

Rountree Kicks Off Campaign For School Board

By Focus Staff

Amber Rountree kicked off her campaign for the Knox County Board of Education last Tuesday night at the Round Up Restaurant in South Knoxville.

The Round Up is known for really good home-style food and is a very popular local landmark in the South Knoxville community. The Round Up was packed with a crowd that included community leaders and educators.

Rountree is a Librarian at Halls Elementary School and has earned a reputation as being hard working and highly intelligent.

A first time candidate for public office, Rountree was spurred to run for office after seeing just how many incumbents on the Board of Education seemed to be “rubber stamps” for Superintendent Jim McIntyre.

“South Knoxville needs a Board member who is absolutely dedicated to serving the citizens of South Knoxville, our school children and our schools,” Rountree said. “Our community needs and deserves good schools just as much or more than any other community.”

“A Board member who merely is a rubber stamp is serving no one but Dr. McIntyre.”

Rountree will be facing incumbent Pam Trainor who has been a solid backer of Superintendent McIntyre.

Every incumbent Board member seeking reelection has drawn opposition and the race in South Knoxville is expected to be one of the most hotly contested.

Rountree is already moving all across South Knoxville and has been knocking on doors.

“I’m very thankful for just how good the response is and I intend to run a positive campaign and hope the voters are looking for a change.”

“There’s nothing more important than educating our children.”



Amber Rountree, left, is pictured with Sam Tobea, owner of South Knoxville’s Round Up Restaurant.

FOCUS Weekly Poll*

Should state government personnel or private contractors operate Tennessee’s State Parks?

STATE EMPLOYEES 84.75% PRIVATE CONTRACTORS 15.25%

Survey conducted March 6, 2014.

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

Snow Days, House Bill get attention

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Adding an extra day or two to the end of the Knox County school year received no support from the Board of Education last Wednesday, but the idea of using two in-service teacher days to make up for recent snow days was accepted.

Superintendent James McIntyre said that March 14, this Friday, has been chosen as a full-school make-good day. Many parents are not happy with classes on the 14th because they have family plans on what would have been the first day of Spring Break.

McIntyre said that administration has also selected Monday, April 21, as an alternative make-up day in case of future school cancellations because of bad weather.

Board member Mike McMillan asked McIntyre why not ask the state for a waiver of the make-up days and the superintendent said that is a formal process and the answer is generally “No.”

Lucille Greer, the student representative present, told the board that she agreed with the dates but added that she knows another student who had plans to leave for the Bahamas on Friday. McIntyre said students out for family matters should get a note from their parents but, “We expect our students to be in school, every school day.”

Indya Kincannon encouraged McIntyre to be lenient with absentees, adding, “Students are tired of snow days, and parents are too.”

Continue on page 4



Kara McKamey with two happy children at Mud Pies and Music

Mud Pies and Music

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

You would be really surprised at Mud Pies and Music on Clinton Highway in Powell.

The daycare is much more than just a daycare. Founded in 1994 by Kara McKamey, the building was once medical offices owned by the Oak Ridge Hospital. It now has six classrooms and cares for children from six weeks old and up and provides after school care for older children. There is one room for infants, two for toddlers, two for pre-school, and one for after school.

From 6:30 a.m. until 6 p.m., Mrs. McKamey and her staff of more than 15 employees care for 65 full enrollment children. She said many of her employees

have been students at Crown College and “that’s been a very good coop for us.” She added, “Lots of moms work here also.”

On January 4, Mud Pies and Music celebrated 20 years at the 7600 Clinton Highway location.

“We offer really good, quality care. We’re not in the business for the money; we truly care for the children. My gift is to work with children and I’ll always put the children first,” she told *The Focus*.

Kara and her husband, Randy, have four children, one a special needs child. She says having a special needs child changed her philosophy and she was encouraged to have him “mainstreamed.” Randy McKamey is head coach at Grace Christian

Continue on page 2

Emerald Charter Schools Hosts March Meetings

Emerald Charter Schools will host public meetings on March 11 and March 25 about its proposed public charter school, Emerald Academy. The meetings are open, but some require advance registration.

The first group of meetings, on Tuesday, March 11, will be in focus group format, allowing the public to provide input about the key components of Emerald Academy’s educational model. The focus groups will be at Emerald Youth Foundation, 1718 N. Central Street, at 9:00 am, 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Each focus group will last 90 minutes and cover the same topics. Advance registration is required to participate in the focus groups. Register online at www.emeraldcharterschools.org or call Kevin DuBose at (865) 637-3227 ext. 121.

The final meeting will be a presentation to the community at Emerald Youth Foundation on Tuesday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. Emerald Charter Schools representatives will report on how community feedback is being incorporated into the charter school application.

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Focus on the Law

The lady in purple

March is Women's History Month and I am inspired to write about an amazing jurist, lawyer, lawmaker and American woman, Sandra Day O'Connor. I had the pleasure



By Sharon Frankenberg,
Attorney at Law

to meet Justice O'Connor at a reception in Nashville before she addressed the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society in 2008. She was a warm, inquisitive person with a firm handshake wearing a purple jacket in a sea of black suits. Historically, purple is the color often associated with the law and royalty.

Sandra Day O'Connor was born in El Paso, Texas on March 26, 1930. She spent part of her childhood on her family's Arizona cattle ranch. She attended Stanford University, graduating in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in economics. She received her law degree from Stanford in 1952 and struggled to find a job as

a female attorney in 1952. She offered to work for the county attorney for San Mateo County, California for free to get her foot in the door. This strategy led to a paid position as

a deputy county attorney. She moved to Germany and worked as a civilian lawyer before settling in Arizona. She worked in private practice there before working for four years as Arizona's assistant attorney general. She was appointed to the Arizona State Senate in 1969 and won election twice, serving as Majority Leader from 1972 to 1975. She was elected Judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court in 1975. She was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals in 1979.

Sandra Day O'Connor was nominated as an associate justice by President Ronald Reagan in 1981 and received confirmation by unanimous vote of the United States Senate to

become the first woman on the United States Supreme Court. She was considered a moderate conservative, tending to vote with her conservative brethren but considering each case carefully and following what she believed to be the best intentions of the U.S. Constitution. She was often the powerful swing vote that decided high-profile cases. In the 1992 decision in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, she joined with Justices Kennedy and Souter, also Republican appointees, and with Democratic nominees Justices Stevens and Blackmun to basically uphold the Court's previous decision in Roe v. Wade. She cast the deciding vote in the Bush v. Gore case in 2000 which upheld the original certification of Florida's electoral votes and confirmed George W. Bush's election. She voted with the majority in 2002 in Atkins v. Virginia ruling that "death is not a suitable punishment for a mentally retarded criminal." She sided with the more liberal

justices in 2003 allowing the use of race in the admissions policy at the University of Michigan law school (Grutter v. Bollinger) drawing the ire of the more conservative Justice Antonin Scalia. Perhaps her experience as the only member of the court to have been elected to public office guided her in working with both factions of an ideologically divided court.

After 24 years on this country's highest court, Justice O'Connor retired in 2006, in part, to spend more time with her husband, John Jay O'Connor who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease. They had been married since 1952 and had three children. He died in 2009. Perhaps coincidentally, purple is also the color associated with Alzheimer's awareness.

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

Mud Pies and Music

Cont. from page 1

Academy.

Why "Mud Pies and Music" as the name? Mrs. McKamey explains that while a childcare major at the University of Tennessee, she read a book called "Mud Pies and Magnets" and the phrasing caught her imagination.

"This is a pretty secure career, as opposed to retail. There will always be children who need quality care," she said.

"When we got started I didn't expect all the state regulations, and those got stricter. That's good for children but hard for a private daycare. Some daycares went out of business but we've learned to adjust around it," she said. "We're a 3 Star facility and, under state regulations, 3 Stars is the highest score," she

said.

Special programs at the daycare include a weekly visit by a Gym Bus, a specially equipped exercise bus and "Music in Motion." The daycare hopes to extend its afterschool and summer care this year with a camping-type event outside behind the building. Pick ups for children after school are available from Karns, Grace Christian, and Powell schools.

"Parents are our clients but their children are our first priority," Mrs. McKamey said. She added that her nine-year-old daughter is showing a special interest in the daycare and hopes that someday maybe her daughter might want to take over after college.

You can call Mud Pies and Music at 947-3080 or find them on Facebook.

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Donation sites questioned

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

You may have seen an increase in the number of donation boxes and trailers within the city for clothing and household items? There is a growing concern in City Council as to how and who is placing them here and where the donation boxes are appropriate.

The council had asked the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) to look at the drop-off boxes and report back. Last Tuesday the MPC reported back to the council and, in order to consider the changes, Councilman Marshal Stair successfully moved to postpone a first-reading consideration for four weeks.

But the discussion didn't end there as several council members chose to comment.

Councilwoman Brenda Palmer said she that she was "disappointed there are so many omissions" in the proposal.

"We've seen a

proliferation of boxes at convenience stores," she said, adding that many of the donation boxes have out of state telephone numbers on them and are not part of the local non-profit organization's efforts.

"We really need to look at the language. I think they need to be licensed," she said.

Councilman George Wallace said he questions the donation boxes and called the "tractor-trailer" donation centers more like advertisements than donation centers.

"I mean to eliminate them, I see them as a nuisance," he said.

Councilman Nick Della Volpe said he'd like to see "our codes people" take some action against violators.

Councilman Duane Grieve said that local groups have stores around town and the council needs to take care of the local non-profits.

In other action, the council voted to give \$1,900

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Office, Classifieds Rose King
staff@knoxfocus.com
Tasha Mahurin tasha@knoxfocus.com
Dan Andrews andrewsd@knoxfocus.com
Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com
Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com
Bill Wright wrightb@knoxfocus.com
Diann Byrd byrdd@knoxfocus.com

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FOCUS
Weekly Poll

Should state government personnel or private contractors operate Tennessee's State Parks?

STATE EMPLOYEES 84.75%
PRIVATE CONTRACTORS 15.25%



By Age	State Employees	Private Contractors	Total
18-29	100.00%	[None]	2
30-49	87.50%	12.50%	24
50-65	84.91%	15.09%	106
65+	84.00%	16.00%	150
Total	84.75% (239)	15.25% (43)	282

By District	State Employees	Private Contractors	Total
1	82.35%	17.65%	17
2	97.06%	2.94%	34
3	90.63%	9.38%	32
4	76.32%	23.68%	38
5	83.87%	16.13%	31
6	89.29%	10.71%	28
7	72.41%	27.59%	29
8	88.57%	11.43%	35
9	81.58%	18.42%	38
Total	84.75% (239)	15.25% (43)	282

By Gender	State Employees	Private Contractors	Total
Unknown	50.00%	50.00%	8
Female	86.99%	13.01%	146
Male	84.38%	15.63%	128
Total	84.75% (239)	15.25% (43)	282

Survey conducted March 6, 2014.

KAT doing well

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Clyde "Boe" Cole of the Knoxville Finance Department told the Knoxville Transit Authority at its last meeting that the revenue is "good news" and even the bad weather hasn't cut down on the increase in the number of bus and trolley customers. He said fuel cost and wages are in line and everything is "coming out great so far."

The city had earlier feared a loss because the University of Tennessee now has its own transportation service, but revenues, even in January, were up in the city. Cole was asked to use the "amended" budget line in reports rather than showing that plus the original budget.

The KTA board also heard that the design and use of new signs on the busses had captured a "silver ADDY award" from the American Advertising Federation of Knoxville. The posters depicted regular bus riders chosen from KAT's Facebook entries.

Chairperson Renee Hoyos reported that the deadline for applications for the new director

Continue on page 4



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Let's celebrate with the Irish!

Rosie's
World

Bring out the crock pot, chop up a head of cabbage, add a few potatoes and a can of corned beef and, voila! You're ready to celebrate Ireland's yearly cultural event. This recipe is easy to make, but there are a lot more complicated recipes. How did this dish become famous in Ireland and elsewhere? During the potato famine in Ireland that lasted from 1845-1852 one million people emigrated from Ireland which decimated their population by 25%. The famine was caused by a potato blight. Even though there weren't any potatoes they had plenty of vegetables, especially cabbages. The Irish people who left Ireland during the famine years longed to return to the land of their ancestors. Many Irish ballads reflect the dream of this misplaced people to go back some day to the green fields of home.

"And if there's going to be a life hereafter

And somehow I'm sure there's going to be

I will ask my God to let me make my heaven

in that dear land across the Irish sea." from Galway Bay, a traditional Irish song.

Along came Saint Patrick. Though he wasn't born in Ireland, he is revered by the Irish because of his missionary efforts in that country. At the age of sixteen he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland, where he remained for ten years. He escaped from

slavery and went to Gaul where he entered the monastery. After studying there for twelve years he returned to Ireland to convert his captors to Christianity.

There are many stories concerning the icons that represent Saint Patrick's Day but none of them are authenticated to be entirely true. They probably became associated with this holiday by people celebrating with parades, green beer, and all the fanfare of a major holiday. One story that prevails is the analogy of the shamrock. Patrick struggled with the task of explaining the Trinity to the Irish. He used the shamrock as an example. Each leaf on the plant is of equal size and importance, as it is with the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. This legend had enough influence that the shamrock became the national symbol of Ireland.

One of my great-grandfathers came from Berlin, Germany, and the other one came from Dublin, Ireland. I am proud of both of them but I am especially proud of my Irish heritage. Although I'm not a red-headed personality with a hot temper, sometimes I can actually feel like a typical Irish person who celebrates Saint Patrick's Day. Enjoy everyone!

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. – Irish Proverb.

Send comments to rosemerrie@att.net. Thank you.

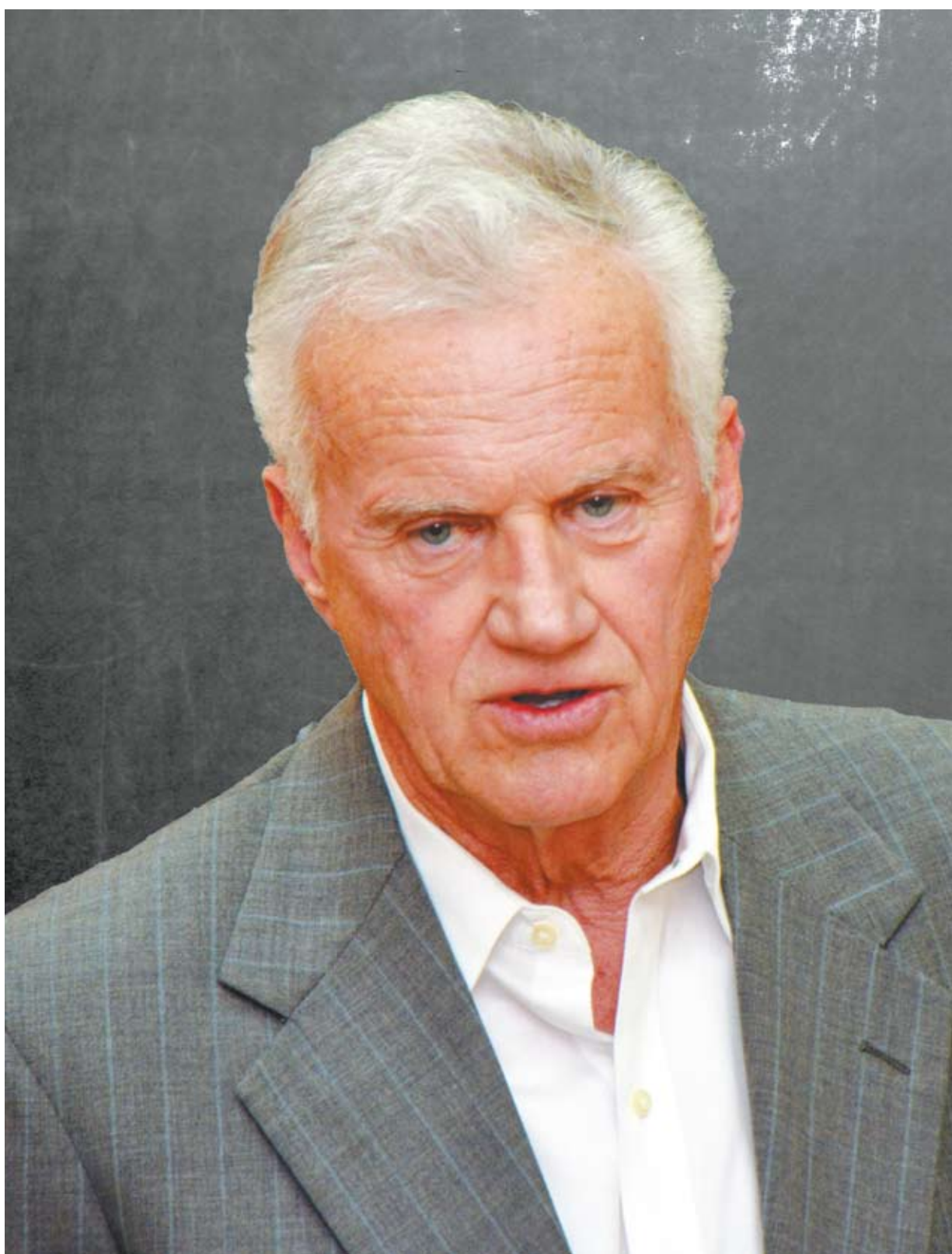


PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Ed Brantley, 11th District At Large Candidate for Knox County Commission, speaks to the Concord-Farragut Republican Club last Thursday evening.

Own a Blighted House?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Let's say you are a Knoxville homeowner who has a rental house and, face it, the old house needs some major repairs. The foundation is bad, the wiring and plumbing are old, and the renters you've had have departed leaving the old house in bad shape.

More than likely, you will receive a notice of a violation from the City of Knoxville requesting your appearance at a public hearing. Here, you will have the chance to explain your hardship, situation, or dispute the findings to Neighborhood Codes Enforcement Manager Robert Moyers.

Each month the Code Enforcers drive the

same route as the city brush collectors, every two weeks, and do a passing inspection of homes. They also respond to complaints from neighbors. The Codes basically require properties to be in repair and clean and apply to any house in ill-repair and it could be a rental, abandoned, or inhabited. The Codes also applies to overgrown lots and junk cars.

Moyers said the process starts with a complaint or field identification, a field inspection, owner notification and correction of a problem. If no correction is made, the city takes action with a citation on the property. In some cases the city boards up and secures structures.

A recent meeting of the

Codes Enforcement Manager and several home or building managers, or at least those who showed up for the meeting, saw several homeowners come forward and not dispute the violations. Depending on the offense, the owners were ordered to clean up or repair the property. Some were given 30 days and some were allowed 60 days. In one case, a historic structure owner was given 120 days to make repairs.

In each case, a Code Enforcer explained the problems with the structures, in some cases it was porch or roof repairs, in others it was major foundation or siding violations.

In Mechanicsville, the McKee Hall Administration

Building had a brick wall that had collapsed and the administration there was being moved to another part of the complex. The structure was ruled to be in violation and the college, with a representative at the meeting, was told to vacate the building within three to five days and to keep the city posted on repairs or demolition.

In another case, an owner said he was moving through the process and was told they would need to have a permit to do the repairs. Moyers advised the owner to hire a licensed professional and suggested that the owner and the city staff do a "walk around" at the site.

Owners who needed financial assistance in

making repairs were referred to the city's Housing Rehabilitation for Homeowners Program funded by the U. S. Department of HUD Home Investment Program and Community Block Grant Funds. It provides qualified owners of substandard residential rental property with financial and technical assistance. In return, the owners agree to a 5 to 20 year long set of rent and occupancy restrictions. These restrictions place rent controls on the home and owners cannot discriminate against possible renters. The repair loans range from 1- 3% interest paid back over 20 years.

In the cases where the owner did not appear for their hearing, Moyers

moved quickly to declare a home or building unfit if not repaired in 60 days. If repairs are not made, the case goes before the Better Building Board, which could order demolition, acquisition or mandatory repairs. All cost to the city will be charged to the owner and, if not paid, the cost becomes part of the lien. Municipal Court fines and penalties are also possible.

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Snow Days, House Bill get attention

Cont. from page 1

Tennessee House Bill 2293 drew some attention by the elected educators at Wednesday's meeting as well. Kincannon said this bill would give the County Commission a "line item veto" of a school system budget. She told the other board members that the number of lobbyists for the commission far outnumber the number of lobbyists for schools districts in the state, adding, "I hope it fails."

The bill, which recently passed the House Local Government Committee on an 8-6-1 vote, went to the Calendar and Rules Committee, headed by Knoxville Representative Bill Dunn of the 16th District. Dunn told *The Focus* last Thursday that the bill has been sent to the Finance Committee and will return to his committee for action.

"It was a Williamson County feud. Here in Knox County the Commission and School Board have made an effort to get along. This bill (if passed) would just stir up trouble," Dunn said.

"There's no use in frustrating that process," he said. Dunn said he thinks the bill will make it to the floor but there's some feeling it should go to the Education Committee as well.

"Very few bills are stopped in the Calendar and Rules Committee," he said.

The bill revises the Tennessee Code to delete some language and add the following:

"The county legislative body may alter or revise the proposed budget except as to provision for debt service requirements and other expenditures required by law...When reviewing the proposed budget of the county department of education; the county legislative body may only alter or revise the total amount of expenditures as proposed."

The bill goes on to say that the budget then goes back to the director of schools who has 10 days to resubmit a new proposal. The bill also allows a county commission to revise or alter any funds requested for lobbying efforts.

In other action, the board heard from several red attired teachers and parents who spoke against "mandated testing" of students and questioned the computer-based testing of younger children. One parent said, because of the change in teaching methods, she can no longer help her children with homework.

Another parent questioned the policy of holding School Board meetings at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, saying that teachers and parents can't often attend meetings that early and reminding the elected educators that Wednesday is "church night" for many parents.

Another parent said the system has gone above and beyond what the state requires in testing and said she was told to keep her child at home on test days if the child was stressed. She also said the system is taking surveys of 5th grade students without parental permission, asking questions like "Do you have a computer and internet at home?"

One woman, who identified herself as a school volunteer, said the board has

not paid attention to the results of the recent Teacher Survey and said teachers are so busy and stressed now that there is "No time for an Ah-Ha moment."

The board also discussed the use of schools by outside groups after hours and Mike McMillan reminded the board, and school superintendents, that a school employee must be present for those after-hour functions.

The board passed a number of resolutions dealing with school property, vacated facilities, new project planning, acceptance of new facilities, and amended on first reading language in the operating budget.

Board member Karen Carson, of the 5th District, stood alone in her

opposition to the first reading of a policy regarding "Investment of Funds at School Level." She questioned how much exists in local school investments and said she is curious to know how and where local funds are invested.

Kincannon stood alone in her opposition to changing language in the "compulsory Attendance Ages" change. The change, mandated by state law, says that children 5 years old by August 15th must enroll. She asked who made the change and said "It does not empower parents. We have to comply with it but should we try to change it?"

KAT doing well

Cont. from page 2

position ended Friday, Feb. 28 and said the Mayor is holding off on a "transition" for the transit system until the position is filled.

Melissa Roberson, KAT director, reported that the system received approval of their "Title Six" submission which was being reviewed by the Federal government. She also reported that even on one snow day in February, the system had more than 400 riders.

Asked why the city's "charter service has almost doubled," Rodney Boone, Director

of Transportations services, said the chartering of trolleys for weddings and special events has increased, plus a charter was rented for the Martin Luther Day Parade. Chartering a trolley costs \$100 per hour with a 2-hour minimum.

Karen Eberle,

representing the Central Business Improvement District, suggesting exhibiting the trolleys at wedding shows but Roberson said because the city takes federal funds, it cannot compete with the private sector.

Dr. Bethany Thomas, DDS

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Our Neighborhoods

WEST KNOXVILLE

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In the past 30 years, no area in Knox County has grown faster than West Knoxville. Stretching from the UT Campus to the Loudon County line, the area has blossomed with subdivisions, apartments, shopping centers, malls, theaters, stand-alone local and national chains, medical offices and hospitals.

The influx of out-of-area professionals and their families have transformed the western portion of the city and county. West Knoxville neighbors are socially and politically active and stand together to protect their neighborhoods against crime, over-commercialization, and traffic and to encourage area beautification.

Farragut, Knox County's other city, pulled away from any Knoxville annexation to keep its traditional and new residents. One of Knox County's oldest communities, Concord, grew and then reoriented itself with the creation of Lake Loudon. Today Concord has a small, one-sided downtown and is a suburb of Farragut and the Northshore communities.

BEARDEN

The West Knoxville neighborhood of Bearden rests along Kingston Pike, just beyond Sequoyah Hills. Most locals consider Bearden as stretching as far west as West Town Mall and others consider it ending at the foot of "Bearden Hill" at Papermill Drive.

Bearden High School, named for the founder of Bearden, is not really in the Bearden neighborhood. It is located west of West Town Mall. West High School, built in 1951 with the closing of the Old Knoxville High School, is between Kingston Pike and Sutherland and students there come from Northwest, West Valley, and Bearden Middle Schools.

The community began around a fortified house near Kingston Pike and Northshore Drive. Initially known as "Erin" Bearden began to expand with the survey and construction of Kingston Road, now Kingston Pike. Early history saw raids there by the Chickamauga Cherokee and a "Wild West" reputation in the



You'll find these unique historic markers in the pavement around Bearden, pointing out the history and places of interest. (Photo courtesy of Teresa Faulkner)

early 1800s.

Annexed by the city in 1962, the Bearden neighborhood is named for former Knoxville mayor and state legislator Marcus De Lafayette Bearden. Bearden and a partner built a paper mill on Third Creek and the road there became "Papermill Drive." Early settler Major Robert Reynolds, a Mexican War officer, built a large house, Knollwood, which still stands today.

The construction of I-40 and I-75 caused a surge in homes and commerce in Bearden and along all of Kingston Pike. Western Plaza Shopping Center and West Town Mall pulled shoppers from the entire region and the growth of neighborhoods in Bearden and beyond lured home buyers. Today, Bearden and Kingston Pike are the main commercial area in the county.

Notable businesses and places in Bearden include the Mayo Garden Center, Calhoun's Restaurant, Homberg Place, Bennett Galleries, Western Plaza, Knoxville Plaza, Bearden Shopping Center, McKay Used Books, Cherokee Country Club, Northshore Park, Summit Hill Medical Group, The Newton Jones Agency, Humane Society of East Tennessee, Bonefish Grill, Young-Williams Animal Center, Rose Mortuary, The Organery, and Arnwine Furnishings.

The Bearden Village Greenway stretches from Bearden

Elementary School to the Third Creek Greenway which connects to the Sequoyah Greenway and the City Greenway and continues to downtown along the waterfront.

The Bearden Village Greenway is the prize of the Neighborhood Associations and the Bearden Council. The 23rd annual Greenways 5K and 2-mile Walk/Dog Jog begins there at West High School April 12th and traverses the Third Creek Greenway. Proceeds benefit the Knox Greenways Coalition and Legacy Parks.

"We're working with the Metropolitan Planning Commission to get the neighborhood zoned R-1E, exclusive for single family homes," said Amy Midis of the Forest Heights Home Owner's Association. She said many homes there face Sutherland Avenue where it is becoming more commercial. She said, "We want to protect our boundaries."

Midis credits Terry Faulkner, president of the Bearden Council, for many of the improvements in and near Bearden including the greenway. She also said that City Councilman Duane Grieve "is a tremendous advocate for us."

The Forest Heights Association meets every other month and their next meeting is May 12 at the Bearden United Methodist Church.

THE BEARDEN COUNCIL

The Bearden Council meets monthly with the idea of implementing the Bearden Village as part of MPC's "small area plan." In 1989, community volunteers began working with city planners, state and local governments, businesses, developers, institutions and non-profit groups to generate the Bearden Village Plan. The plan was approved by the planning commission and the city council. This plan is to increase pedestrian use, encourage sidewalks, create and care for Greenways, and work with homeowners and businesses to create a "village" atmosphere.

"We started with nothing and got five neighborhoods that join a commercial neighborhood together," Mrs. Faulkner told *The Focus*. More than \$3 million was generated to build the 5 plus miles of greenway and sidewalks, transit stops and shelters, plant trees and create historic markers.

Making Bearden greener also increased property values and attracted upscale businesses. Mrs. Faulkner says the Village Plan was approved in 2001 and that City Council has helped enormously, including Jean Teague, Barbara Pelot, and Grieves.

"We have also added over 700 trees in the pedestrian areas with the city, TDOT, and various

merchant and developers' help. It is a real success story," she said, adding that the group works with new business developers to encourage sidewalk construction, adding benches and shelters at bus stops, encouraging small "monument signs" rather than large business signs, and watching for new business construction so as to work with early development of those sites.

The Bearden Village Greenway project has become successful and has many people using it. "You run into people on the greenway you'd never meet otherwise," she said. Every Saturday, Bearden Bike & Trail sponsors a 2-hour training bike ride there starting at 9:30 a.m. at 126 Forest Park Blvd. You can call 200-8710 or go on the internet at www.beardenbikeandtrail.com.

City Councilman Duane Grieve told *The Focus* that the Bearden Council is one of the successes and a model for community involvement.

"One of the projects we're working on now is the creation of a little park at the corner of Kingston Pike and Forest Park Boulevard. The green space will have trees, grass, benches and there's a bus stop there. There was an old gas station there before and we hope to tie the park into the greenway," he said.

Continue on page 2



Since 1938 Bearden Elementary School has excelled in academics. Principal Susan Dunlap says the school motto is "Excellence in all we do" and says the staff and teachers "really stress excellence as a habit." The school serves a culturally diverse student body as many of the parents are UT Students or work in the Knoxville medical community. (Photo courtesy of Susan Dunlap)

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WEST KNOXVILLE

BRICKYARD AND LYONS VIEW

Barbara Pelot, former City Council member and a member of the Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory Council, said that Bearden always been a progressive and diverse community.

"Bearden is the core community. A lot of UT professors moved there and a lot of people from out of Knoxville settled there. It was a melting pot," she said.

Mrs. Pelot spoke about the African-American neighborhoods such as the Brickyard and Lyon's View sections as being one of the first neighborhoods in Bearden. She recalls that most of the bricks in earlier homes there came from the old brickyard. She also said the coming of the automobile boosted the growth of Bearden as people could live there and commute into town.

The round historic markers, embedded in sidewalks in the neighborhood, identify early church history, schools, moon shining activity, an early airport, the history of an armored cavalry division, the brickyard, and when the first train arrived. A marker, at the transit stop at Kingston Pike and Nolton across from Western Avenue, tells of the early highway history and Lyon's View Drive. Up at Pond Gap a marker tells of a drive-in theater that was once there.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Long's Drug Store was established in Bearden in 1956 and still today boasts a soda fountain and sit-down bar counter.

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT 'THUNDER ROAD'

"Blazing right through Knoxville, out on Kingston Pike, then right outside of Bearden, they made the fatal strike. He left the road at 90; that's all there is to say. The devil got the moonshine and the mountain boy that day."

So goes the final stanza of the "Ballad of Thunder Road," written and sung by actor Robert Mitchum in the cult movie of the same name. The film, about moonshine runners in Appalachia, was actually filmed in the Asheville, N.C. area.

It is said that Bearden was included as the climax of the movie because of a similar incident some years before when a moonshine car crashed there while being chased by police. Mitchum was ideal for the part. As a youth he served time on a Georgia chain gang for vagrancy and was known as one of Hollywood's "bad boys."

His career included playing heroes and villains and his reputation preceded him in many cases. President Dwight Eisenhower would not allow films featuring Mitchum to be shown in the White House because of an earlier conviction of marijuana possession.

A star of many, many movies including his favorite role in "Night of the Hunter," Mitchum died in 1997, was cremated and scattered at sea by his wife. True to his legend there was no memorial service, at his request.

"Thunder Road" quickly became a favorite at drive-in movies in the South and the name is now part of many businesses, marathons, a roller coaster at Dollywood, and many rural highways in several states. But it's clear from the song that that "Thunder Road" began in Harlan, Ky. and continued through the Cumberland Gap and Maynardville, and on through Knoxville. That would be Highway 25w to old Highway 11/70, present day Kingston Pike.

Mobile Food Vendors meeting

The City of Knoxville will put new regulations in effect later this spring for mobile food vendors as a pilot program, to see how the new rules go over with the public, the vendors, and established restaurants.

The Mayor's office announced that details will be presented in a meeting Wednesday, March 12th, at the Southern Depot, at 5:30 p.m. and will include rules for vending on public and private property.

The increasing number of requests from a growing number of food trucks and mobile food units has led to the city considering expanding their locations. The push-back from some restaurants and other businesses has promoted a public discussion.

Voting Rights Act of 1964 discussion turns to Voter ID

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Voting Rights Act was the topic of an informal "Unfinished Business" discussion that ended with a tense discussion concerning Tennessee's Voter ID law, which some of the audience feels to be an indirect attempt to restrict voting by blacks, the young, and the elderly.

Sponsored by the Knoxville Mayor's office and introduced by Joshelyn Hundley of the City's Community Relations department, the panelists in the discussion held Friday, February 28, included City Councilman Daniel Brown, County Election Commission Chairman Chris Heagerty, Deputy Mayor Bill Lyons, and County Commissioner Mike Hammond.

Robert Booker, a former Tennessee state representative and Knoxville City Councilman, and current Executive Director of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, opened the floor and the panelists talked about their own history, the nation before the Voting Rights Act, and the Act's affect on politics and society.

Lyons said the act "had a tremendous impact immediately" and confronted the question of equality.

Brown said he was 18 years old when the act passed and he had gone to St. Mary's Hospital to protest the policy there of not admitting blacks. He reminded the audience that the act was passed 101 years after emancipation.

Hammond, who was raised in Hawkins County, said his grandmother was a midwife and had African Americans in her home for childbirth. He said he never encountered major discrimination until his family came to shop for clothing at the old Atlantic Mill and saw separate bathrooms.

Heagerty said he was raised in Memphis and remembers the day Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed. "I finally realized what people went through," he said, adding that the 1964 Voting Rights Act "still is not working perfectly."

Booker then asked the panelists, "Where are we now?"

Lyons said that some portions of the act "are under challenge now," and mentioned reapportionments and subtle distinctions in state laws.

"There's always been an attempt to control the vote," Hammond said.

Brown then said that the Tennessee Voter ID laws discourage the African American vote and that efforts are needed to inform people in school, churches, and organizations.

Heagerty said the law has legitimate issues on both sides and went on to explain which ID cards are accepted to permit voting. He said that absentee voting never requires an ID and that the law was passed to stop voter fraud.

One audience member asked the Election Commission Chairman how many fraud cases have been found and he replied "Two." He was then asked how many years that covered and he answered, "Twelve." Heagerty also said that he had received no complaints about the law locally. "We don't enforce it, we administer it."

Mayor Madeline Rogero, who came in during the meeting and sat in the audience, also spoke about the Voter ID law. She said that "Full Service Drivers License Centers were not available in half of our counties" and said that new Tennessee residents cannot vote by showing out-of-state licenses.

Brown added that convicted felons, many of them young Black men, have no right to vote. Booker then added that people over 62 years old are not required to have their photo on their drivers license.

The panel concluded its discussion with Heagerty saying that until people are elected and change the law, nothing will change.

The Voting Rights Act's 50th Anniversary continues in Knoxville on Tuesday, March 25 with the Tennessee Human Rights Commission collecting testimonies at the UT Agriculture Extension Campus for their forthcoming report "The State of Human Rights in Tennessee." There are three more events planned for April.

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The Greatest Campaigner of Them All: Senator Estes Kefauver

Part Nine

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Tennessee's Estes Kefauver had won more primaries and votes than any other contender for the 1952 Democratic presidential nomination, yet he journeyed to Chicago uncertain of the outcome. One thing was certainly clear: he was bitterly opposed by President Harry Truman and most of the party professionals. Senator Richard Russell of Georgia was a regional candidate and would never receive serious consideration outside the South. W. Averill Harriman of New York was immensely wealthy, but largely unknown to the public, despite having served in numerous posts for Franklin D. Roosevelt. The seeming inability for the Democratic Party to find an alternative caused Vice President Alben W. Barkley's heart to beat a little faster. The old warhorse of the national Democratic Party, Barkley had served as a Congressman and senator from Kentucky for decades before being selected by Harry Truman as his running mate in 1948. Barkley had spoken virtually everywhere in the country and when the widower married a much younger woman, people were less appalled than captivated by the vice president's romance and youthful spirit. The reality was that Barkley was seventy-four years old, stout and his eyesight was rapidly failing. Barkley had longed to be president and he announced he would be a candidate before arriving in Chicago. To demonstrate his physical fitness, Barkley marched down the street at the head of a procession to his hotel. The Barkley candidacy died almost as quickly as it was born. Labor leaders objected to Barkley due to his advanced age and the vice president withdrew. Governor Adlai Stevenson, as the official host to his fellow Democrats, appeared to welcome the delegates and received an enthusiastic ovation. Kefauver warned that party bosses were working behind the scenes to nominate

Stevenson, although the governor waited until the very last minute to finally agree that if he were offered the nomination, he would not refuse it. The Kefauver forces made an alliance with those of Averill Harriman and both were determined not to seat delegations from Texas and Mississippi. The Texas delegation was lead by Governor Allan Shivers and strongly favored the doctrine of states' rights. There was also a big question as to whether the Texas governor would support any Democratic nominee over Dwight Eisenhower. According to his biographer, Charles Fontenay, Senator Kefauver met secretly with Governor Shivers. The Texan wanted to know if the Tennessean, should he be elected president, supported the tidelands legislation. That particular legislation would give states along the coastal United States title to oil reserves beneath the ocean's waters along the shores. If he could not support the tidelands legislation, Shivers wondered if Kefauver would agree to simply allow the Congress to decide the issue? Kefauver told the governor he had not changed his position, which was that he favored federal ownership of the oil reserves off the coastal United States. His answer left Kefauver with no hope of having the support of the large Texas delegation. Governor Shivers when speaking to the gathered Lone Star delegation later had nothing kind to say about Estes Kefauver. The seating of the delegations from Mississippi and Texas became a thorny issue for the convention and Senator Blair Moody of Michigan unleashed all Hell when he offered an amendment to Kefauver's "Fair Play" rule. Senator Kefauver, watching the convention proceedings from the comfort of his hotel suite, was shocked to see there had been no agreement between the delegates on Moody's amendment and it was quite clear Southern delegates were enraged. Tennessee's Governor



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Sen. Estes Kefauver and Democratic friends

Gordon Browning, doing all he could to help Kefauver, had spoken in favor of the amendment, which carried over the fierce opposition of the Southern states. Three Southern states --- Virginia, Louisiana and South Carolina --- were deemed not to be in compliance with the Moody resolution and Speaker Sam Rayburn, presiding over the convention interrupted the roll call for the presidential nomination to decide whether or not those delegations could vote. Virginia's delegation was seated after a tense roll call and considerable confusion, but Tennessee had voted against seating its sister Southern state. It would become an issue in Governor Gordon Browning's reelection campaign that summer. Speaker Sam Rayburn, an austere figure with his completely bald head and grim features, pounded the tarnation out of the rostrum with his gavel during the demonstration celebrating Kefauver's name being placed in nomination. The glowering Speaker was clearly not pleased and Senator Kefauver, smoking one cigarette after the other, glared at the television screen and growled, "You're just as rough as you can be." It was the next day that Harry Truman's presence could be felt. Averill Harriman had told Kefauver that he would rather support the Tennessean instead of Adlai Stevenson. Yet, with some prodding by the White House, Harriman

found himself in the apartment of Stevenson's sister, assuring the Illinois governor he would support Stevenson if he could not be nominated himself. Others fell away from Kefauver; Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey pledged his support to Stevenson when the time was right, yet bolted when pushed by Truman. Still, Estes Kefauver lead on the first ballot, winning 340 votes, followed by undeclared candidate Adlai Stevenson with 273, just a few votes ahead of Richard Russell with 268 votes. As the roll was called for the second ballot, President Harry S. Truman jauntily disembarked from his plane and was taken by limousine to his hotel. Truman was attending the Democratic National Convention less to receive the accolades usually reserved for an incumbent president than to help nominate a candidate other than Estes Kefauver. According to Kefauver's biographer, Charles Fontenay, Kefauver turned down Governor Allan Shivers a second time when Gordon Browning brought a mild statement saying the Tennessee senator had an "open mind" on the tidelines issue. Kefauver told Browning he could not sign it, as he didn't have an open mind on the subject. Once again, Kefauver led on the second ballot, although only narrowly ahead of Adlai Stevenson.

Senator Kefauver seemed to believe he would win the nomination. One can only imagine his shock when he was informed by Senator Blair Moody and Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams that Averill Harriman was withdrawing and throwing his support to Stevenson. Harriman had the support of the large New York delegation and the two urged Kefauver to withdraw himself and support Stevenson. They told the stunned Kefauver he would surely get the credit for keeping the Democratic Party together. Senator Kefauver, along with his friend and supporter, Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois, was headed to the convention hall to announce his withdrawal as a candidate when the third ballot had begun. The two hurried toward the rostrum where the roll was being called and Speaker Rayburn refused to interrupt the roll call. Douglas and Kefauver sat quietly on the platform and remained there for the next three hours. When Tennessee was called, Governor Gordon Browning used the occasion to beg Speaker Rayburn to let Senator Kefauver make a statement, but the old Texan stonily refused. When the roll call ended, Adlai Stevenson was within two and one half votes of being the Democratic nominee. Estes Kefauver was finally allowed to speak to the convention. Certainly he had hoped to address

the convention as its nominee, but he made a short and graceful speech and urged party unity. Adlai Stevenson emerged as the Democratic nominee and chose Alabama's John Sparkman as his running mate. A very disappointed Estes Kefauver returned home to Tennessee and to his dismay, discovered his friend Gordon Browning was in serious trouble in his reelection campaign. Facing the young, handsome and dynamic Frank Clement, Gordon Browning seemed almost like a relic. Even more of a relic was Tennessee's senior senator and Kefauver's nemesis, Kenneth D. McKellar, who was bidding for a seventh six-year term. McKellar faced Congressman Albert Gore in the primary and both the veteran senator and Governor Browning lost to their challengers. Clement was only thirty-two years old and Gore was forty-four. Kefauver welcomed the change in his Senate colleague, but was distraught by Browning's loss. It was the end of an era in Tennessee politics. Both McKellar and Browning had been fixtures in Volunteer State politics for generations. McKellar had represented Tennessee in Congress since 1911. Browning had first entered Congress in 1923 and had been governor three times. McKellar was eighty-three and becoming increasingly infirm, a sharp contrast with the vigorous Gore. Gore had run a clever campaign, realizing the affection and respect most Tennesseans had for the aging McKellar, he had not been especially critical of the incumbent. On the other hand, Clement had lambasted Browning and had been so critical of a few transactions by the state that Browning was left huffing that his integrity had been questioned. A new era had begun and Tennessee had an abundance of talent in Estes Kefauver, Albert Gore and Frank Clement. At forty-nine, Kefauver was the oldest of the trio. For the next decade, Kefauver, Gore and Clement would be the leading Democrats in Tennessee and more than a few times their ambitions would collide. Both Gore and Kefauver occasionally looked over their shoulders, as both worried that Clement might have senatorial ambitions. One thing was certain; all three dreamed of the White House at night.

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From State Representative Harry Brooks

There are a number of duties and responsibilities we, as state legislators, must uphold when performing our elected position. Most of these are obligations to our constituents; but we must also keep commitments we have made

to our colleagues and to ourselves.

A few weeks ago, a state representative made a commitment to hold a proposed bill until certain circumstances were met. Before those conditions were met, that representative recently introduced the bill onto the floor. Another representative raised the issue of the circumstances agreed upon not being solved and the legislature then voted to hold the bill on the desk, which means it did not progress but can be brought up again in a later session. What can we learn from this?

In the legislative process, if we make a commitment to a colleague it is critical to keep that promise until it is either fulfilled or we are released from that commitment. It is imperative

to maintain commitments and obligations as a legislator. Sometimes we may be stuck with a promise we made in error, but we must stick to it. One's word is absolutely critical when serving in this capacity.

Bill to curb intrusive student data tracking

Bills in the education committee have been getting plenty of publicity lately, and I would like to lay out the details of one of those proposed bills: House Bill 1549, introduced by Rep. Bill Dunn.

This legislation, which will be heard by the General Assembly this week, regulates Tennessee's management of educational standards. The federal government currently has no constitutional authority to set educational standards

for Tennessee and any partnerships are solely at the discretion of the state.

If passed, this bill would ensure that no educational standards will be imposed by the federal government and that any standards adopted could be done freely by the state board of education. Proposed standards would also be required to be posted on the state board's website at least 60 days before the state board meeting that would consider the standards.

The final portion of the bill would ensure that any data collected on public school students be used solely for tracking of academic progress. No personally identifiable data on students or their families' religion, political party affiliation, voting history or

biometric information would be allowed to be collected, tracked, housed with, reported to or shared with the federal government.

Legislation would phase out Hall Income Tax

House lawmakers joined with various tax reform groups this week to voice support for legislation that will phase out the state's Hall Income Tax.

The Hall Income Tax imposes a levy on income derived from stocks and bonds. Numerous studies show the tax impacts seniors and entrepreneurs the hardest, as both groups rely more heavily on this type of income than others. In addition, critics argue the "secret" income tax drives new capital investments away from Tennessee and sends the wrong message

to those looking to retire to Tennessee from another state.

The legislation would phase out the state portion of the Hall tax over a period of six years and includes provisions to ensure the phase out is done in a fiscally responsible manner.

The legislation will be heard by the House and Senate in the coming weeks.

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

Didn't Your Parents Raise You Better?

She arrived after several other customers on that Sunday. The vet's office didn't open until 5:00 p.m., and all of us were there to pick up our pets. This young woman jumped out of her car, and as soon as the door opened, she rushed to the counter without any regard to others who had beaten her there.

As my family will testify, some things push my buttons to the point that my temper gets the best of me. It's not something about which I'm proud; it's just the plain truth. Maybe others can identify with me



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

on some of the issues.

I hate stacked up messes. For a while I can tolerate them, but eventually, piles of junk all over the place get my goat. That's

when the cleaning binge hits. With enough energy to tidy up the largest of houses, I tackled "stuff" and decide which items survive and which ones end up in the trash. I could blame my aversion to clutter to an OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder), but that's not quite true. After a place is straightened up and junk is purged, I allow a new round of piling up to

begin. The real truth is that I flip over other people's messes, not mine. Yeah, I know that's being a jerk.

Another thing that bugs me is lying. I try my best to tell the truth at all times. In times past, I've colored the facts to lessen the punishment that was to come from my parents, but as the years have passed, lying takes too much effort and energy. Besides, I've never been able to keep a story sprinkled with lies straight. The result is that I blow a fuse when others lie to me. Even if that truth stings my ego or causes a loss, I'd rather have it than a bunch of bull. At some point, the truth comes out.

Rude drivers are another

thing I detest. Most of us obey the rules of the road and manage to reach our destinations. However, some inconsiderate individuals think they don't have to abide by the same standards because they are special or more important. The prime example of this is when an accident on the highway causes traffic to funnel into one lane. Many motorists race to scene of the wreck and then jam themselves into the front of others who have patiently waited their turns. It's the same as people who cut line at the grocery store or other business. When they do jump in front, these folks act as if nothing has happened and take offense

when I call them out and ask them to go to the end of the line.

The thing that infuriates me most is tardiness. I've always been prompt; in fact, I arrive early at every event that I attend. It gives me time to take care of any unexpected problems. Now, many persons feel that it is perfectly acceptable to be tardy. Some say it's being "fashionably late." Others declare that arriving a few minutes past the deadline is no big deal since things never start on time. I beg to differ. Nothing boils my blood like having people climb over me to a seat after a movie or game has started. If I can be early, don't I have the right to

expect others to simply be on time?

Becoming hostile over things that vex me isn't an admirable trait. It is, however, the way I'm wired. Friends tell me to relax and not allow such things to set me off. I counter that others should be aware and thoughtful enough not to do things that cause a problem. I'd like to ask them,

"Did your parents teach you to be so rude and inconsiderate of others' feelings?"

Yep, such a comment might just lead to physical injury, either mine or someone else's.



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Title Time! The Webb Lady Spartans win state

By Alex Norman

On March 1st the Webb Lady Spartans basketball team won their fourth Division II-A state championship in program history.

And they might not be done picking up the Gold Ball trophy.

"From the beginning our goal was to get back to the championship game," said Webb head coach Shelley Collier. "I expected us to be back... but championship teams don't just happen."

One year ago Webb lost in the state title game in overtime to Franklin Road Academy... a loss that served as motivation over the past 12 months.

"Anytime you have a game like that... a game when we had it won... that loss drove us to get better," said Collier.

"We let that game slip away and our kids suffered. But what a blessing. Sometimes when you have early success... that doesn't drive you."

This season the Lady Spartans finished with a 30-4 record, and won their final 18 games on the way to the title.

In the championship game against Northpoint Christian, seven Webb players got into the scoring column. It might have been their best performance of the season, as the Lady Spartans pulled away in the fourth period for a 58-40 victory.

"They (Northpoint Christian) left players open and others stepped up," said Collier. "All of our players were productive and that's what you want."

The most productive player for the Lady Spartans this season was sophomore guard Micah Sheetz. She was named Miss Basketball in Tennessee. In the state tournament Sheetz combined for 30 points in the semifinals and finals, leading her team to victories. She was also named tournament Most Valuable

Continue on page 4

Powell's season ends at home against JCHS

By Ken Lay

A final trip to the State Tournament wasn't in the cards for a Knox County basketball legend.

Powell High School boys basketball coach Mike Ogan came up just short of another trip to Murfreesboro as his Panthers dropped a 55-39 decision to Jefferson County in a Section 1-AAA game before a standing-room

only crowd Tuesday night at the Jeff Hunter Gymnasium.

The game was the final one for Ogan, who announced his retirement after the Panthers' regular-season finale. His 39-year coaching career might've ended on a sour note but he only had one regret on this night.

Powell guard Alex Hill suffered an arm injury

late in the first quarter and couldn't return and that left the Panthers' legendary coach dismayed.

"I hate it for Alex," Ogan said. He came a long way and people don't realize how hard it is to make it to substate.

"He worked so hard to get there and then he gets hurt and has it taken away from him. I'm not blaming Jefferson County. I know

they didn't mean to do it. But I hate it for him."

Those in Powell couldn't help but wonder what would've happened if Hill didn't go down.

At the time of his exit, Powell had a 9-2 lead and appeared to be in control. After Hill left the game, the Patriots (30-5) scored the final eight points of the frame to take a 10-9 lead.

Jefferson County, which will make its first trip to the Class AAA State Tournament, never trailed again.

"That changed the whole complexion of the ball game," Ogan said. "We're a guard-oriented team and we had a hard little road to hoe."

The Patriots controlled the second quarter and opened a 24-15 lead by

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY MARSHA BRANCH

Carter point guard Blake Dutton shoots over Unicoi County's 6-4 Connor Simpson in the Runnin' Hornets' 72-57 state sectional win. Carter will take the court in the TSSAA Boys' State tourney Thursday in Murfreesboro.

State bound Carter ready to make a 'run' at title

By Steve Williams

When Carter arrives at the TSSAA Boys' State tournament in Murfreesboro this week, Coach Joby Boydstone doesn't plan to change a thing. His team will continue to run and won't stop until crowned or eliminated.

"Run, press and forget the rest," said Boydstone when asked what his team's approach would be at the state. "At this stage of the game, you do what you do. And you leave it on the floor."

"If it's meant for us to win the state, then, God willing, we'll win it, and if it's not, it's been a heck of a season. But we're going to go down to the Boro with the attitude (that) it's one game at a time and we're in it to win it. If it happens, great. But (if not), it won't be because of lack of effort on these kids' part."

The Hornets have done so much running this season, they've been re-nicknamed the "Runnin' Hornets."

They ran Unicoi County out of Jim Williams Gymnasium with an 11-0 run to end the first half last Tuesday night on their way to a 72-57 victory in Class AA state sectional play. After trailing 22-15 early in the second period, the Hornets roared in front 38-29 at the break.

It was the third lowest point total of the season for Carter, which leads the state with a 91.6 scoring average. But, on the other hand, it was one of its better defensive games against a quality opponent. Carter allows an average of 77.5 points per game.

Junior standout Jordan Bowden scored 20 points, including 14 in the second period, to lead Carter. Junior reserve John Woodruff added 16 and senior Tucker Greene 12. The Hornets also got eight points from Blake Dutton and seven from senior reserve Patrick Blake.

"It seems like all season . . . there's always someone else ready to step up and do the job,"

Continue on page 3

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I've got an idea what you can do with those rotten tomatoes

Basketball referees are human. They make mistakes.

I know. I've made a few in my time.

Fortunately, the rule book allows for some mistakes to be corrected. But a referee has to own up to his or her error, before this can happen.

In a Class AA girls state sectional clash on March 1, Grainger at Fulton, an official, from all accounts, made a mistake near the end of the overtime game that allowed the Lady Falcons to score the winning basket and qualify for the TSSAA state tournament.

Huge game. Huge stakes. Huge mistake.

But the worst part is it could have been corrected by rule, but wasn't.

All it took was for the erring official to step up and admit to having an inadvertent whistle.

What does it take to take that step?

Answer: Professionalism. Character. Courage.



By Steve Williams

His officiating partners also are guilty if they heard the toot and didn't do anything to correct it.

I bring this to light because I don't want to see it happen again.

I saw a team done wrong. I saw players still crying long after the game. I heard the helpless feeling in a head coach's voice.

"I've been down there with a group of kids," said Grainger coach Justin Combs, after the 57-55 loss ended his team's season. "There's no explanation you can give them for the way that game ended.

"The referee right in front of me blew his whistle and everybody stopped and for whatever reason, they wouldn't stop the game. They let the game continue. They ran off the floor without explaining anything to me or anybody or huddling up to talk about it.

"With TSSAA officials, there's no accountability. There's no course of action we've got. We can't appeal. We can't do

anything. It would have been as simple as him saying, 'It was an inadvertent whistle,' and give them the ball out of bounds. At least at that point, we can get our defense set, my kids don't stop playing. (Instead) they get a free layup on the other end.

"It's just a hard way for that game to end. We might have gotten beat (anyway). They could have hit a shot at the end and had they with our defense set, then all is fair.

"I don't know why he blew his whistle. He could have called a walk, foul, there's a number of things he could have called, but the whistle blew and that means play stops. A lot of people heard it."

I didn't hear it. I was on the opposite side of the court from Coach Combs and his team's bench, covering the game for The Knoxville Focus.

But I know of two others who did hear it. One person is a respected high school official himself who was at the game as a spectator. The other person was Jody Wright, Fulton High assistant

principal and boys head basketball coach who was on site as a game director.

"There was a brief whistle," said Wright. "I was standing on the baseline, the Grainger bench's side. It wasn't a prolonged whistle.

"The players on the other side of the court (where ball came loose) probably didn't hear it. Do I think it impacted the play? No. I don't know if anybody stopped.

"It's a hard way to lose the game. A tough, tough way to lose. It was a battle and you hate for a tarnish mark on the game either way."

Hopefully, the TSSAA can use this incident as a training tool for officials throughout the state.

Title it: "True Confessions of a Ref" or "The Gutless Getaway" or simply "Doing What's Right."

As for the guilty officials, they need to hang up their whistles. They are lacking in professionalism, character and/or courage. If they don't step down on their own, the TSSAA should ban them.

The four seniors in Grainger's starting lineup will never be in

another high school game. Why should these guys?

I don't think I'm being too harsh. Just ask Skylar McBee and A.W. Davis and all the good folks in Grainger County. Heck, even Fulton folks don't like to win a big game like that

Coach Combs put a positive spin on it.

"The only explanation that I could give the kids is that the good Lord has got some sort of plan for us and he's teaching us some some sort of lesson through this loss. And we just got to look at it that way and learn how to be better people from this moment. I think that's the only thing we can do.

"I hate that the careers of these seniors ended that way. But again, there's a reason for it, they'll learn from it and they'll be better people somewhere down the line because of this."

Maybe one of them will become a referee. There should be at least one opening today.

Lady Bulldogs look to avoid injury bug in 2014

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School softball coach Leonard Sams makes no bones about the fact that his Lady Bulldogs must stay healthy in 2014.

Bearden, which reached the Region 2-AAA Tournament in 2012, fell just short of the regionals last season as it was bitten by the injury bug in 2013.

The Lady Bulldogs, who won 20 games last year, play in one of Tennessee's toughest districts. District 4-AAA features Farragut, Maryville, William Blount, Lenoir City, Heritage, West and newcomer Hardin Valley Academy.

Maryville reached the State Tournament last year. Farragut was eliminated in the sectional round and Bearden saw its 2013 campaign end in the District 4-AAA Tournament semifinals where the Lady Bulldogs lost by one run.

"Our biggest problem last year was injuries," Sams said. "We didn't have a lot of depth but we keep building depth every year.

"If we can stay healthy, we can play with anybody. From what I've seen I would put Maryville at No. 1. Bearden is probably No. 2. William Blount is No. 3 and Farragut is No. 4. Any of those top four teams can win it. Hardin Valley and Lenoir City can beat you if you don't play good ball. Heritage is down."

Sams said that this Bearden team is the best hitting squad in his six-year tenure as coach. He also noted that team chemistry

will be a strength for the Lady Bulldogs this season.

Top returners include: Dana Steinbacher (junior, pitcher); Rachael Goodson (junior, outfielder); Aleni Ray (junior, shortstop); Kyrsten Freeman (junior, first baseman); Maxi House (sophomore, third baseman); Harly Hennin (junior, center fielder) and Elizabeth Heemeree (sophomore, first baseman/third baseman).

Key newcomers are: Alyssa Walker (a senior catcher who transferred from Christian Academy of Knoxville) and freshmen Cassidy Heemsoth (pitcher/left fielder), Kathrine Glass (shortstop) and Sadie Coons (second baseman/shortstop).

"We're starting one senior and a few juniors and sophomores," Sams said. "We have some freshmen in the mix.

"This is a loaded team and we control our own destiny. For a high school team, it's a team that's pretty strong."

Sams also has two new assistant coaches in Tiffany Huff and Kristina Alexander. They played at the University of Tennessee and bring a winning attitude to the Lady Bulldogs.

Bearden opens its 2014 campaign Wednesday when it hosts Powell. First pitch is slated for 5:30 p.m.

It will be a tough non-district test as the Lady Panthers have their eyes on a District 3-AAA Title.

Carter softball looks to go to new heights with Cox

By Ken Lay

In 14 years Mike Cox turned Central High School into a softball powerhouse and now he's headed east to Strawberry Plains where he hopes to duplicate that feat at Carter.

Cox, who led the Lady Bobcats to four Class AAA State Tournament appearances, was tapped to coach the Lady Hornets recently and he has high expectations at his new home.

"They feel like they should win [the District 3-AAA Championship]," Cox said. "I think Carter, Pigeon Forge and Union County are the top three teams in the district.

"Union County lost a lot and Pigeon Forge is always in the running. Fulton, Gatlinburg-Pittman and Austin-East are in the bottom half but if you let your guard down, Fulton can beat you."

The Lady Hornets went 14-18 last season but expectations are lofty.

"We play 10 district games so I put them in five tournaments where we'll play some top AAA teams," Cox said. "You can load your schedule and go 30-5 or you can play in some tough tournaments.

"I want our district tournament to be the easiest tournament we play. I'd rather go 20-15 and win our district."

Carter opens its 2014 campaign on March 14 at McMinn Central's Tiger Classic in Dayton.

The Lady Hornets have a 13-player roster that features 10 returning players.

"Our strengths will be team chemistry and experience," Cox said. "We have 13 players and 10 are returning."

The Lady Hornets turned some heads in a recent preseason playday where they beat Karns and Anderson County and tied Halls, a favorite to reach the Class AAA State Tournament 0-0.

"If we play like we did there then it should be a pretty good year," Cox said. "These kids love to play but I'll be interested to see how they react if they lose three or four in a row.

"It's a winning atmosphere at Carter right now with football and our [boys] basketball team has made the State Tournament. I don't know if I should feel pressure or the girls should feel pressure. I gave them [Tuesday] off so they could

go to the [Section 1-AA] basketball game. I told them to enjoy it but I also told them to think about what it would be like if they could reach that point."

Top returners include: Suzie Parker (junior, catcher); Nicole Blackburn (junior, pitcher); Bethany Lawrence (junior, shortstop); Bailey Kimball (junior, outfielder); Megan Dalton (sophomore, outfielder) and Keely Chamberlain (sophomore, first baseman).

Blackburn was a top pitcher in Knox County last season and Cox expects big things from his junior hurler this season.

"I think she'll have a breakout year," he said. "In the playday, she shutout Halls and we tied them 0-0. She beat Karns and she beat Anderson County."

Gibbs, a perennial State Tournament qualifier and district champion, departed for District 3-AAA and Carter will look to be a regular in the top spot but the Lady Hornets have never experienced that type of success.

Cox did experience those highs at Central and he's hoping his new team will soon enjoy playing in the postseason.

Powell's season ends at home against JCHS

Cont. from page 1

halftime. The Panthers (23-10) tried to claw their way back into the game and trimmed their deficit to six points after the break. They played the Patriots evenly in the third stanza before Jefferson County really blew things open in the final eight minutes.

Powell's Dallas Fields scored 15 points (including

11 in the second half) in his high school swan song.

He was the only Powell player to score in double figures and the Patriots utilized their height advantage.

"They killed us on the boards at times but our kids played hard and they kept fighting," Ogan said.

JCHS center John Bryant scored a game-high 26

points and the Panthers just couldn't find an answer for the Patriots' inside game.

As devastating as the loss appeared to be for the Panthers, the game left Jefferson County coach Chris Poore jubilant.

"This is great for these kids. Those guys set the bar high," Poore said. "We had an edge inside but they had us outside with shooters and quickness.

"Powell played hard but they didn't hit enough shots to hurt us. Fields is a great player. The things he does are unbelievable. Coach Ogan is a great coach and his 39 years prove that and you've got to give him respect.

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State bound Carter ready to make a ‘run’ at title



PHOTO BY MARSHA BRANCH

Carter went into the dressing room after its state sectional win over Unicoi County and came back out to join the celebration wearing these “Runnin’ Hornets State Bound” T-shirts. Carter will be shooting for its first state tournament win in school history Thursday. Standing, from left to right, Trevor Townsend, Hank Black, John Woodruff, Toy’Shaun Winton, Austin Hayes, Jordan Bowden, Brian Ortiz, Kyler Henderson, Patrick Blake, Alex Hayes, Davontate Moore. Seated, left to right, Tucker Greene, Charles Mitchell, Blake Dutton.

Cont. from page 1
said Boydstone, addressing the contributions of Woodruff and Blake.
“That’s what makes us – and I say this in a humble way – a good team, because we don’t have just one or two players we lean on. We’ve got eight or nine, sometimes 10 guys, who contribute. And that’s what makes it tough to defend us, because you never know where you’re going to get it from.”
Austin Green led a balanced Unicoi County attack with 10 points. Lucas Hensley chipped in nine and sub Thomas Tipton eight. Six-foot-five Nic Chambers and 6-4 Connor Simpson combined for 14 points. Simpson fouled out with 5:28 to go.
Carter (26-7) will ride a 15-game win streak

into the state quarterfinals Thursday at Middle Tennessee State University’s Murphy Center.
Carter has been to the state twice before but has never won, losing in the quarterfinals to Memphis Booker T. Washington in 2009 and to Nashville Maplewood in 2010.
“I think if we keep doing our thing, and keep running, we have a chance to win it,” said Greene. “I still think we can hit that peak, where we’re playing the best basketball that we can, and hopefully, we’ll hit that peak in Murfreesboro.”
Unicoi County, losing for the eighth time in 10 years in the sectionals, hangs up a 26-9 worksheet.
“We haven’t been able to break through,” said Coach John English. “There’s some good

teams down here. Whoever survives Knoxville is always a load.”
The Blue Devils from Erwin in upper East Tennessee used their height and quick, scrappy defense to take a 17-13 lead in the opening eight minutes. Hensley, with a nifty assist from Chambers, scored inside to extend their advantage to seven. Up to this point, the Blue Devils had been successful at slowing the tempo.
But that soon changed. Greene gunned in a 3-pointer, Bowden drove for a bucket and Greene sank both ends of a 1-and-1 to tie the contest at 22-all.
Dutton ignited the 11-point flurry with back-to-back baskets to put Carter ahead 31-29. In the final minute of the half, Bowden went off. He was

fouled making a 3-point shot and converted the and-one for a rare four-point play. He then drilled in another 3-pointer.
Carter cooled off and committed three turnovers as the second half began, and Unicoi County pulled within 40-36.
Blake, fouled putting up an offensive rebound, sank two free throws, then intercepted a pass in the Hornets’ press and took it in for a layup to stretch

Carter’s lead to eight.
Woodruff then took over, scoring the Hornets’ final six points of the third period for a 50-40 lead. The Blue Devils could get no closer than nine the rest of the way.
“We had good stretches where we took care of the basketball, but a team that presses you as much as they do and comes at you with such athletes, eventually they’re going to wear on you a

little bit,” said English.
“You’ve got to give Carter a lot of credit for making the big shots and turning us over and converting them.
“They’ve got a heck of a team,” added English. “Coach Boydstone obviously brought in a system his kids have bought into. They’re doing a great job with it. It’ll be interesting to see how they’ll do (in state).”



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Lady Falcons make history with state tourney trip

By Steve Williams

What Grainger High had been trying to accomplish for three years, Fulton's girls basketball team got done in about three seconds.

Make it to the state. In an exciting yet controversial finish, the Lady Falcons came up with a turnover and Moneisha Thomas beat the buzzer with a layup for a 57-55 overtime win in the Class AA state sectional game at Fulton's Jody Wright Arena on Saturday night, March 1.

In a post-game interview, Grainger coach Justin Combs said an official's whistle had sounded as he and his players tried to call a timeout, but play was allowed to continue as Fulton got the ball and raced for the game-deciding basket.

Combs said his team should have been granted a timeout or an "inadvertent whistle" should have been called. In either case, Fulton's last score would have been nullified, and the ball would have been put back in play at the nearest in-bounds spot to where it was when the whistle sounded.

Instead, Grainger's veteran and No. 1 ranked Lady Grizzlies suffered a sectional loss for the third year in a row, again coming up one win short of the state tournament, while youthful and talented Fulton would be making its first-ever appearance in the state tourney.

"I'm thrilled to death with the adversity our kids have fought through all yearlong to be able to go to the state tourney and make it to the Final Eight teams," said Fulton coach John Fisher. "It's an exciting time for Fulton High School."

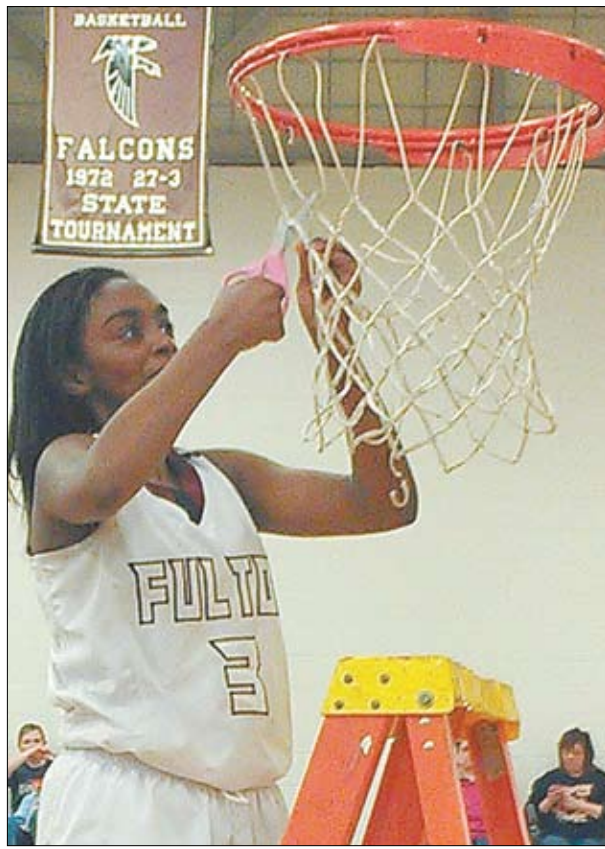


PHOTO BY KIMBERLY PRATT

Snip, snip! Moneisha Thomas takes her turn cutting down the net from Fulton's state sectional victory over Grainger. Thomas scored the winning basket in the Lady Falcons' 57-55 overtime win.

"To see these kids battle and get a victory in the biggest game of the year – it's super exciting."

Grainger had posted a three-year record of 91-11.

Thomas, a junior, totaled a game-high 17 points in addition to her game-winner. Freshman Quay Hines added 13. Another freshman, 5-11 post KeKe McKinney, chipped in eight, including six in Fulton's fourth period comeback. Senior Tyanna Castle also contributed eight points.

Grainger (28-6) erupted for 24 points in the second period to lead 37-29 at intermission. The Lady Falcons outscored the Lady Grizzlies 12-6 in the fourth period to force overtime. McKinney's 10-foot turnaround shot and one evened the score at 55-all with 2:14 left.

Fulton came with defensive pressure in the fourth

period. Grainger committed six turnovers in eight possessions down the stretch.

Neither team had managed to score in OT. It appeared the Lady Grizzlies would get the last crack at it, as they called a timeout to set up a play with 16.9 seconds remaining. But Fulton got the ball loose. It ended up in the hands of McKinney, who passed it to Thomas.

"I just went as fast as I could," said Thomas. "I'm so happy. I've made history. We've never been to state."

Coach Fisher described his defensive strategy on Grainger's last possession.

"Lock your man up and have toughness. I looked at our players and they believed. They can stop them. It was exciting to watch them go out and perform. We got a turnover

Pitching, fundamentals will be keys to success for Beavers

By Ken Lay

Karns High School baseball coach Matt Hurley will look to keep things simple during the upcoming season.

"My expectations were the same as they were last year and that's that we play as hard as we can for 21 outs," said Hurley, who will officially begin his second season as the Beavers' head coach tonight when Karns hosts Gibbs tonight (March 10) at 7:30. "I expect us to make the routine plays, make good contact and throw strikes."

"If we do the fundamental things then we will put ourselves in position to be successful."

Karns, which went 15-19 last season, boasts a talented senior class and will also rely on its sophomores and juniors.

"The seniors will be the backbone of our team and we'll depend on them," Hurley said. "But we'll also depend on our sophomores and juniors."

"We made great strides during the offseason and we couldn't have made those without our assistant coaches; Dwight Smith, Scott Turpin and Rolin McGowan."

The Beavers have a savvy veteran squad that has been battle-tested but pitching may carry the team.

"Our strength will be on the mound and we want to build on what we accomplished last year," Hurley said. "I'm extremely excited."

Top returners include: Hagan Kennedy (a senior

catcher and all-District 3-AAA performer last season); Matt Oster (a senior first baseman who was also named to the all-district team last year); Aaron Clark (a senior and returning all-district right-handed pitcher); Chase McCallister (junior, right-handed pitcher) and Drew Korzybski (senior, right-handed pitcher).

Key newcomers are: Tucker Pate (sophomore, catcher/third baseman); Chris Norton (sophomore, infielder) and Nick Beauchap (sophomore, outfielder).

Hurley noted that he is looking forward to competing against some of the state's best coaches when the 2014 campaign gets underway.

The Beavers are looking to compete in a tough district that underwent a facelift during the offseason. Hardin Valley Academy, a geographical rival and one-time league foe, has moved to District 4-AAA. The Hawks have been replaced by Gibbs, the 2010 Class AA State Champion.

"We have great coaches in our district and great baseball comes out of it," Hurley said. "Hardin Valley is a great team and they'll compete with those big guns in that other district."

"Gibbs is also a great team and Geff Davis is a great coach. When we play them, I'm looking forward to a great, tough great team. The coaches in our district play the game the right way and it's always an honor to compete against them."

Four Knox teams come up a little short

By Steve Williams

Oh so close.

Three high school basketball teams from Knox County lost two-point games in state sectional play. And another bowed out by only three points.

In boys play, Grace Christian Academy dropped a 55-53 decision at Hampton in Class A, while CAK was edged by Greeneville 44-42

in Class AA.

Farragut's girls lost a 42-40 nail-biter to Jefferson County in Class AAA, while the CAK girls took Elizabethton to the wire in Class AA before falling 66-63.

GCA's girls also gave a good account of themselves in the Class A sectionals before being ousted by North Greene 55-49.

Webb School's boys just

missed making the Division II Class A championship game as they bowed to Franklin Road Academy 56-54 in the semifinals. The Spartans had advanced to the state by beating Harding Academy 68-59.

Another 3-pointer here and there and the Knoxville area could have had a large representation in state tournament play.

Title Time! The Webb Lady Spartans win state

Cont. from page 1

Player.

"Our team has watched Micah mature physically and mature as a player this season," said Collier. "She's quiet, but not too quiet... she leads by example."

For Collier, this year has been extra gratifying thanks in part to being able to share the moment with her daughters Katie and Sydney, who both play for the Spartans. Katie is a junior and was named to the Division II-A Girls All-Tournament team, scoring 10 points in the finals. Sydney is a freshman and collected a rebound in the title game.

"My first calling is as a Mom," said Collier. "It's a

hard thing, but it's a good hard, being a Mom and a coach. How do you separate that? Some days you want to pull your hair out, but I focus on the team and I'm fair to everyone. But it is special, with all of my players. And it is a unique situation. I've watched some of these players grow up since middle school."

Collier added, "I love being able to coach and work with young people. Each team is special, and I try to get the most out of each team."

The Lady Spartans return a lot of talent for the 2014-2015 season, so the obvious questions have been raised about a repeat. But Collier isn't thinking about next year just yet...

"Right now we are

enjoying every moment. We are thankful and humble," said Collier. "We have so much support from our school, our administrators, and our boys' team as well (the Webb Spartans lost in the state semifinals). We really hurt for them. But we will worry about next year when next year gets here. Our kids are exhausted. It was an emotional weekend."

Congrats to Coach Collier and her players Evey Satterfield, Madison Davis, Micah Sheetz, Dasia Maxwell, Katie and Sydney Collier, Emily Wyrick, Imani Smith, Madison Christian, Day Vance and Reagan Munday on a tremendous season.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
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Driv’n Mr. Jim

The world is very complicated, and I can see why some folks just surrender or retreat. I’m proud of my mother who has not given up, and not only lives independently, but does email and even follows her family and friends on Face Book. It takes courage to be “out there” in the world of cyber space. I’m still unsure of myself when I post on Face Book. Recently, Becky was surprised by comments after she posted. One commenter quipped, “Well, it’s about time!” Apparently, Becky mistakenly announced our recent nuptials.

My sister-in-law finally converted to a smart phone after I shamed her while repairing the cover of the old flip-phone she was using. Now, she can not only make phone calls, but she’s able to check her

email and text her family. I admit that I resisted texting, but finally concluded that I had to do so if I wanted to stay in touch with my kids. These 21st century philosophs are tech and social media savvy. Now, I’d rather receive a text with a pic than an email or a phone call. Trust me; texting is wonderful technology, and keeps my family connected across considerable distances. Oakley’s parents can even keep up with the boy’s activities as pictures pop up on their iPhones throughout the day.

Some might say we’ve become a slave to our technology. I’ll admit I’ve been guilty of whipping out my iPhone when something pops into my mind. But, a Google search should not interrupt dinner conversation. One advantage of the

new technology is that I carry around fewer scraps of paper with notes. Now, when I want to know something I just Google it, and go the reference desk of the world wide web library. For an inquisitive guy the Net is an irresistible siren’s song.

The biggest problem with all this technology is keeping it working. My first car was a used Ford Mustang. In those days boys worked on cars. I’m no mechanic, but I replaced the water pump on my “rod”, did all the maintenance work, and even adjusted the timing belt and set points on the distributor because there was no electronic ignition in those days. Have you looked under the hood of a car lately? There’s no room to spare as in olden days. We recently bought a hybrid and there is not only a standard engine under the hood, but an electric one as well. And the battery is in the trunk! What’s a good ole boy to do?

Recently, my computer’s hard drive began to fail and I was forced to buy a new lap top to write these essays and to interact with those patients who still contact me for advice.

After considering my needs and the options, I selected a new machine

and that’s when the fight began. I have a basic knowledge of how cars work. But computers are much more mysterious than a car. Perhaps it’s because computers work on quantum mechanical principles which no one really understands. None the less, these tools work and are a necessary component of 21st century life. The problem is that computers and their software applications are complicated and when something goes wrong you need an expert.

Foolishly, I assumed that the anti-virus protection that I purchase through my home internet server would transfer to my new computer automatically as with so many other programs. It did not and I was almost immediately invaded and overrun by malware. I needed what the street calls a “geek” – someone to clean up my computer mess. My anti-virus company fortunately provided Michael. This computer parson listened to my confession and then took over.

Jessica Tandy won an Oscar for her role in the movie Driving Miss Daisy. It’s a beautiful story about an elderly southern matron and her trusted black

chauffeur. The haughty Miss Daisy finally comes to grips with her prejudice. In some respects I felt as out of control as Miss Daisy when Michael took remote control of my computer and drove me around the internet. I marveled as Michael manipulated my computer to isolate the problems, orchestrate the remedy, and heal my broken machine. When it was all over, I heartily thanked him for the cure. I suspect my gratitude was comparable to a patient who has been healed by a skilled physician.

Yes, the world is complicated, but I’m not sure our complexity makes us any happier or always better. Case in point, have you heard of ICD-10? Well, this government medical coding mandate is coming October 1, 2014, and will cause even more upheaval than Obama-care. Doctors and hospitals use diagnostic codes for various conditions. An example is 250.00 for adult type 2 diabetes. These codes were created decades ago for description of diseases, but are now used for billing purposes. The new system will replace ICD-9 and increase the number of disease codes from 17,000 to 155,000 descriptors, and

will destroy what is left of our medical system. The implementation of this system will be very expensive with cost estimates of \$30,000 per physician and an extra hour each day to properly code the patient’s care. Furthermore, coding confusion will delay payments, sometimes for months leading to bankruptcy of the few small office practices that are left. So, why do we need codes for “drowning associated with your water skis catching fire” or for “suicide by jelly fish invenom-enation”? I’m not making this up, folks. These are real ICD-10 codes.

It is apparent to me that Barney Fife is now running virtually every area of our government, and we are in trouble. I happen to believe that medical care is not this complicated, and I believe we need to again embrace “care” of patients rather than following more mandated protocols (metrics) from central command in Washington. We may have one last chance to reverse the destruction. We’ll see this November.

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

Why Can't They Just Stop?

By Curtis Trotter

The recent death of Phillip Seymour Hoffman shocked many throughout the country. Indeed it was a tragedy but not all that unique. The majority of those that die from this devastating disease are not celebrities at all. They are average men, women, young and old alike. Statistics prove there are nearly 30 million people suffering from the disease of addiction as you read this article and most individuals have been affected either directly or indirectly by addiction.

According to the “National Institute on Drug Abuse,” substance abuse is our nation’s number one health problem and alcohol still remains the number one most abused drug in our country. Relapse rates for addictions are similar to those for other chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma according to national experts.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s national survey on drug use and health reports, 23.5 million people 12 years of age and older needed treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol

abuse problem in 2009, of the individuals only 2.6 million or 11.2 percent sought and received treatment at a residential facility.

Perhaps the most posed question is “Why can’t they just stop?”

“The first time a person takes drugs, a choice is involved; those who develop addictions usually could never imagine where that first choice would eventually lead them. Once the addiction is developed, their choice becomes limited at best. Until this truth is understood, friends, families, doctors, and the media will keep asking the same question. ‘Why?’” says David A. Cunningham, LADAC, NCACI, CAI, QCS and Executive Director at English Mountain Recovery.

One of the most common signs of substance abuse and dependence is continuing the use of the substance despite the negative consequences of the use. These false beliefs, that everything is ok or normal, are referred to as denial. At some point in the spiral down of the addict and/or alcoholic, increased tolerance, cravings, loss of control, withdrawal

symptoms and physical dependence close in.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine defines addiction to alcohol and other drugs as “A chronic, progressive, relapsing disorder characterized by compulsive use of one or more substances that results in physical, psychological, or social harm to the individual and continued use despite this harm.” As far back as 1956, the American Medical Association (AMA) deemed addiction as a primary, progressive, chronic and fatal disease with identifiable symptoms. In 1951 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared alcoholism as a “serious medical problem” “In the face of this evidence many people tend to believe the myths and misconceptions about addiction to alcohol and other drugs,” says David A. Cunningham.

David Vincent, LADAC and Clinical Director of English Mountain Recovery has seen success with this treatment model. “I could give examples giving governmental and brain chemistry studies, about addiction in

Continue on page 2

This is how your new joint can feel.



If you are experiencing hip pain that prevents you from being active and doing things you love to do, you may be a candidate for hip replacement surgery. Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Michael Howard will discuss the different options patients have available to them for total hip replacement surgery.

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Featured Speaker
Michael Howard, M.D.

The Joint Replacement Center
at Turkey Creek Medical Center



Member of the medical staff



Hiking is another treatment therapy that some abstinence based treatment centers use as a therapeutic exercise in order to get clients to a newer level in life.

Why Can't They Just Stop?

Cont. from page 1

general, but I have found but that abstinence and a strong recovery after-care plan make the most sense. Treatment is stopping the behavior and helping the addict heal and fill the void with useful tools that they will use from now on. Abstinence is the start, the steps taken after the substance is gone, is the recovery," Vincent said.

Curtis Markham, M.D., Certified by the American Board Addiction Medicine, and Medical Director at English Mountain Recovery, believes that "Abstinence Based Recovery" should be the ultimate goal in the treatment field. "Even though it may be in contradiction to other

treatment philosophies, such as harm reduction, being accepted as end points of therapy in and of themselves because the evidence is clear that the mesolimbic dopamine reward system, which is the part of the brain affected by addiction, begins to heal only after abstinence from mood altering chemicals has been achieved," Markham said.

Gene Marie Rutkauskas, MS, LADAC, QCS, NCACII, Assistant Clinical Director of EMR agrees. "My own experience over the past 26 years of providing alcohol and drug treatment services, combined with education, training, and an knowledge of best practices in A & D treatment,

repeatedly shows me that abstinence must be the goal of addiction treatment, it works."

Recovery from the disease of addiction involves taking responsibility for the disease and making the necessary lifestyle changes that compliment long term sobriety. Self-defeating behaviors are replaced with gratitude, honesty, forgiveness and humility that are all complimentary to a new spiritual path and lifestyle.

"An abstinence based treatment center is the best start an alcoholic or addict can make to begin their personal road to recovery. At English Mountain Recovery, we provide a minimum of 90 days due

to a number of very important reasons. Remaining in treatment for an adequate period of time is critical for treatment effectiveness and additional therapy coupled with sober living environments produce further progress. Abstinence based treatment and recovery is hope based. It does not substitute one drug for another and there is great deal of focus on the spiritual aspects of recovery."

English Mountain Recovery implements strong clinical and innovative treatment modalities such as different counseling therapies, individual and group therapy, equine therapy, trauma therapies, experiential therapy, family

program and psychodrama just to mention a few. Family involvement is highly encouraged and supported so the entire family can begin a new life of recovery together," Cunningham said.

English Mountain Recovery is nationally recognized by many professionals as an affordable and a quality addiction treatment center. Much effort has gone into providing a very innovative and unique approach. Its goal is to treat the entire individual; body, mind and spirit.

English Mountain Recovery is a private, not for profit, residential alcohol and drug treatment center dedicated to the treatment of individuals and families

who are faced with the alcoholism and drug addiction. Nestled in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, English Mountain Recovery provides a healing environment where clients can focus on their treatment and recovery. If you or someone you care about is in need of assistance, their professional staff is there to help you. Those seeking immediate help should contact them at 1-877-459-8595. Many hot-lines are also available in the phonebook under substance abuse.

Learn more about English Mountain Recovery at www.emrecovery.org by emailing info@emrecovery.org.

Faith

Food Wars

Idols of pleasure abound in our American culture. As we examine modern American idols that vie for the heart (or should I say stomach), there is the god of food. God created food as a gift to us. But it is amazing how the tastiest gifts from

God are often the same gifts that are twisted into destructive idols.

I remember several years ago watching the feature animated film *Over the Hedge*. This movie was about a raccoon named RJ who made an amazing discovery: human beings love



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

an abundance of food. RJ convinces his animal friends that if they hung around the hedges, they could always find something to eat (albeit not healthy stuff). RJ says to his friends, "We eat to live. These guys (humans) live to eat."

Observing a family praying at the dinner table, RJ states, "That is the altar where they worship food." Pointing to a treadmill, RJ declares, "That gets rid of guilt so they can eat more food. Food! Food! Food!" All that RJ could think about was food, as it

consumed every thought and activity of his life.

According to the American Center for Disease Control, 68 percent of Americans are overweight, and one-third of Americans are obese. We love our food and consume much more on average than what we need to sustain these bodies that God designed. The overconsumption has caused many health related concerns: high blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar / diabetes, and sleep apnea. The pleasure of food that God designed (taste buds are awesome) has turned from a gift into a curse. The stomach begins to control your life

instead of God.

After Jesus fed a large crowd (five thousand men, not counting women and children) with just a few loaves and fishes, He taught them a valuable lesson. Jesus wanted them to understand the importance of choosing between food to satisfy their hunger or Jesus to satisfy their souls. The day after the miraculous feeding, the crowd traveled to where Jesus had moved overnight. The crowd was no doubt hungry again and ready for another meal. Jesus told them: "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures

to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you" (John 6:27). Jesus said they just needed to believe. What was the reply of the people? They wanted a sign so they could believe, like the fresh bread from heaven God gave to Moses and the people in the wilderness (6:31). Jesus told them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (6:35). Jesus is the bread. Would He be enough for them? Verse 66 tells us that many people stopped following Jesus. They chose a different god than Jesus to worship.

What is more important: food for your stomach or food for your soul? Jesus said, "Hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6). Lasting pleasure will not be found in food, but in Him. Let food be transformed in your life from being an object of worship to an act of worship: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran Church senior group, 55 Alive, will meet on March 13 in the church meeting room at 12:00. A hot lunch will be served. Cost is \$7.00 and reservations are requested. Call 524-0366. Guest Speaker, Susan Spicer, will talk about the Stephens Ministry program now implemented in over 60 different Christian faiths. First Lutheran is located at 1207 N Broadway, Knoxville.

Seymour United Methodist Church

On Friday, March 14, the youth who have so-signed up, are going to participate in the annual Laser Quest lock-in from 10 p.m. through 8 a.m. Saturday.

The youth's annual "Amazing Race" is scheduled for Saturday, April 5th. Volunteers for drivers and coordinators are needed. See Mario Kee for details.

Next Sunday, March 16th, is the 2nd Sunday of Lent, as we approach Easter.

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 our church office at 573-9711.

DO YOU HAVE PSORIASIS?

Dermatology Associates of Knoxville, PC is conducting a research study testing an investigational medication for chronic plaque psoriasis.

If you are 18 years of age or older and have chronic plaque psoriasis, you may be eligible. Study medication, study-related office visits and all study related treatments are available to qualified participants at no cost.

Compensation for time and travel may be available.

CALL FOR INFORMATION:

Dermatology Associates of Knoxville, PC
865-524-2547, Ext 1136

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Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor
www.newbeverly.org
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Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Youth

7:00 p.m.

Bus Ministry -

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Corner of Hill Road and Fort Sumter Road

922-4210 • www.hallschristian.net

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

Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

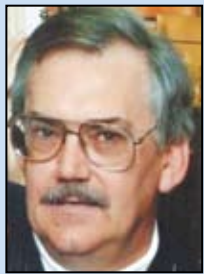
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Where Christ is Making a Difference in Our Lives and in Our Community

House to Home

The Great Locomotive Chase

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Civilian James Andrews was born in what is now West Virginia. He became a merchant in Kentucky and was recruited by the Union Army. He operated along the Tennessee-Kentucky border as an agent, trader, and intelligence spy.

It was 1862 and the Union and Confederate forces were battling it out in Chattanooga, with the Union concerned that the enemy would get resupplied from Atlanta. A secret plan was made to send a small group into Northern Georgia to destroy the only railroad track linking the two cities. Andrews devised this plan and was given 24 soldiers from different units and the men came from Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The idea was brilliant but dangerous. Sending Union soldiers behind enemy lines dressed as civilians could mean death to those men if they were caught. The "Andrews Raiders" made their way to Big Shanty (now Kennesaw) just north

of Atlanta. There, they stole a train and headed north with the idea of destroying the track behind them as they went.

But conductor William Fuller saw the men commandeer the train and quickly starting following them with other men by handcar and then another locomotive which ran in reverse trying to catch the "Yankee" spies. The Andrews party did manage to tear up some of the track and delay the chasers and even set fire to some of the box cars they were pulling, but shortly after passing through Tunnel Hill near Ringgold, Ga., just short of their destination, their locomotive ran out of steam.

The Union raiders abandoned the train only to be caught, one by one, and most were taken to Atlanta where they were tried and hanged. Their bodies were moved to the National Cemetery in Chattanooga after the war and some of the men were posthumously awarded the "Medal of Honor," becoming the first soldiers ever to receive the honor. Andrews, being a civilian, could not receive the honor.

Some of the original raiding party lived to tell about it. They were held by Confederate forces in Knoxville but, due to Union victory there, escaped to live out the rest of the war.

Kennesaw, Georgia today displays the locomotive "The General," which was taken by Andrews and his men along with photos, letters, and artifacts from the "Great Locomotive Chase." It is at The Southern Museum in Kennesaw, next to the original location of the depot there. The museum also tells of other railroad incidents in the Civil War, the importance of railroad bridges during the conflict, and has a short film about the "chase."

The General has a long and exhaustive history. It was built in 1855. After the raid it was returned to Confederate service but partially demolished when the Union was about to take the town. The Union repaired the engine and put it to work. It was rebuilt a few times over its history and rested for 50 years at the Chattanooga Union Depot. The General appeared at the 1939 Chicago World's Fair and in 1964 at the New York World's Fair. It was displayed in Louisville, Ky. in 1971 but, finally, it returned to Georgia and the town from which it was commandeered in 1972 and dedicated there by then Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter.

It is now on the National Register of



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

"The General," the locomotive in the Civil War's Great Locomotive Chase, is displayed in all its glory at the Southern Museum in Kennesaw, Ga.

Historic Places.

You can visit the Museum and see the historic old locomotive, in all its glory, Monday through Saturdays

from 9:30 until 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. until 5:30. Kennesaw is just about 2 miles off Interstate 75 at exit 273. You can find the

museum on the internet at SouthernMuseum.org.

UT Gardens March 2014 Plant of the Month

Toadshade Trillium

Submitted by Jason Reeves, research horticulturist, the University of Tennessee Gardens, Jackson

You know spring is upon us when you see the foliage of trillium pushing through the ground. Along with other spring ephemerals like bloodroot and Virginia bluebells, trillium provides hope after a long winter.

There are more than 30 species of trillium native to the U.S. One of the more common species in Tennessee is Trillium sessile. Its common names include toadshade, toad trillium, sessile trillium and red trillium.

The height of the plants ranges from 5 inches to 12 inches, and the single stalk is topped with a symmetrical whorl of three leaves. The oval leaves average 2 inches to 4 inches long with the color and patterns varying widely from solid green to a mottled light

and dark green, or even chocolate or a somewhat silver color. As the foliage matures, the mottling fades.

In the center of the whorled leaves the stalk-less flower is produced. Narrow 1-inch to 2-inch tall petals point skyward and are skirted by three smaller sepals that protrude at a 45 degree angle. Both petals and sepals can range in color from reddish-brown and maroon to greenish yellow.

Usually found growing in the wild in moist, rich, deciduous woodlands, it can also be found in somewhat chalky, limey soils. In the garden, toadshade performs best in shady to partly shady locations in moist soils abundant with organic matter. It is drought tolerant, but will go dormant earlier in the season when dry.

Continued on page 4

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AARP Smart Driver Classes

For registration information about these AARP smart driver classes, please call Carolyn Rambo 584-9964.

3/20 ;& 21 1 to 5
Asbury Place, 2648 Sevierville Roak, Maryville

3/20 (1 Day) 8:30 to 4:30 O'Conner Senior Center, 611 Winona, Knoxville

Candidate Meet and Greet

On Monday, March 17, 2014 there will be a Candidate Meet and Greet from 6 to 8 p.m. at New Harvest Park on Washington Pike. The event will be cohosted by the Alice Bell/Springhill Neighborhood Association, Fountain City Town Hall And North East Knox Preservation Association.

Great Clips fund raising for class trip

On Saturday, March 15, Great Clips salons at Northwest Plaza, Fountain View Plaza and Tanner Place will donate \$1 to the 5th grade class for every customer that comes in for a full price haircut that day and mentions the key words "Adrian Burnett class trip." How can you help?? Just tell everyone you know to

visit one of the participating Great Clips salons on March 15th and mention the "Adrian Burnett class trip."

Heiskell Community Center meeting

The Heiskell Community Center Seniors Monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the center located at 9420 Heiskell Road in Heiskell. This month's program will be "Meet the Candidates" with candidates that are running for various offices in Knox County. The program will start at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Bingo at 1 p.m. Bring a dessert and a friend. For more information call Janice White at 548-0326.

Republican Club Meetings

The West Knox County Republican Club will meet Monday, March 10, at the Red Lobster on Kingston Pike. The speaker for the evening will be the candidates for Circuit Court Judge Division I: Kristi Davis, Ray Jenkins and Billy Stokes. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. with dinner and meet and greet at 6.

The Fountain City Republican Club will meet Tuesday, March 11, at the Shoney's on Broadway. Speakers for the evening will be the candidates for Circuit Court Judge Division I: Kristi Davis, Ray Jenkins and Billy Stokes. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. with meet and greet at 6 p.m.

Road and Rivers Day

Seymour's spring "Roads and Rivers Day" will be

held on Saturday, March 15, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Keep Sevier Beautiful sponsors this twice-a-year event for removing unsightly litter from the area's roadsides, rivers banks, and public areas. Since Seymour occupies portions of Sevier, Knox, and Blount counties, citizens from all areas of Seymour are urged to participate.

Registration will begin at

9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Seymour's First Baptist Church located at 11621 Chapman Highway. Volunteers will receive gloves, safety vests, litter pickers, and water. Long pants and sturdy shoes are encouraged.

Scout packs, 4-H club members, church Sunday School classes and youth groups, adults, families, civic groups—all are encouraged to participate.

Children under twelve will be paired with an adult.

The hard winter has left many of Seymour's road and street sides with much ugly litter. A good turn out on March 15 will help to help to make Seymour an even more desirable place in which to live, work, and play.

For more information, call Keep Sevier Beautiful at (865)850-4098

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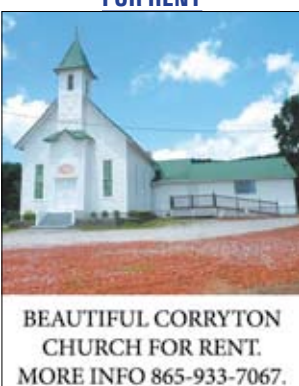
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Petite Sausage Quiches

1 cup butter, softened
2 packages (3 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
2 cups all-purpose flour
FILLING:
6 ounces bulk Ground Italian Sausage
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Swiss cheese
1 tablespoon minced chives
2 eggs
1 cup half-and-half cream
1/4 teaspoon salt
Dash cayenne pepper

In a large bowl, beat the butter, cream cheese and flour until smooth. Shape tablespoonfuls of dough into balls; press onto the bottom and up the sides of greased miniature muffin cups.

In a large skillet, cook sausage over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Sprinkle sausage, Swiss cheese and chives into muffin cups. In a small bowl, beat eggs, cream, salt and pepper until blended. Pour into shells.

Bake at 375° for 28-30 minutes or until browned. Serve warm. Yield: 3 dozen.



UT Gardens March 2014 Plant of the Month

Toadshade Trillium

Cont. from page 3

It is generally recommended that trillium be divided while dormant, but I have been successful through the years dividing clumps of Trillium sessile in my garden just as they emerge in the spring. I dig a section, being careful to keep the soil intact and to replant right away.

It's worth noting that plants should never be dug from the wild unless the

area is threatened by construction. Your best sources are specialty nurseries that propagate their own stock, or a friend with an established stand in their landscape.

Toadshade trillium mixes well with other spring wildflowers and ferns in a woodland garden. Over time it will spread by rhizomes to form a beautiful stand. It can be seen growing in the UT Gardens locations in Knoxville and Jackson.

ALTERATIONS

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