've suffered, it could easily have happened. We're just hoping to do well against Heritage tomorrow."

Bearden's game against Heritage was played Saturday in a game that got postponed because of snow. Results of that game weren't available at press time. Following Friday's win against Farragut, Bearden improved to 16-8, 9-3 in District 4AAA while Farragut fell to 9-14, 6-4 in District 4AAA.

Coaches award top KIL football players

Cont. from page 2

had three players selected. Punter Stephen Neu made the team along with offensive lineman Patrick Dalton and wide receiver Whitaker Cunningham.

Grace Christian, which was eliminated in the Class 2A State Semifinals, had two selections as quarterback Devin Smith and tight end Andy Eddins were named to the squad.

Farragut, which went 6-5 last season and returned to the playoffs last season, had two all-KIL selections in tight end Billy Williams and offensive lineman Nathan Gilliam.

Other running backs chosen included Joe Bruce (South-Doyle) and Powell's Tyshawn Gardin.

Bearden offensive lineman Chandler Greer was named to the squad along with defensive linemen Hunter Lane of Gibbs and Matt Brewer of Hardin Valley Academy.

Hank Black (Carter) and Jaquail Williams (Austin-East) were named to the two athlete spots.

McMillan, defensive guru, reconnects with Carter football

Cont. from page 1

"back in the day," said the 54-year-old McMillan via e-mail last Thursday. "All championship programs play great defense, and we will be known as a top defensive team again."

"Great defenses play with great intensity, effort and toughness. You may have an off night offensively, but with those three ingredients you should be consistent defensively game in and game out."

"I have been a defensive coordinator the past 21 seasons and will continue in that role. I am in the process now of putting the staff together, and hiring an OC (offensive coordinator) is the first position I will fill. We will be exciting and multiple on offense with the ability to run the ball effectively and throw the ball down field."

McMillan was a defensive tackle at Carter and a good one. In the autumn of 1975, his junior season, the 9-1 Green Hornets recorded three shutouts and held five opponents under 10 points before losing to Chattanooga McCallie in the Scenic City Bowl.

As a senior the following year, Carter gave up only 77 points in 11 games. McMillan was named to the All-Knoxville Football League team and received honorable mention on the All-East Tennessee squad.

He also was defensive MVP as Coach Gary "Butter" Hubbs' team made a return trip to the Scenic City Bowl and beat Red Bank 20-13 to post a 10-1 record.

McMillan left for college - playing at Auburn in 1977, then transferring to Austin Peay State where he finished his eligibility and degree - and Carter continued to make headlines on the defensive side of the ball.

Its 1981 team was 9-1 and held eight foes under 10 points with five shutouts. The 1982 squad won six games, all by shutouts. In 1986, Carter went 10-0 in the regular season, blanking five foes, before falling to Clinton in a first-round playoff game.

Prior to landing his first head post, McMillan was associated with winning football programs at Central and Fulton. He coached under Joel Helton at Central for 24 years and helped the Bobcats make 15 playoff appearances.

The past three seasons, McMillan has been the defensive coordinator for Rob Black at Fulton, where the Falcons captured back-to-back Class 4A state championships in 2012 and 2013. McMillan's defensive unit recorded seven shutouts and allowed only 9.6 points per game in a 15-0 season last fall.

"We are excited to name

Jeff McMillan as our new head football coach," said Carter High Athletic Director, Dr. Chad Smith, in his official statement. "We are confident that Jeff will build upon our successes that we have had both on and off the football field. Coach McMillan is a winner as evident by the people and programs he has been associated with. Furthermore, Jeff is one of us. As a graduate of Carter High School, Jeff knows what it means to be a Carter Hornet and we look forward to him instilling those values in our young men."

McMillan replaces Heath Woods, who resigned after 12 years at Carter. Woods' Hornets finished 9-2 this past season.

McMillan says he's most excited about "returning to the community I've lived in all my life, and having a positive impact in the community as a whole."

"I have many ties to the community and fellow alumni. My wife has taught at Carter Elementary for 28 years, my dad was a principal at Carter Middle when he retired, and both of my sons attended Carter schools until high school."

"Even though I've lived in the community all these years, it's very exciting to return as head football coach and have a greater opportunity to positively impact the young people in the Carter community."

Hawks avenge loss to Rebels on Senior Night

By Ken Lay

Hardin Valley Academy boys basketball coach Keith Galloway couldn't have written a better script for Senior Night.

"I'm really proud of our guys," Galloway said after his Hawks notched a 67-43 victory over West Friday night at HVA in a victory that avenged one of Hardin Valley's earlier District 4-AAA losses. "We didn't have a particularly good first half because we haven't practiced since we've had all of this snow."

The Hawks (15-7 overall, 9-3 in District 4-AAA) might have struggled to find their groove but they did enough to open a 14-9 lead by the end of the opening frame. Hardin Valley, which hosts first-place Maryville tonight (Feb. 3) at 7:30, managed to maintain the five-point lead throughout the first half and held a 28-23 lead at the break.

Hardin Valley really blew things open in the third quarter as the Hawks went on a 27-12 run in the frame. The surge was culminated when Zak Carter, a senior post player, buried a 3-pointer as time expired to give the home team a 55-35 lead.

"They beat us at their place and we wanted to show that we let that one get away," Carter said. "You couldn't have scripted this thing any better."

"Now, we'll get a chance to avenge another one of our [district] losses."

Against the Rebels (5-17, 3-9) the Hawks picked up some big contributions from players who normally don't get much playing time.

Senior reserves Grant Martin and Michael Beckham each nabbed some crucial rebounds for Hardin Valley.

"Those guys are seniors and they played well," Galloway said. "They got some big rebounds and I'm really proud of those guys."

The Hawks also boasted a balanced scoring attack. Carter led the way with

20 points. Junior guard Blaine Shockley added 15 and senior center Dyonta Bizzle-Brown finished with 10.

Rebels' coach Chris Kesler was impressed with the Hawks.

"They're one of the best teams in our district," said Kesler, who guided West to the Class AAA State Tournament in 2011 and to a sectional appearance in 2012. "They felt like they let one get away at our place."

"We played well in spurts but we're young and inexperienced. I thought we played pretty well in the first half and then let things get away in the third quarter. We're still trying to figure it out."

Peyton Lara and Ahmad Shell each scored 13 points for the Rebels and Max Bacon added 10.

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

Being There

It's late afternoon as I begin this essay with snow falling and the world quiet. Snow absorbs sound and causes people to slow down as winter dampens the world with its whiteness. Becky loves snow, and so do I, especially with a cozy fire, good company and enough of things that matter. Even the birds outside the window say "thank you" for a fresh supply of seeds in the bird feeder which hopefully will sustain them through winter's chill.

My brother collected all my Mom's old photos and had them put on a CD as a Christmas present. We've enjoyed sharing Mom's gift and reminiscing, which always seems better when experienced together. I was struck by how many pictures showed heavy snow during my boyhood.

History shows that America was colder then; even Time magazine lamented the "Polar Vortex" of the 70s which they said was caused by global cooling. I read a report several years ago that chronicled global cooling in the late 1800s which was followed by warming, drought, and the dust bowl of the 1930s. The cold snap and snows of my boyhood followed that warming trend which seems to have returned in the 21st century. I've missed the snow in recent years, though I'd much rather be too hot than too cold.

Because I'm home now my perspective has changed. Raising a child is hard but joyous work. I have a renewed appreciation for the women of the world who are the nurturers and glue of families.

However, Becky is right when she says, "It takes a family" to raise a child. And now, I get to help in this most important task as we help with my grandson, Oakley. And I've observed that "being there" makes all the difference. There are subtleties in his mannerisms that can't be described; they must be experienced. My wife raised our two daughters, and though I helped, our home and family were thankfully managed by my wife. Some years ago a colleague on his second marriage and family confided in me how he once focused on his career and wasn't there for his first family. He assured me things would be different this time.

Doctors of my generation seem different than the rising stars of the Millennial and X generations. I once sat in a focus meeting with a group of multi-generational doctors. I was struck when a young doctor told the group that her priorities were first her kids, her marriage came next, then her work-out regimen, and her medical practice and patients came last. The focus of many doctors these days is the end of responsibility at the conclusion of their shift.

Being there is one thing, but being aware is another. I'll admit that I didn't pay a lot of attention to politics in the first thirty years of my life. I was too busy getting an education, starting a medical practice and raising a family. However, I've been aware for the last thirty years and the last five are unprecedented. The Obama Administration is a dismal failure not because he is black, but because his policies are all wrong. Obama-care is a perfect example why the government is incapable of managing healthcare, which is one sixth of the American economy. Obama and the Democrats passed a law that none of them read and is grossly unjust. More than 2000 waivers have been offered to exclude some from compliance with the law, but not others. Now we learn that provisions in Obama's signature legislation provide for a bail out of insurance companies who stand to lose their crony capitalist shirts in Obama-care. Even Obama's healthcare website is a joke and a huge security risk.

As I watched the President come into the House of Representatives, I reflected on a commentator's description of the "POTUS poodles" crowding

to shake the President's hand and be seen. Once a year we listen for leadership and all we really get is repetitive standing and sitting and clapping that reminds me of a nursery school game. This year's vacuous rhetoric even drew the criticism of the President's own main stream media. The President now threatens to side step Congress and rule by executive Order with his pen and phone if he doesn't get his way. In ancient Greece the ruler of a city state was called a tyrant. Shades of this term resonate in America even today.

Much is said of a "lame duck" presidency that goes beyond the idiom of a crippled fowl. What would a leader have said in the SOTU address? He would build the Keystone pipeline and put Americans to work, and deny the Chinese oil from Canada. He would bring the terrorists of Benghazi to justice as he promised in previous SOTU addresses. He would explain to the American people why the State Department, Hillary Clinton, and his Administration deceived us with a contrived anti-Muslim video. He would bring to justice the abusers of power within the IRS. And he

would the stop class warfare rhetoric which pits rich against poor, black against white, and liberal vs. conservative.

Actually, Mr. President, Americans just want you to leave us alone. We've tried five years of big government intervention with repeated stimulus programs which just make the wealthy like George Soros more wealthy and the rest of us and our children more indebted to the Chinese. On your watch and with your policies ninety-two million Americans aren't working. Almost fifty million are on food stamps. Our "enemies no longer fear us and our allies no longer trust us." Sir, you are responsible for this mess.

Many believe that America can survive the mess created by Obama and the big government progressives and RINOs. I'm not so sure. You see this has all been done before and history does repeat itself.

Mr. President, if you want a bold agenda that will save America read 2 Chronicles 7:14 and obey. Idolatry and the welfare state always fail with terrible consequences.

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

KCHD offering two classes to help those with chronic disease

Classes are free and open to the public

While they are among the most preventable, chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease and cancer are also among the most prevalent and costly health problems facing our country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 75 percent of our nation's health care dollars goes to treat chronic disease.

"Being diagnosed with a chronic condition is a life-changing event. Managing it can be time consuming and overwhelming," said Susan Fowlkes, Knox County Health

Department (KCHD) director of clinical nutrition. "That's why we offer two free series of classes."

LIVING WELL WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Developed by Stanford University, this evidence-based series is an effective education program for people with chronic health problems like arthritis and lung and heart disease. The six-part series teaches self-management of disease and explores solutions to the social, physical and emotional effects of chronic conditions.

When: February 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 4, 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: Knox County Health Department classroom, 140

DIABETES MANAGEMENT SERIES

This five-part series teaches participants how proper diet, medication, stress management and exercise can keep them healthier and help them feel better. It focuses on the day-to-day management of diabetes, awareness of what causes blood sugar levels to rise and the vigilance required in monitoring the disease. Individuals diagnosed as diabetic or pre-diabetic as well as family members of those with diabetes are encouraged to attend.

When: February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6 from 12 to 1 p.m.

Where: Knox County Health

Department auditorium, 140 Dameron Ave.

Those interested in attending either class may call 865-215-5170 to register. Parking is free.

Due to the prevalence of chronic conditions, KCHD administers several prevention programs aimed at reducing a variety of these diseases and the associated risk factors. These programs include the Nutrition Education Activity Training (NEAT) after-school initiative, worksite wellness programs, breastfeeding promotion and advocacy, walking school bus programs, tobacco cessation initiatives, and community engagement to facilitate a culture of health.

UTMC Announces Henry Granted Stroke Certified Registered Nurse Credential

The University of Tennessee Medical Center is proud to announce that Jennifer Henry, BSN, RN, CNRN, SCRN, director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center at UT Medical Center, has earned the Stroke Certified Registered Nurse (SCRN) certification through the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing. Henry is one of only five stroke nurses in Tennessee and the only in East Tennessee to have earned the SCRN designation.

"Jennifer has encouraged nurses throughout our state to embrace the science of stroke prevention and caring for patients and families suffering the effects of stroke," said Ann Giffin, vice president of the medical center's Brain and Spine Institute. "She led The University of Tennessee Medical Center to achieve Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke Certification and continues to be a resource for other hospitals endeavoring to improve stroke care. We are very proud of her for adding this Stroke Certification to her credentials."

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Featured Speaker
David Hovis, M.D.

Faith

Lessons from a warrior

This past week one of our long time servants, Fred Gilliam, went home to be with the Lord. Fred was a part of the body of Christ at Arlington for fifty years. During that time, he showered us with his love.

Fred was from the GI Generation (called The Greatest Generation and includes those born between 1901-1924). In *The Greatest Generation*, Tom Brokaw argues that the World War II generation's perseverance through difficult times is a testament to their extraordinary character. Their actions during times of war and peace ultimately made the United States a better place in which to live. They were born and raised in a difficult era marked by war and economic depression. Brokaw asserts that these men and women developed values of "personal responsibility, duty, honor and faith." It was these very characteristics that helped them to defeat Hitler, build the American economy, make advances in science and implement visionary programs like Medicare. According to Brokaw, "at every stage of their lives they were part of historic challenges and achievements of a magnitude the world had never before witnessed" (*The Greatest Generation*. New York: Random House, 1998).

Brokaw credits the Greatest Generation with much of the freedom and affluence that Americans enjoy today. "They have given the succeeding generations the opportunity to accumulate great economic wealth, political muscle, and the



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

freedom from foreign oppression to make whatever choices they like," he writes. Despite these achievements, however, Brokaw believes that the Greatest Generation remains remarkably humble about what they've done (<http://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/generation-gaps/greatest-generation3.html>).

This describes those I have known and loved from this generation. Their willingness to sacrifice, to live within their means so they can liberally give, and their commitment to hard work is characteristics we all need to emulate.

All of these traits and more were found in my dear brother in Christ, Fred Gilliam. I am so grateful for the past eleven years to have gotten to know him. His stories, memories, and observations of the 91 years of his life God blessed him with will live with me the rest of my life. Perhaps the greatest memory I will have of Fred is his love for his family and his God. He will be greatly missed, but we will meet again.

It is hard to say goodbye to someone who has touched so many lives. But our faith carries us through. Due to the resurrection of Christ, we have hope. I am happy Fred is no longer struggling. He has fought the good fight first as a Marine in WWII, and then as a soldier of Christ. He has kept the faith. He has finished the race. Now he has received the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:7, 8).

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UT Church Lecture Series Celebrates 40 Years, Kicks Off today

Internationally recognized architects and designers will present their work this semester at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as part of the Church Memorial Lecture Series.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the series. Its first speaker was Louis Kahn, one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. He gave his last public lecture at UT on Feb. 5, 1974.

This spring, the series kicks off on Monday, Feb. 3. The programs are free and open to the public. They provide opportunities to gain insight into the works and ideas in the design disciplines today. The series also includes films and exhibits.

All activities will be held in the UT Art and Architecture Building, 1715 Volunteer Blvd. Lectures begin at 5:30 p.m. and films begin at 8 p.m. in McCarty Auditorium. The exhibitions will be featured in Gallery 103.

The series was founded by Robert B. Church III, a modernist architect and former dean of UT's School of Architecture. It has welcomed some of the world's greatest architects and designers to Knoxville.

Since 2006, the lectures have been broadcast live in an effort to reach the mass public. An archive of this year's lectures is available at <http://tiny.utk.edu/church-webcasts>.

The College of Architecture and Design is

currently working to remaster and make past lectures, including Kahn's, available through its YouTube channel and website as an educational resource. They will be available at <http://www.youtube.com/UTArchandDesign>.

Visiting Lectures

Feb. 3—Nader Tehrani will present "Catalytic Structures: Transformed Types." Tehrani is a professor and head of the Department of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is also a principal of NADAAA, a practice dedicated to the advancement of design innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration. His work has been recognized with notable awards, including the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in Architecture (2007), the United States Artists Fellowship in Architecture and Design (2007), and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Architecture (2002). It also has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston.

Feb. 21—Lawrence Scarpa will present "Latent Potentials." He has received more than 50 major design awards in the past 10 years, including 19 national awards from the American Institute of Architecture. This spring, he is the UT Barber McMurry Visiting Professor. He is founder and principal at Brooks + Scarpa (formerly Pugh + Scarpa) in Los Angeles. His work has been featured in numerous publications and exhibited in venues such as the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and the National Building Museum.

March 24—Eva Franch Gilabert will present "Towards a Theory of Earliness." She is a licensed

architect and founder of Office of Architectural Affairs in New York City. She also is a researcher and curator at Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York City, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of architecture, art and design. Most recently, Storefront was commissioned by the U.S. State Department to represent the U.S. Pavilion at the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale.

March 31—Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam, principals of the Atlanta-based firm Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects Inc., will present the General Shale Lecture. The duo has won several awards for their design work, especially of university campus buildings. In addition to architecture, their work includes interior design, planning, graphic design, exhibit design, planning, and programming and research.

Exhibitions

Jan. 6-23: Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman: "The Work of KBAS"

Jan. 27-Feb. 5: UT Printing Program: "Printed Kites: Flying Portfolio"

Feb. 10-28: Lawrence Scarpa: "Brooks + Scarpa"

March 3-21: "Omakuva—Finland Summer Architecture Institute"

March 24-April 10: "Rome [Re]Visited—The Necessity For Seeing"

April 14-May 15: Stroud Watson: "The Chattanooga Studio"

Films
Jan. 29: "Rivers and Tides" (2002) by Thomas Riedelsheimer

Feb. 12: "Beauty is Embarrassing" (2012) by Neil Berkeley

Feb. 26: "Exit Through the Gift Shop" (2010) by Banksy

March 26: "Manufactured Landscapes" (2007) by Jennifer Baichwal

April 9: "Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry" (2012) by Alison Klayman

Church Happenings

Seymour United Methodist Church

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

Get your tickets now for the "Be Mine & Dine" dinner scheduled for Friday, February 7. The youth of SUMC will serve and their ministries will benefit from the proceeds. Cost is \$30 per couple or \$20 for individual.

Next Sunday, Feb. 9th, the Children's Council will meet at 2:45 PM and the Mission Outreach team will meet at 4 p.m.

The "Women of Joy" 3-day, 2-night, gathering is scheduled for Pigeon Forge on April 25th - 27th. Contact Michelle Hurton for signup and details.

A new ministry, called "Stephen Ministry," is taking signups now for facilitator training classes beginning in March.

Looking ahead, watch for further information on the Older Adult Council's "Lincoln Luncheon" to be held Feb. 15th at noon. Guest speaker, Dr. Michael Toomey from LMU will talk about "President Lincoln's Early Years."

Don't forget to pray about and fulfill your own personal financial pledges and commitments for 2014 to help support God's Kingdom and all of SUMC's many ministries.

For further information, please call the church office at 573-9711. Our website is: www.seymourumc.org.

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Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
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House to Home



Windsor Gardens Assisted Living Craft Club ladies, display 9 of 12 fleece tie blankets that they have crafted this past fall and winter season! They are so proud of their efforts and this is truly a meaningful craft for them. The ladies make these blankets annually to be donated to Mission of Hope. In the back row from left to right is, Imogene Tyree and Mary Campbell. Front row, left to right are Annette Long, Anna Wright and Ernie Ingle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boxes Of Blessings

Dante Church of God will be distributing Boxes Of Blessings (food) on Saturday, February 8, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or until boxes are gone. Anyone who would like to come and receive a box of blessings is invited. You must be present to receive a box of food. One box per household.

Fontinalis Club

Fontinalis Club will meet on Thursday, February 13, at Central Baptist Church, 5364 Broadway. Board meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by social time at 10am, then general meeting at 10:30am. The program will be on Civic Growth, "Helping People, Helping Lives". Eric White of Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee will be the featured speaker.

Karns Republican Club meeting

The Karns Republican Club will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m. at

the Karns Middle School Library. Guest speaker will be Greg McMillan, candidate for 4th Circuit Judgeship.

Knox County Democratic Women's Meeting

The oldest county Democratic women's club in the United States meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Shoney's on Western Avenue in Knoxville. New members are always welcome! Call (865) 742-8234 for more info. Join us for our 85th anniversary celebration March 8 at Southern Depot. www.knoxville-democrats.org/women_s_club_85th_anniversary.

"Morning Brunch with the Lover of My Soul"

RIOS Praise and Worship will be hosting "Morning Brunch with the Lover of My Soul" for Ladies 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 8. RIO Praise and Worship is located at 3702 Knox Lane, 37917. There is no charge to attend, but reservations are required. (865)684-6055.

Hand-in-hand: Gardening and writing

Gardening and writing seem to go hand-in-hand or, as I once read, gardening and writing are intertwined like a tree-stem clasped by ivy. The writing and gardening are intermingling acts of work and pleasure. Most gardeners, if not writing for public use and knowledge, at the very least write in garden journals or diaries for their own personal use. Gardens inspire authors and authors in their turn shape notions of the gardens. There is such an interrelationship with writers, writing and gardens.

Writing and gardening can be traced to even ancient times. Writing in the first century, Greek historians Strabo and Diodorus described one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Hanging Gardens at Babylon. Tomb paintings and temple inscriptions dating from ca. 1400 BC record the walled gardens of the wealthy.

Many gardeners write letters to friends, relatives, acquaintances (sometimes who are gardeners themselves) to vividly describe their gardens to evoke visions, prompt imagination or even memories. The garden is a place where their personal stories, fantasies and longing found expression. Gardener to gardener, knowledge, comparisons, growth habits, successes and failures as well as much other information can be shared. But not only that, the character of the garden and the character of the gardener can come to life. The writings are rich, diverse, eloquent and surprising, and reveal stories of grief, hope, friendship, separation, family, ageing, creativity, identity and the now consuming question of how we live in a changing climate. The love, labor and passion are revealed through the words written. The book, "Two Gardeners: A Friendship in Letters" (Katharine S. White and Elizabeth Lawrence) is just that!! As described by Verlyn Klinkenburt, The New York Times Book Review, "Two Gardeners is one of the finest gardening books published in years, largely because it reveals as much about the character of these two remarkable women as it does about the plants they loved."

Gardening was also a literary process, where the place of the garden was transformed by words, phrases and ways of telling. Through gardening and writing there is a deepening of attachment to place, the land, environment, nature, God, feelings, emotions and humanity in general, the appreciation of the world around us. Gardening and writing can offer

intellectual challenge, artistic endeavour and public recognition. Both strive for visual, literary or metaphorical effect. We might also think of gardens, like letter and diary writing, as individual acts of autobiography. They are, or can be, expressions of self: involving memory, place and attachment. Gardening is about producing a certain vision of landscape, but it is also a kind of performance: the gardens we create say something about ourselves, about who we are and where we've come from. So do letters and diaries.

Following gardeners and writers through the ages, as a group, they shared a love of gardens. There have been so many great writers of gardening. Notable English writers such as Gertrude Jekyll and Margery Fish. For example, Gertrude Jekyll's lasting achievement is seen through her books and hundreds of articles. They were written not only with strong artistic feeling but also with meticulous attention to detail. Her advice is timeless, her mastery of plant culture and aesthetic observation in the garden unsurpassed. Then you can move on through time to the writings of American gardeners. One such notable writer, Thomas Jefferson, who kept records (manuscripts) of his gardens at Monticello and Shadwell. There was the likes of Edith Wharton, who wrote authoritative works on architecture and gardens. Gardens, she elaborated, should be architectural compositions, divided into rooms and planned in concert with the house and the natural landscape. Another prolific writer and gardener, Mary Hunter Austin, wrote stories, books and essays that were love songs to the landscape. You can go on and on with writers and gardeners, Ken Druse, Henry Mitchell, Robert Dash, Sara Stein, Michael Pollan..... Gardeners have a lot to say about their outdoor passion.

So, therefore, I will keep on gardening and keep on writing about my gardening experiences. They are indeed intertwined.

"Those who labour in the earth are the chosen people of God."--Thomas Jefferson

"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies."--Gertrude Jekyll

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!

FRIENDLY REMINDER: THE DOGWOOD ARTS FESTIVAL HOME AND GARDEN SHOW WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 14-16, 2014.

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NCG Poetry Contest Winners 2013

CLASSIFIEDS



Back row: Mr. Cristeolous, Mrs. Jessica Cates, Ginny Smith, Miss. Kaman; 2nd row: Maggie Clark and Meghan Doherty; and first row: Jesse Childs and the winner, Grace Truett.

Submitted by Kathy Pearson

Last year's winners of the National Council of Garden Club Poetry contest, entitled "Protecting and Preserving Our Natural Resources," have been determined. Powell Middle School participated and the contest was judged by Kristi McPherron. The entries showed thought provoking, realistic, easily attainable ideas that can protect our environment and preserve our resources. After reading the poems one can imagine how we take ideas for granted and how simple it is to show environmental consciousness. For the past eleven

years, Powell Middle School students have participated and continue to produce winners at the local, state and district levels. This year's winners are as follows:

First Place: Grace Truett, Second Place: Jesse Childs, Third Place: Maggie Clark and Honorable Mention Meghan Doherty. A very special thanks to Mr. Cristolous for allowing the teachers and classes to participate this year. Also congratulations to Mrs. Cates and Mrs. Kaman, whose students were the winners. Norwood Garden Club helps to promote the contest. Congratulations to our winners.

Protecting and Conserving our Natural Resources

By Grace Truett

Our earth is an amazing place to be

We want to keep it that way can't you see?

If you find litter, pick it up

Our planet has been polluted enough.

Don't let the water faucet run,

Turn the knob once you're done.

Plants keep our air clean.

Plant a seed, that's just what we need.

Turn off the lights when you leave a room.

I promise it will pay off soon

Why not go the extra mile,

When all you have to do is recycle?

Take a moment just to pause,

Lend a hand and join the cause.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

PUBLIC NOTICE: Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization - Technical Committee Meeting, February 11, 2014.

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 11, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Topics to be considered: Election of Officers, Proposed Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program, Presentations on Bike-Ped Crash and Knox County School Sidewalk Studies; 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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