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New AP Classes bring Opportunities for Central High School

By David Klein

A huge opportunity now exists for high school students in Northeast Knoxville. Central High School is doubling the Advanced Placement (AP) class offerings for next school year to 21 AP classes, Principal Jody Goins said. These class additions will be offered thanks to the feedback from teachers, students, and parents.



Principal Jody Goins

"This now puts us at a competitive position," Goins said, in terms of

number of classes offered at Central versus other West Knoxville schools

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Lakeshore Park, Wreckers, Day Care

By Mike Steely
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Work is progressing on the Lakeshore Park and Tom McAdams, a park committee member and long time promoter of the facility, told City Council last week that the park has been expanded to 185 acres and that plans are underway to open views and provide access to the river by this fall. McAdams said the next step is fund raising. The city has contributed to demolishing of some of the old buildings and the county has provided

funds for sports fields. Lakeshore Park was given to the city by the state after a long history as a mental health hospital. The property was given to the state in 1874 by descendants of Captain William Lyon. In 1886, it opened as an Insane Asylum and, through many name changes, it became the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute. In 2012, the Institute closed after 126 years of operation. Prior to closing

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More than 30 apply for Transit Director

By Mike Steely
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While Mayor Madeline Rogero and her staff continue to wade through more than 30 applications and resumes for the new job as Director of Knoxville Transit, the mayor met with city transit committees and employees Tuesday in a called meeting. Twice during the meeting Rogero said that she has not made a decision about the "transition" of the transportation governance. She reminded them that she had served for three years on the KAT board and understands their concern as to any decision.

Rogero said there were two things to consider: Hiring a Director and "What other things we

need to do." "We need to look at the structure," she said, adding, "I truly have not drawn any conclusions."

As The Focus reported last week, Mayor Rogero wants a new director in place that will report directly to her office and that person should be on the job before any policy changes are made. Currently four different groups have input to various Knoxville transit policies.

A study by a consultant group, the Gobis Company, has made several recommendations about changes, including combining some of the boards, reducing the number of members, and shifting responsibility. The

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PANCAKE FEST BENEFITS O'CONNOR SENIOR CENTER



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Knoxville City Mayor Madeline Rogero and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett take a spin on the dance floor during last Tuesday's packed house at the O'Connor Center's Pancake Fest. The chef and team from UT Medical Center's Healthy Living Kitchen prepared "Heart Healthy" pancakes and sausage, orange juice, milk, and coffee were also offered to those attending the all you can eat breakfast. Local media and officials all helped out in flipping flapjacks for the event.

Hallsdale Powell applies for loan to battle overflows

By Focus Staff

Hallsdale Powell Utility District held a public meeting on Thursday evening to discuss the application for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan of \$8,116,400. The Utility District Board plans to use the funds to correct sewer overflows with the first of three new wet water storage facility in the continuing efforts to meet EPA standards and comply with the Federal Clean Water Act. Failure to meet these standards can result in hefty fines, as well as negatively impact future development of the community.

John West, of the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water Pollution Control, cited the negative impact of sewers overflowing into public areas such as parks, and ball fields where children play. He also gave examples of sewers overflowing into public waterways used for recreation and even the occasional overflows into homes through basements. Despite marked improvements in the reduction of Sanitary Sewer Overflow events to around 200 in 2013, further improvements are necessary to meet Federal Clean Water Act mandate for zero incidents.

John West explained that the reduction of overflows is a long, hard process.

The Hallsdale Powell Utility District has approximately 450 miles of service pipes. The bulk of overflows result when extra water enters the system due to rain. Current projects need to continue in order to reduce these overflows. Although HPUD has made great strides in achieving compliance, there is still much to be done.

The combination of wet water storage systems along with the repair and replacement of old and damaged pipes is the best option for eliminating these incidents. Damage to infrastructure results from a number of factors including: an existing aging or inferior system, overcapacity, cracks from tree root growth and debris blocking the movement of water. Long range projections include three pump and storage facilities like the \$8,116,400 one planned for Dry Gap, along with continued replacement and repair of pipes.

Robert Campbell, Vice President of Robert G. Campbell & Associates, explained to the crowd of board members and HPUD customers that they began looking at wet water storage system options about three years ago, based on mandates. The first of three wet water storage tanks is planned for existing HPUD owned property at Emory

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Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs

By Mike Steely
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Last Thursday's meeting of the City Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) saw three applicants come before them to request variances for the size of their signs and one applicant asking for a variance to permit his business to build on a lot on Schaad Road.

All requests were granted with some stipulations and suggestions.

Dale Thomas asked to increase the sign for Labor Ready, a business at 1817 Ailor Avenue, from two square feet to 25 square feet. He told the appeals board that 15 to 20 people come to the business each day and the current sign is inadequate and people have a hard time finding the business.

Attorney Benjamin Mullins appeared for DDRTC Holdings asking to increase for a retail concern on Parkside Drive to 3.24 square feet and so to increase the tent sign space and was granted the variance.

Alexander Waters appeared on behalf of Bob and Ray Patel to request permission to increase their small two foot sign to one of 120 feet. The site is at the La Quinta Motel on Kirby Road, which is off of Papermill Drive. The owners said they have a lease on the property and the current sign is useless to attract travelers along the interstate. The motel is at the Old Holiday Inn site. The BZA informed them the board could not

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Focus on the Law

Grandparent's visitation rights

The issue of grandparents' visitation rights has been addressed by the United States Supreme Court in the case of Troxel v. Granville, 530 U.S. 57 (2000). In that case, an unmarried couple had



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

by the grandparents. The trial court disagreed with the mother and ordered more visitation with the grandparents. The Washington state appellate courts found the state law unconstitutionally interfered

with parents' rights to rear their children and denied the grandparents petition for visitation rights. The grandparents appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

With 6 votes for the mother (Granville) and 3 votes against, the United States Supreme Court held that the Washington statute unconstitutionally infringes on parents' fundamental right to rear their children. The Court gave great weight to the fact that the Washington statute was "breathtakingly broad." There was no limitation in the statute that the parent be found unfit. Nor did the statute require that the court accord any deference to the parent's

decision that visitation would not be in the child's best interests. Justice O'Connor wrote "the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children."

With this in mind, the Tennessee legislature has enacted law permitting grandparents rights to visitation in certain circumstances. Under Tennessee Code Annotated §36-6-306, grandparents may petition the juvenile court or the court with domestic relations jurisdiction for visitation. Under this statute "grandparent" includes a biological grandparent, the spouse of a biological grandparent and the parent of an adoptive parent. The court may consider granting a petition for grandparents' visitation over the objection of a custodial parent where there has been a significant existing relationship between grandparent and grandchild. Where the

grandchild has lived with the grandparent, where the grandparent had frequent visitation with the grandchild and where the grandparent has been the primary caregiver are all situations contemplated by the statute. If the court finds a danger of substantial harm to the child based upon the cessation of the relationship between the child and grandparent, the court then must determine whether the visitation would be in the best interests of the child. Factors to be considered by the court include the length and quality of the prior relationship between the child and grandparent; the child's preference if the child is of sufficient maturity; the effect of hostility between the grandparent and parent on the child; and any finding that the child's parent or guardian is unfit. State law here attempts to balance the constitutionally protected rights of parents to raise their child as they see fit with the child's right to safety and security, both physically and emotionally.

New AP Classes bring Opportunities for Central High

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such as Bearden and Faragut. "It puts us in the top five in Knox County (number of offerings). We firmly believe in equity access. We believe the same offerings that are available to those students should be offered to us as well."

Currently, there are 147 students taking AP classes at Central High School. For the 2014-2015 academic year, there will be 450 prospective students.

The scheduling for these AP classes will be built around student interest. "We will always accommodate the interest that exists for courses," Goins said. "Everything we do is driven by student interest."

Students prepare for these AP classes through college prep classes, Goins said. For a student to place out of a freshman equivalent class in college, they must score at least a 3, 4, or 5 on the test at the end of the course. "Studies have

shown that there's a long-term benefit to your high school success rate and your college-going success rate if you take an AP class," Goins said. "We wanted to give our students every opportunity to be successful," he stressed.

One of the more popular AP classes at Central is AP U.S. History, Goins said. Dr. Michael McDaniel teaches AP U.S. History and AP U.S. Government at Central. McDaniel said he has seen the number of students taking these classes grow.

"Three years ago in my AP Government and Economics class I had six students. In AP History, I have 35. In AP Government and Politics, we started out with 50," McDaniel said.

When it comes to beginning the AP classes, McDaniel said many students are shocked at the work load. "The culture shock of the first two weeks, a lot of the

students say, oh, I don't know if I can do this. But once they get through that culture shock, I think they like the opportunity to be challenged in those areas. We don't want them to quit too readily or too soon."

Emily Wise, a Central High School sophomore, is in McDaniel's AP Government class and enjoys it. "It was a lot different," Wise said. "With the AP class, it is a bunch more work. You really just have to get through it and be determined and finish it off," she added. Wise thinks she may take two more classes AP classes next year, AP US History and AP English 3.

"A lot of what we do (in AP Government)," McDaniel said, "is the reading analysis and the critical thinking, making the connections between government as it was founded and government today and the differences between the two, cause there is a huge

difference."

Anywhere from 15-25 teachers will be teaching these 21 classes and teacher feedback has been positive. "Our teachers are ecstatic about the rigor involved in offering an AP course," Goins said. "Our teachers are really excited for our students in that hey, there are a lot of benefits that students can capitalize and leverage on in taking an AP class, both in short-term and long-term."

Goins said the AP teachers will have an opportunity to teach college-prep classes as well, but, "their primary objective initially, will be on building and developing the AP course," Goins said.

When it comes to the parents, Goins said they are excited about the offerings and can say, "Hey, our high school offerings are now comparable to offerings in other high schools."

The effort to bring more

FOCUS Weekly Poll

Should government officials who lobby legislators be required to register as lobbyists?

Yes 84.78%
No 15.22%



By Age	Yes	No	Total
30-49	80.95%	19.05%	21
50-65	88.57%	11.43%	70
65+	83.45%	16.55%	139
Total	84.78% (195)	15.22% (35)	230

By District	Yes	No	Total
1	83.33%	16.67%	12
2	79.41%	20.59%	34
3	75.86%	24.14%	29
4	93.10%	6.90%	29
5	81.25%	18.75%	16
6	92.59%	7.41%	27
7	75.00%	25.00%	20
8	92.59%	7.41%	27
9	86.11%	13.89%	36
Total	84.78% (195)	15.22% (35)	230

By Gender	Yes	No	Total
Unknown	88.89%	11.11%	9
Female	83.48%	16.52%	115
Male	85.85%	14.15%	106
Total	84.78% (195)	15.22% (35)	230

Survey conducted February 21, 2014.

AP classes to Central has been a recent one. "This has really been a conversation we had this year," Goins said.

Both McDaniel and Goins believe in the benefit of AP classes to students. "Most of us believe that every student should sign up and take at least one AP class just so they understand the complexity and difficulty of taking a college level class before they get to college," McDaniel said.

Goins said another benefit is that students can get through college quicker by passing AP classes and exams and potentially saving some money on tuition by graduating sooner. "Long-term, you can narrow down your four year degree and trim that down to 3 1/4-3 1/2 years,"

Goins said.

Part of why Goins feels so passionate about the AP classes is that, "I didn't have the opportunity to take A.P. courses in high school, courses weren't offered."

If he were a student, Goins would take AP U.S. History, AP European History, and AP Human Geography.

Central is making strides toward college preparation, and Goins feels excited about the changes. "It's truly a historic moment for us. It's just really a time for excitement and celebration for our students because these are opportunities that are rare not only in Knox County but across our state and across our region, and we feel really good about being able to offer these courses to our students."

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Craig Parker, of Gresham Smith Design, and Robert Campbell, Robert Campbell, Vice President of Robert G. Campbell & Associates, explain options to prevent sewer overflow at a meeting held last Thursday.

PARCC Testing is coming

By Mike Steely
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For many years Knox County Schools have administered annual testing of its students in what is known as TCAP, or the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program. That may change with the next school year when the systems across the state, and at least 17 other states, shift to PARCC testing.

would use computer keyboards. All of the computers or iPads would need keyboards for the testing.

Thomas Deakins, another board member, suggested that one computer for each student in the higher grade levels should be supplied.

Currently the system is planning on one computer for five students in grades first through third grade, one for every three students in middle school, and one for every four students in high school.

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) will involve testing of students in grades 3 through 11 in math and English. Testing in science and social studies remain as part of the TCAP testing.

McIntyre said the "worst case scenario" would be borrowing laptops currently used by teachers.

Getting funding ready for the PARCC testing could include "e-rate" discounts, capital improvement funds, state allocations, and school based investments.

Much of the testing of students involves computers and written (typed) answers. The problem for Knox County is that there are not enough computers or iPads available and that created a serious discussion at last week's Board of Education meeting.

Last April, McIntyre asked for \$419.87 million from County Commission, a 3.3 percent increase over the previous year, and received \$406 million. Any request for increased budget may face a more difficult Commission this year.

Superintendent Jim McIntyre said the system is getting ready for PARCC assessments and much of it is online. The staff reported that 52 schools are ready and 27 are to be readied during the summer break, but that depends on the number of devices available.

The school system is also working on a new website for teacher, student, and public use in order to create a "friendlier" interface. It would include a student information system with grades and a parental portal. It would also include a learning management system where teachers and students can share information and allow for one-on-one instruction.

Board member Indya Kincannon asked why the middle schools are behind on the number of computers needed and McIntyre responded, "We've relied heavily on our schools to supply the technology," referring to funds from the PTA and other groups. Kincannon also asked about how well younger students

The system hopes to have the website up and running in July.

Hallsdale Powell applies for loan to battle overflows

Continued from page 1

and Dry Gap near Brickey McCloud Elementary. The land is centrally located in the Hallsdale Powell Utility District. No extra funding will be necessary for the land acquisition.

Craig Parker of Gresham Smith Design, who was contracted by KUB to enact their SRF plan, discussed the most viable option to deal with the current Sanitary Sewer Overflow problems. Parker recommends an above ground tank as it is more cost effective to build and maintain than an underground tank. The tank will capture and hold excess water during a rain event, then slowly pump it back into the sewer system. He also pointed out that landscaping

and fencing around the tank was used in KUB's projects to enhance the overall aesthetics. Although he admitted that these tanks do not come with a 100% guarantee to stop all SSOs, KUB has seen very good results with this method.

During the open question portion of the meeting, the results of the last round of improvements were discussed. These were implemented in 2006 and were paid for in part by Recovery Act Funds as well as with rate increases still felt by the customers. These improvements failed to produce the results hoped for.

West answered that although some of the problems were fixed, new larger problems have surfaced.

The search for the "silver bullet" to cure the ails of an antiquated and faulty utility district continues.

HPUD's current debt is approximately \$152,000,000. The new project will add about \$8,116,400.00 to that debt although \$200,000 of the new loan will be covered by a grant. The state revolving loan carries a 20-year term at 1.745% interest rate. The customer rate increase is expected to be about \$1.48 per month based on average customer water usage of 4,500 to 5,500 gallons.

More information including slides and videos from the meeting are to be available on the HPUD website.

More than 30 apply for Transit Director

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ultimate plan that the city is considering is to condense these four groups into one under a single director in order to make all operations more efficient.

Hubert Smith, of the Citizens Advisory Committee, told the mayor and the meeting he is "totally opposed to merging" KTA into City Council. He said he doesn't think the council would want to do that. "We have lots to discuss," he said.

"The director doesn't need to be a white collar person who has never sat in a driver's seat," he said. He said he agreed with her giving a Transit Director "a seat at the table with other department heads."

"We're just asking if this is the best structure? The answer could be yes or no," Rogero said, adding that she doesn't want any of the groups to "take this personally."

"I'm not in any hurry to do that (restructure)," she said. She said the deadline

for Director applications is coming and a new director might be in place in about a month.

Renee Hoyos, KAT member, was critical of the Gobus report, saying that Gobus had not spoken with her at all.

"The Report is fraught with errors," she said. She also said the city transit also faces some new regulation questions about things like pedicabs, bicycles, or horse-drawn carriages, asking, "Who's responsible for that?"

Several people put forth suggestions about hiring a new director, including one from Councilman Dan Brown, who suggested that the candidate "be someone with executive experience, not necessarily in transportation or a person from within, which would be good for morale."

Speaking of possible changes after a director is hired, Mayor Rogero said, "Maybe we're fine where we are. It's worth it at this time of transition to look into it."

Lakeshore Park, Wreckers, Day Care

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the city and county contributed funds for the creation of walking trails, soccer fields, etc. and a Master Plan was developed. Last year, the state gave the remaining piece of the old Institute to the city. Prior to the donation of the land, several old buildings were demolished and the park began to take shape.

The park was developed in a public and private partnership led by Lakeshore Park, Inc., a non-profit group with volunteer members. Last year Mayor Madeline Rogero

set aside \$5.5 million in the budget to continue development and much of those funds have been used for asbestos removal and demolition of buildings that have little historic value.

Future plans will, in part, depend on private donations. Creation of and extending walking trails and construction of a playground are in the plans.

Mayor Rogero had invited McAdams to bring the council up to date on the continued development of the park.

The council split 7-2 in a final reading of a raise for wrecker services taking

part in the city "call" system. Despite a plea from the commercial wrecker companies to get a 25% raise this year, a motion by Nick Pavlis to increase their rate by 10% each year for three years passed.

Councilman Marshall Stair opposed the motion and said, "We have this ordinance to protect our citizens. Thirty percent is too high and I'll be voting against it."

Closing part of a right-of-way on Tillery Road off Clinton Highway also saw a 7-2 vote. A recent survey discovered that a former survey was incorrect and the property

owner wanted it corrected. The motion passed.

Much of the meeting Tuesday evening concerned zoning and appeals of recent zoning changes.

City Council gave a final approval to the rezoning of the Star Sales property on North Central and West Churchwell Avenue, moving it from C-3 (commercial) to C-6 (General Commercial Park). The action permits the John H. Daniel Company to move in and operate there.

The city also heard from several neighbors opposed to permitting the High Hopes Learning Center, a Day Care,

from operating on Green Valley Drive in Holston Hills. The neighbors had asked the council to overturn approval of the MPC recommendation because only four children are permitted at a time in such a facility and there are more than that there.

Brenda Brooks, a Holston Hills homeowner, said that while the statute allows 25% of a home to be used for child care the Learning Center uses 40%. With restrictions passed on from a split planning commission vote, the city council allowed the use despite a petition signed by 209 neighbors.

The city also voted to move ahead to extend parts of the code regarding pedal carriages and heard from Vivian Sykes who asked what the city was doing for the homeless and mentally ill and how much money the city will put into a new safety center. "The city and the county need to start working together on this," she said.

Mayor Rogero said that the county is taking the lead and "If the County is willing to do that, we will support it."



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Commission OKs Free Speech, Anti-Annexation

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission's workshop last Tuesday saw two items progress to their agenda for their meeting today, but not without some comments.

R. Larry Smith introduced a motion to support the passage of state legislation to limit a city's power to annex an adjoining area without a vote from those residents. Smith said the law is "simple and straight forward" and abolishes forced annexation. The state legislation has some 60 sponsors and appears on its way to passage.

All cities in the state are not permitted any annexation currently under a moratorium by Governor Haslam, which expires in May. The new law would strike the "annexation by ordinance" from the law and require a city to finance a vote from the proposed annexation area.

Commissioners Sam McKenzie and Amy Broyles questioned the need for the legislation and Broyles asked for a public meeting to get comments. She also asked the Metropolitan Planning Commission's Mark Donaldson if the law conflicted with the city's Urban Growth Boundary. Donaldson said the policy, adopted in 2001, does include residents outside the city limits. He also said the city has not annexed a new area since 2008.

"This is a solution looking for a

problem, Broyles said.

McKenzie said "We've had this conversation," adding, "It is an issue with one city mayor a long time ago."

"I don't see this resolution is needed," he said.

Smith said the law and fire protection has a problem with response to "finger annexed" areas.

Commissioner Ed Shouse said the "fingerannexations" were often at the request of businesses that wanted city services or wanted to sell liquor-by-the drink when the county did not permit it.

Commissioner Dave Wright said that without annexation, "The City can't continue to provide what it has," but then said he supports the state legislation.

Many of the supporters are legislative members from other parts of the state and McKenzie said, "We don't want those folks from Middle and West Tennessee, and some local legislators, telling us what to do." He, like Broyles, suggested a panel be appointed to look at the local annexation question.

Chairman Brad Anders called it a "basic issue in the United States, when the fundamental rights are with the citizens." He added, "Forced annexation is repugnant."

"We're just letting Nashville know where we stand," Smith said. "It's a property rights issue."

The support for the "anti-

annexation" legislation passed with only Broyles and McKenzie opposing it.

FREE SPEECH FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Broyles and McKenzie disagreed initially about a proposed policy concerning employee's right to speech. McKenzie, who serves on the Joint Education Committee, said he was against the resolution, adding, "I don't see we have a problem."

Broyles had asked David Buuck, Deputy Law Director, to look into county law to see if there is anything protecting all county employees from retribution or firing for publically speaking against an elected or hired official. Buuck reported "There is no policy in place."

McKenzie, on hearing the resolution involved all employees and not just teachers, came around to support Broyles' motion.

Commissioner Jeff Ownby said that as long as the matter also covered teachers "I'm fine with it."

Commissioner Richard Briggs reminded the members that Tennessee is an "Employment at Will" state and that those employers can dismiss anyone. "The county needs to be ran like a business."

"Teachers, rightfully or wrongfully, are concerned about retaliation," Broyles said.

"This is our local government

taking action to defend our employees," she said, adding that Mayor Tim Burchett supports the action.

When one commissioner said he saw no retaliation against teachers for speaking out against the central office or the superintendent, Commissioner Tony Norman responded.

"The reality is, as teachers know, retribution occurs," he said, and added, "They just expect it." He said that speaking out could also affect teacher evaluations.

Commissioner Dave Wright said, "We've been successful today, taking a marshmallow and making a mountain of it." He said that if he was working for the sheriff and "went out to work for his opponent, I should be fired." He then asked the law director to speak again on the issue.

Buuck replied, again, that "It's not policy, there's nothing on the books," and said that if a county employee successfully sued in Federal Court the county them must pay court and attorney costs.

"It puts the county at risk" Buuck said, without such a policy.

Smith asked Buuck if the policy would include "fee" office employees and Buuck responded that it would.

Briggs said that an employee dismissed for good reason could claim their rights were violated under the policy.

The question was brought to

the floor and only Briggs opposed passage.

Both the annexation and free speech motions now come back to the county commission at today's regular meeting.

HAWKINS' \$3K

Commissioner Wright brought up a question about a \$3,000 payment to former Trustee Office employee Barry Hawkins, asking the law director if action could be taken. The law director responded that he doesn't know if anything could be done by the commission and it would be up to the Trustee's Office.

Hawkins was present and was permitted to speak. He announced that he is running for the Trustee position and accused Wright of trying to help his opposition. Hawkins said he was taking a required course when he was paid \$3,000 before he completed it. He said his position was eliminated shortly thereafter.

Wright responded, "This is not political."

"These discussion items can take a life of their own," McKenzie said and was critical of using Hawkins' name on the agenda, just as McKenzie had been critical last month by using the word "Revolt" on an agenda discussion items dealing with the teachers and their dispute with the superintendent.

The matter of Hawkins and the payment went unresolved.

Fifty-foot sandwich to be built

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

How can a Subway sandwich inspire and educate elementary school students?

What if the sandwich is 50 feet long and 3rd Graders get to build it?

Steven Friedenstab, a Mooreland Heights teacher,

said he approached the Subway chain with the idea and Subway will supply the bread, meat and vegetables for the long sandwich. It will be built this Thursday, February 27th. The school children will begin construction at 9 a. m. and complete the project shortly before noon.

Friedenstab said it is a lesson in

several subjects.

"They are learning to measure using a ruler," he said, adding that the other components in the project will include math, writing, science and technology.

The students have already utilized their writing skills by writing to parents, officials, and others to invite them to the huge sandwich

event.

When completed, the sandwich will be sold in six-inch slices, complete with chips and a drink, for \$4 to the visitors and the proceeds go the school's Safety Patrol for its trip to Washington, D. C.

"The students will be wearing gloves and won't be allowed to lean on the table. There will be teachers

and several Subway employees to supervise," he said.

"It is going to be a really healthy sandwich," he said, adding, "I really appreciate Subway for doing this."

Mooreland Heights Elementary School is located just off West Martin Mill Pike on Magazine Road in South Knoxville.

Chief Roger Wilson: A professional to the end

By Dan Andrews
andrewsd@knoxfocus.com

Normally when an Assistant Chief from the Sheriff's department places a call to your house, it is not for a good reason. However, when Assistant Chief Wilson called my house three weeks ago, he was professional, energetic, and a true man of his word. Chief Wilson was in charge of the prison work detail that cleans up trash from county roads. Earlier that day I had requested information on how to possibly get a prison work detail to clean along the railroad tracks in my neighborhood. Less than three days later, Boyd Station Road was

perfectly cleaned.

Chief Wilson beamed with professionalism and pride and anyone who knew or met him for even five minutes would immediately pick up on his distinguished character. Chief Wilson loved his job, quite frankly because he loved helping people.

As Chief JJ Jones stated, "It didn't matter who you were, if you were in any kind of need Roger was there to see to it that you were helped."

When Chief Wilson heard that a member of the Walnut Grove Homeowners Association (which is literally the last subdivision in West Knox County) was

requesting help, he immediately responded! He did not know I was a reporter. All he knew was that our subdivision was just outside the limits of Farragut and just inside the county line.

The next day after our initial conversation, I received a phone call from the Chief. "Mr. Andrews, I am driving down Boyd Station Road now and it appears there is no border sign between Knox and Loudon County. Do you need me to place a call into the county to have them fix that?"

I had advised him that over the weekend I had called Department of Public Works and they were fixing

the situation as we spoke. But that is what made the Chief so great to the department. He was so concerned with the community that he was willing to go above and beyond his job.

So many times we hear, see, and read, everything that is wrong with government and society. I can say in my personal experience with the Chief I can honestly say he represented everything that is right with society. He will be missed, his hard work and dedication will never be forgotten, and yes, he was a true professional to the end.

Signs, Signs

Cont. from page 1

rule on the request for a directly illuminated sign because the zoning didn't allow it, but the applicant was told the sign could be indirectly lit.

A new Waffle House at Schaad Road came before

BZA and the applicant, Joe Ferowich, was permitted to use a 35 foot setback for the business instead of the normal 50 feet from the street. The successful application also included an increase to 34 in parking spaces.

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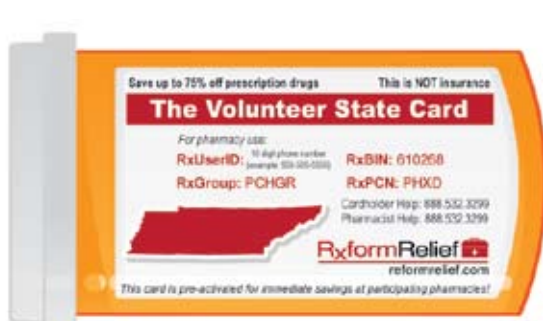
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Our Neighborhoods

THE ROAD TO CLINTON

Clinton Highway, Norwood and Powell

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

CLINTON HIGHWAY

Whether you call the road "Clinton Highway" or "U.S. Highway 25W," the four-lane road between the I-75 and I-640 interchange and Emory Road was once the main route from Michigan to Florida. The heyday of the highway may have been in the years following World War II until the mid 1960s, when the interstate was completed.

Clinton Highway's history goes back to the 1700s and the establishment of Menifee's Station by John Menifee on a land grant from his service during the American Revolution. As one of the area's first settlers, Menifee gave two acres of land for the establishment of a community church. Many faiths held services there until they were able

to establish their own buildings. Menifee's fortified home was located near the current intersection of Clinton Highway and Emory Road.

Other prominent early settlers included the families of Samuel Tillery, Charles Karnes, Frank Ragsdale and Robert McClain.

Before I-75, Clinton Highway extended further south and flowed into Central Avenue. If you were headed north or south, Clinton Highway carried you through Knoxville. Today the busy highway touches the neighborhoods along the way. Norwood borders Inskip and Powell and Powell borders Halls Crossroads and Anderson County. Obviously Clinton Highway stretches northward to Clinton and passes through the heart of that town.

Clinton Highway has seen booms and busts and is now seeing growth as more businesses locate there to serve the growing population of Knox County's

northern neighborhoods and visitors who travel north and south along I-75. Recent new businesses include Cheddar's Restaurant and a new Food City in Powell. One of the most popular businesses in Norwood is Knoxville Tours, which operates motor coaches throughout the nation from their office on Clinton Highway.

NORWOOD

Until about 1930, the community of Norwood was called Tillerytown after the local family. There are still streets in Knoxville named for the Tillery family. The McClain family was prominent there also and formed a large nursery which later became the Sunset Drive-In Theater. As Clinton Highway developed, so did Norwood. The highway section of the community once had a busy Cas Walker Store, a twin-screen drive-in theater, and businesses blossomed along the stretch of road. Today the neighborhoods of Norwood and Powell share fast food and family restaurants, new and used car dealerships, banks, supermarkets, and the large Knoxville Expo Center.

Just how Norwood got its name is still in question. Certainly there were lots of members of the Norwood family there, but there is also a story that one man, George Hunter, suggested the name. He was a former Ohio resident who suggested "Norwood" for the large Cincinnati neighborhood of that name.

Hunter helped found a civil club that met here and there and eventually bought some property on Merchants Road and built the Norwood Civil Club.

"Norwood went from a farming community to a residential suburb in the 1950s," Lynn Redmon, President of the Norwood Homeowner's Association, told The Focus. "Lots of people, employees in Oak Ridge, The Coster Railroad Yards and TVA, many veterans of WWII, bought here and built homes."

Norwood, which was annexed into Knoxville in 1963, also has a public library and a post office. Norwood shares the Norwood-



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Downtown Powell developed along the railroad and still has scenes like this one, reflecting how the unincorporated community looked many years ago. How the new Emory Road bypass will affect the community is not yet known.

Inskip Recreation Center at 301 Inskip Drive. The facility has a gym and several ball fields. The Norwood Library, Redmon says, started as a community center on land donated by the McClain family.

The Homeowner's Association is quick to speak up when things threaten their neighborhood and Redmon says they have survived, even though they are constantly threatened with surrounding commercial zonings. "We have a lot of threats from within and without," he said.

"One thing that has helped a lot is that Norwood is now zoned for our students to attend Powell High School," he said, adding, "We also have an excellent program at Norwood School from the Greater Schools Partnership, where the students get extra hours of tutoring."

Improved streets and roads have been the goal of Better Roads In North Knox (BRINK) and its president Clark Hamilton, who resides in Norwood. Since 1987 the group has been contacting the city, county, and state to get road improvements, make suggestions, and push not only for Norwood and Powell, but for other needed improvements in other places, like Norris Freeway and Emory Road from Maynardville Highway to Tazewell Pike in Halls.

"We wanted to get our tax money returned in the form of street and highways," Hamilton told The Focus while explaining BRINK's origins. "Everything was going to West Tennessee."

Hamilton said there are three

projects that BRINK is working on currently: improving Emory Road in Halls to Tazewell Pike, improving Raccoon Valley Road from Norris Freeway to the Anderson County line, and extending Emory Road to Western Avenue.

"Western Avenue is still being worked and it needs to be through lanes through Karns," he said, adding that the group goes to Nashville each year to meet with legislators about road matters.

While the Norwood neighborhood ends at Callahan Drive, both Powell and Norwood residents claim the Walmart and Target shopping centers there. The City of Knoxville extends to the top of the hill on Clinton Highway and ends just beyond the old Airplane Filling Station. It extends up I-75 to the Emory Road exit, taking in the old Powell Airport and the businesses at the exit.

POWELL

The Powell community is unique in several ways and, aside from Fountain City in Knoxville, is one of the few communities in Knox County with an actual "downtown" area. Powell is not incorporated and is actually two years older than Knoxville, founded in 1789. Early settlers include Stokley Donaldson, brother-in-law to Andrew Jackson. He built a home that is now called the Alexander Bishop House and still stands there on Bishop Lane.

While some think Powell may

Continue on page 2



The Wallace Memorial Baptist Church at 701 Merchants Drive, in Norwood, was named for Dr. Bill Wallace, a Baptist missionary who died in a Chinese jail after being accused of being a spy.



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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The Airplane Filling Station near Callahan Drive on Clinton Highway is on the National Registry of Historic Places. The mailbox there is very appropriate.

THE AIRPLANE FILLING STATION

The Airplane Filling Station, on Clinton Highway north of Callahan Road, was built in 1930 by Elmer and Henry Nickle. The Nickles' plan was to be unique and lure in travelers on the busy highway. It operated until the 1960s and then became the site of various businesses including a car lot, liquor store, and a bait shop. Falling into disrepair, it has been rescued by the Airplane Filling Station Preservation Association.

Rock Bernard, treasurer of the non-profit group, told *The Focus* that the project is about 70 percent complete. The next step is to finish the interior walls with bead board, like the original, and do the flooring. He said several companies have helped with funds and supplies. The Preservation group also raises funds with t-shirt sales, photos, and artwork. A propeller, based on the original, was crafted by Anderson County technical students and will be motorized when placed on the nose of the airplane.

Current work is funded from a federal grant through the Tennessee Historic Commission. Bernard said they hope to eventually place historic gas pumps and traffic buffers out front and to build a fence behind the building.

"We're hoping to get a tenant in there to help with the cost, maybe an office for someone. A couple of years ago an aerial photographer sought to rent it," Bernard said. "We're still looking for financial support and members and anyone interested can reach us at (865)933-7158."

THE ROAD TO CLINTON



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

The Powell Library

Continued from page 1

have been named for Powell Valley far to the north or Ambrose Powell, a long hunter for whom the valley and the river were named, history says it was named "Powell Station" for the first railroad station there.

Being along the Emory Trace, the community grew into a trading center and, when the railroad came through, the little town grew. Downtown Powell has an obvious railroad heritage, with the tracks coming right through the town. Buildings on the north side of the railroad look like an 1880s village.

Powell is the home of Weigel Stores, with more than 50 gas and convenient stores in our region. The stores, which offer Weigel milk products and grocery items, were started 80 years ago by Lynn and William Weigel. The company's corporate headquarters are located in Powell, next to the dairy farm.

A rerouting of Emory Road, currently underway and due to be completed this August, will bypass the historic downtown and the schools to exit on Clinton Highway. Locals have been complaining about traffic downtown, especially when the schools are opening and dismissing, but how the bypass will affect businesses along the downtown stretch is uncertain.

Members of the Powell Business and

Professional Association shared their thoughts on the new bypass with *The Focus*. Kelley Jarnigan, past president, said that the destination businesses in Powell's downtown probably won't be hurt by the bypass but it could affect some of the retail stores that draw their customers for gas and such.

"We make it our purpose to patronize these businesses," she said.

Thomas Hill, also an association member, spoke of the bypass and said "We won't know until it's completed" on how it will help or hurt business.

Sage Kohler, current president of the group, said that they are considering plans for fund raisers to beautify Emory Road through town to Western Avenue, but they have to wait until the new bypass is completed and the road is released by the state to the county before they can start.

Famous people connected with Powell include John Cooper, the ESPN commentator and College Hall of Fame member, and Archie Campbell, the TV comedian, who is buried in Glenwood Cemetery there. Archie's wife passed away this past January. Powell is also the setting for the late John Agee's "A Death in the Family" novel.

Knoxville Club To Celebrate 85th Anniversary

Knox County Democratic Women's Club, the very first county Democratic women's club in the United States, is concluding its 85th anniversary year with a celebration on March 8. The party will be held on Saturday, March 8, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Southern Depot in Knoxville. Everyone is welcome; the celebration is more a commemoration of women's historical contributions than a political event.

The club was established on March 28, 1928, in Knoxville. The purpose of the club was to educate women as new voters and encourage them to become involved in the political process.

"We hope the entire community will help us celebrate this historic milestone for Knoxville," said club president Kathy Manning. "Having the oldest club in the country is something we can all take pride in."

The event is a reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres) with a cash bar. Although not a costume party, the theme is "Party Like It's 1929," and your Great Gatsby or Downton Abbey attire would be most welcome. Tickets are \$40 and are available by calling 688-7869 or 540-4001, or through knoxvilledemocrats.org.

Anyone who is related to a past club member, or who may have information or memorabilia related to the history of the club, is asked to contact 688-7869 or kmanning@pobox.com.

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

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Aside from the dislike he endured from his senior colleague, K. D. McKellar, Estes Kefauver's first few years in the United States Senate were reasonably pleasant. Kefauver, like McKellar, tended to constituent service and attending committee meetings. The two Tennessee senators frequently disagreed over patronage, with McKellar coming out ahead to the point where Kefauver complained to the White House, which irritated President Harry Truman.

The famous Kefauver hearings might never have happened, had it not been for the Tennessean's own driving political ambition. When first approached about chairing the hearings into organized crime, Senator Kefauver was disinterested. The publisher of the Washington Post, Phil Graham, put it to Kefauver much more simply, asking, "Estes, don't you want to be Vice President?"

Kefauver promptly introduced a resolution in the Senate Judiciary Committee for an investigation of gambling. Considering that the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee was Pat McCarran, who represented Nevada in the Senate, it is hardly surprising Kefauver's resolution went nowhere at first. The Kefauver resolution only emerged from committee after McCarran had amended it to make the probe national in scope and apply to racketeers who went across state lines in operating their illegal businesses.

Kefauver hit another roadblock as Colorado Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Chairman of the Senate's Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, had his own resolution to investigate gambling. Kefauver received some surprising support for his resolution when he attracted the backing of several Republican senators. Missouri Senator Forrest C. Donnell wanted investigations made into crime organizations in St. Louis and Kansas City, which were connected with powerful Democratic machines in President Truman's own state. Yet it was Pat McCarran who managed to pry Kefauver's resolution loose, as he was opposed to the idea of allowing a senator from a neighboring state investigate gambling, as Johnson proposed to put Arizona Senator Ernest McFarland in charge of the probe.

Even after McCarran had helped Kefauver to move the resolution along, there was some resistance on the part of the Democratic leadership in brining the resolution to a floor vote. It was then that

good fortune smiled upon Estes Kefauver.

Charles Binaggio, a gang boss and Democratic Party leader in Kansas City was gunned down along with one of his underlings, just a few days after Kefauver had unsuccessfully appealed for a hearing on his resolution. A Republican Congressman from Missouri, Dewey Short, loudly proclaimed Binaggio's murder had less to do with organized crime than politics. According to Congressman Short, Binaggio had been killed because of his affiliation with the Democratic machine in Kansas City and hinted there would likely have been some curious revelations just prior to the senatorial primary.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Lucas of Illinois decided to create a special investigating committee composed of members of both the Judiciary and Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committees. It was a decision that would later cost him his seat in the United States Senate.

The Senate appropriated \$150,000 for the special committee and Senator Estes Kefauver was named chairman.

The first hearings did not receive much publicity, but eventually the Kefauver Committee held meetings all across the country, including Cleveland, Detroit, New York, Los Angeles, Tampa, St. Louis and Kansas City.

A parade of odd and fascinating witnesses appeared before the Kefauver Committee, frequently with unusual nicknames given by fellow members of the underworld. Jacob "Greasy Thumb" Guzik, Anthony "Joe Batters" Accardo, Louis "Little New York" Campagna, and Paul "The Waiter" Ricca were but a few of the witness heard by the Kefauver Committee.

More than one law enforcement official came before the Kefauver Committee to nervously explain his sudden and unexpected wealth. Dade County Sheriff James A. Sullivan had to account for an increase in his assets, which appeared to have come about due to providing protection for gambling interests in Miami.

Sheriff Sullivan was suspended from his office and indicted, but the indictment didn't stick, as Johnson proposed to put Arizona Senator Ernest McFarland in charge of the probe. Florida Governor Fuller Warren reinstated Sheriff Sullivan, which caused a firestorm, both in the press and in Florida's legislature. Governor Warren was roundly denounced in editorials all across Florida and it came to light that the owner of a horse



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Senator Estes Kefauver and the famous "coon skin" cap.

and dog track and helped to raise some \$400,000 for Warren's campaign in 1948, an enormous sum for the time.

An outraged Warren bitterly assailed Kefauver for his political ambition and dismissed the hearings as merely Kefauver's attempt to position himself to be the vice presidential candidate in 1952.

Kefauver soon ran into difficulties with colleagues. Congressman Thomas Hennings, Jr. was the Democratic candidate for the United States Senate and was facing incumbent Republican Forrest Donnell. Hennings sought out Senator Kefauver and asked him to delay the hearings to be held in St. Louis and Kansas City until after the 1950 election. Congressman Hennings believed he had an agreement with Senator Kefauver and was horrified when Kefauver and his committee arrived in Kansas City in late September. Kefauver sheepishly explained he could not overrule the other members of the committee, who he claimed insisted upon coming to Kansas City.

Tom Hennings was not the only Missouri Democrat angry with Kefauver. President Harry Truman was positively enraged by Kefauver's insistence upon going to Kansas City right before the elections. Kansas City was also Truman's home and any evidence of wrongdoing would likely reflect upon the president's own reputation, as well as embarrass Missouri Democrats. Truman, having been a senator himself, dismissed Kefauver's lame explanation he had no control over his own committee. Missouri Governor Forrest Smith came before the Kefauver Committee to deny he knew the slain

Charles Binaggio well, despite testimony quite to the contrary. The Kefauver Committee also heard allegations that organized crime had squeezed more than \$34 million from the coffers of Kansas City.

Tom Hennings defeated Senator Forrest Donnell for reelection despite the revelations of corruption in Missouri, but President Harry Truman was no happier with Estes Kefauver in spite of the Democratic victory.

The Kefauver Committee moved on to Chicago and the nation was riveted by the testimony of several police officers who were apparently rather wealthy. Daniel A. Gilbert, the chief investigator for the U. S. Attorney's office in Cook County, was hard pressed to explain how he had accumulated a net worth of some \$360,000, the modern day equivalent to almost \$3,500,000. Gilbert, who was christened as "the world's richest cop" by newspapers, claimed he had been quite lucky and had increased his assets through a little "honest gambling". He augmented his good fortune through tips from friends who apparently gave excellent advice on buying select stocks and bonds.

Pressed by committee members, Gilbert reluctantly confessed some of his gambling was in the form of enormous bets on the outcome of elections.

Gilbert's testimony caused him to lose the election for sheriff to a Republican, unthinkable in solidly Democratic Cook County. Worse still, the revelations affected the entire Democratic ticket in Illinois. Majority Leader Scott Lucas had lost to Republican Everett McKinley Dirksen that fall.

According to Kefauver's

biographer, Charles Fontenay, the Tennessee senator visited Lucas's office to extend his condolences over the Majority Leader's defeat, as well as explain just precisely how Dan Gilbert's testimony reached the public.

Lucas, bitter at Kefauver, snarled, "I don't want to talk about it" and turned his back on the Tennessean, ending the conversation.

Kefauver, shocked, mumbled, "All right, Scott" and departed.

The enmity of Scott Lucas, as well as other powerful Illinois Democrats would come back to haunt Estes Kefauver in the future.

Kefauver had won considerable name recognition all across the country from the committee hearings and he certainly succeeded in raising his political profile, but he had made some influential enemies in the course of conducting his probe. President Harry Truman believed Kefauver was merely ambitious to the point where the Tennessean cared little if he ruined the Democratic Party, so long as Kefauver promoted himself.

The Kefauver hearings were the first Congressional hearings watched by millions of television viewers. Still largely in its infancy, television allowed some 20 to 30 million Americans to watch the Kefauver hearings live. Frank Costello, reputedly one of the most important bosses in the

world of organized crime, sat before the Kefauver Committee, well tailored and unsmiling.

Yet again, the testimony reflected upon the Democratic Party and a former Mayor of New York City, William O'Dwyer, was called back as Ambassador to Mexico as a witness about Frank Costello's supposed influence with the Tammany Hall organization.

O'Dwyer was asked to explain a visit he made to Costello's apartment in 1942, as well as why he chose not to prosecute Albert Anastasia while O'Dwyer was district attorney.

The wily Ambassador tried to turn the tables, accusing New Hampshire Senator Charles W. Tobey, a Republican, of having received contributions from mob interests in his last campaign.

Kefauver realized his newfound national popularity might lead to higher office, but the biggest question facing Democrats in 1952 was, would Harry Truman seek reelection as President of the United States of America?

Estes Kefauver was ready to take the plunge regardless of Harry Truman's personal and political plans.

Kefauver turned his experiences into a best-selling book, "Crime In America," which only increased his national visibility.

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Old Punishment Revisited

I watched "Good Morning Joe" recently, and one short segment discussed a bill in Kansas that allows spanking. It says the teachers and parents may spank a child and leave marks.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

Prior to this bill, spanking was allowed only if it didn't leave any marks or redness. The entire conversation struck me as funny, and I'm sure plenty of others in my generation might well chuckle at it.

Things certainly were different "back then." My twin brother Jim and I were rambunctious boys who seemed to find ourselves in trouble, even when we didn't mean any harm. Mother was at home in our early years, so she was the chief enforcer.

Edna Rector did not "suffer fools," and she administered punishment swiftly and efficiently. Most of the times, she'd cut a switch from a nearby shrub and turn loose on us. Those thin branches seemed to attach to the backs of our legs and then wrap around to the front. After a dozen or so "lashes," the spanking was complete.

At other times, Mother administered correction with a bolo paddle. It hung on a nail on the kitchen door frame, and she could draw it with the same swiftness of a Texas gunslinger. The spanking began with her grabbing an arm around the bicep. Then she bent a bit to the side and, in rapid fire, slapped it against our backsides. She always

warned, "Don't put your hands back!" If we'd done so, fingers might have been whacked. Mother always set a pivot foot and spun as we moved in a circle to escape the paddle.

Jim and I started school, and Mother began her teaching career. However, that didn't mean we escaped spankings. If our transgressions were too grievous, she opened her desk drawer and withdrew her paddle. On one occasion, I failed to heed her warning not to tromp in the mud with my new shoes. Upon entering her classroom filled with bus riders, Mother called me up front and "tanned my hide." The students looked on and thanked God it wasn't they who was being spanked.

Most teens escaped spankings, but not us. Mother still believed that sometimes a swat to the bottom produced excellent results.

As a freshman, Jim received punishment for scaring her to death by not coming home until several hours after he was supposed to be there. When he walked into the house, she told him to choose a belt. She told him to lie across the bed and then delivered the swats. He got up to back talk mother twice, and that resulted in further spankings. He finally shut his mouth long enough for her to stop.

I spanked my children when they were young. Lacey would cry as soon as I walked into her room, and that always lessened the

severity of the punishment. Still, I swatted her bottom when she deserved it. Dallas refused to show any emotion and waited until I walked out of the room before crying. After a while, Amy convinced me to stop the spanking and confine them to their rooms or other areas without the benefit of television, music, or any kind of stimulation. That punishment proved more effective sometimes than spanking; however, in some situations, a quick swat was the best way to handle things.

Today, everyone swears that spanking is child abuse. Well, if that is true, entire generations have been abused over the years, but amazingly, folks have turned out all right.

We who received those kind of punishments learned that respect for adults and adhering to rules for expected behavior were things that helped us in the future.

Most parents never meant to "scar" a child when they spanked them. The punishments they inflicted were given as loving parents who wanted the best for their little ones.

I'm not sure if the Kansas bill will pass. I do know that few of us older folks ever got a spanking that didn't leave some redness or a bruise. However, they were temporary things that served to remind us about our boundaries in life. Few of us ever suffered any kind of permanent psychological damage. A spanking with no marks...yep, that's pretty funny.



From State Representative Harry Brooks

While the headline of Thursday's House of Representatives session might have been the passage of the wine in grocery stores bill, we were also honored to acknowledge members of the Delta Company of the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion in attendance.

Sgt. Denver Fall and Sgt. Joshua Bush are both members of this Marine Forces Reserve battalion out of Knoxville and were given a standing ovation during the session.

Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Act

A bill that allows veterans to receive in-state tuition rates at Tennessee higher education institutions has garnered support from the education subcommittee this week as the bill continues to move through the legislative committee process.

House Bill 1372, or the Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Act, encourages enrollment of veterans at Tennessee public and private colleges and removes many of the burdensome hurdles associated with veterans reentering the academic world after serving in our nation's military.

Currently, discharged veterans who choose to relocate back to Tennessee after service must pay out-of-state tuition rates until residency is

formally established. Under the VETS legislation, veterans enrolling within 24 months of discharge immediately receive Tennessee's in-state college tuition rate.

The act also creates a "VETS Campus" designation to recognize and promote schools that make veteran enrollment a priority. Higher education institutions that satisfy veteran-friendly criteria, such as specialized orientation and the availability of mentoring programs, can receive the designation.

The bill is set to be heard in the House Education Committee on February 25. If approved there, the bill would quickly move to the floor where it will be considered by the full House of Representatives.

Transparent Tennessee

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam announced this week the launch of "Transparent Tennessee", an overhaul of the state's transparency website to offer more user-friendly information online to Tennessee taxpayers.

Transparent Tennessee is a database for the public to research how state dollars are spent. The site includes a searchable checkbook with more interactive data related to state agency expenses, vendor payments and travel reimbursements.

The database includes the new checkbook function along with an interaction financial overview of where state dollars come from and where they are spent. The site has a public opportunities section that links to public meetings, open records information and a page for feedback.

Visitors to the website will also see quick links to state audits and the state salary database.

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

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Carter 110, G-P 103 adds up to one special championship

By Steve Williams

The Carter offensive show didn't just sell a lot of tickets for the District 3-AA basketball tournament last week at Maynardville. More importantly, the Hornets scored a championship. Coming in as a No. 4 seed, Carter shot down host Union County, state-ranked Fulton and Gatlinburg-Pittman to capture

its first district title since 1987.

Coach Joby Boydstone's Hornets also did it their way, averaging 93.7 points in the three wins, just a little over their regular season scoring average of 92.3 that ranked No. 1 in the state and No. 2 nationally, according to MaxPreps.

The toughest test came in the title game as Carter

defeated G-P 110-103. The Hornets fell behind 102-100 with 1 minute, 52 seconds to go but outscored the Highlanders 10-1 the rest of the way.

"It's hard to measure heart," said Boydstone. "We've been down before. We've had shots that didn't fall or we've missed free throws, but these kids played in the style they've

been taught. You can measure height and weight and a kid's skill ability, but you can't measure heart.

"These kids played with heart and a refuse-to-lose mentality."

It was Carter's 12th straight win and advanced the Hornets (22-7) to the Region 2-AA tournament. They were scheduled to host Scott County this past

Saturday night. The region semifinals will be Tuesday night (Feb. 25) at Alcoa with the region finals to follow on Thursday night.

Reserve guard Toy 'Shawn Winton poured in a career-high 37 points to lead Carter in the district finals. He sank 17 of 18 free throws.

Tucker Greene added 19 points, including a huge

3 that stretched a slim margin to six in the closing seconds. Tourney MVP Jordan Bowden chipped in 15 points, Charles Mitchell 14 and Blake Dutton 13.

Gatlinburg-Pittman (21-9) got 22 points from Thomas Mackey and 21 from Clay Leatherwood, including 18 in the first half. Stefan Schroeder added 17, **Continue on page 2**



PHOTO BY DAVID HUNTER

West Valley's girls celebrate their championship victory over Cedar Bluff in the Knox County Middle School Tournament.

'A little bit' of luck helps Northwest win boys title

By Steve Williams

The "bank" was open after hours in Karns last Tuesday night, and the Northwest Rangers cashed in DaShaun McKinney's deposit for a championship.

With his team's lead cut to one point down the stretch, McKinney banked in a three-point shot and unbeaten Northwest pulled out a 50-43 victory over Vine's upset-minded Golden Bears in the boys' finals of the Knox County Middle School Basketball Tournament.

"I think it more or less came down to luck," said Vine Coach Bilal Davis. "McKinney hit that shot off the backboard and that did it."

A grin came over DaShaun's face when asked about it. "No," it wasn't supposed to be a bank shot, he said.

The shot was taken with "confidence," but he admitted he was "a little bit" lucky that it went in.

McKinney launched the shot between the left wing and corner. "That's my hot spot," he said.

After the ball glanced off the glass and into the net, "I was going crazy in my mind. I was all happy."

McKinney, a 6-1 post player, continued to contribute as Vine misfired and he got the rebound. Teammate Teahzawon Hodge-Harper scored inside and converted an old-fashioned three-point play to expand Northwest's lead to seven points with 43.6 seconds remaining. Vine turned the ball over and did not score again.

McKinney finished with a game-high 22 points. He was selected the tourney MVP.

"DaShaun played a brilliant game," said the Vine coach. "He's one of the best players I've ever seen (at the middle school level)."

Hodge-Harper added 10 points and Roman Robinson seven for the Rangers (22-0). All three of Northwest's top scorers in the game are seventh graders.

Kajuan Hale led Vine (16-4), tallying 16 of his 18 points in the first half before being limited by a box-and-one defense. The Bears also got nine points from Jaquez Booker and seven - all in the final period - from reserve Shafiq Parks, whose 3-pointer had pulled Vine within one late in the contest.

Northwest had won the regular season meeting between the two teams "by maybe 20 points," said Davis. The battle for the title was much closer. "This was our best competition (of the season)," said McKinney.

The first six-minute period was an offensive show as Northwest took a 17-14 lead.

Vine scored seven straight points, including a **Continue on page 2**

West Valley culminates perfect conference run with tourney title

By Ken Lay

A perfect Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference run was culminated with a James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Tournament Championship for the West Valley Middle School girls basketball team.

The Lady Wolves put the finishing touches on a perfect league run when they defeated Cedar Bluff 29-21 in a battle of the league's top two teams at Karns Middle School's Thomas L. Duff Memorial Gymnasium.

West Valley (24-3 overall) took two of three meetings from the Lady Giants this season. Cedar Bluff beat the Lady Wolves in a tournament in November. West Valley prevailed in the conference tilt between the two West Knoxville rivals before winning the championship last week.

The Lady Wolves defense stole the show early and held Cedar Bluff to just four points in the first half. West Valley opened a 14-4 halftime lead before the Lady Giants (22-4) battled back to make things a little closer.

"They beat us early in the season and they've got a good team and they have one of the best coaches around if he's not the best," West Valley coach Alex Comer said. "This team went undefeated in the league and won the tournament and those two things make them special."

West Valley is and has been a fixture on the tournament's final day for years and Comer said that's no coincidence.

"I've had good kids who work hard and have good parents," Comer said. "They work hard on the basketball court and they have good grades.

It's easy to be a good coach at West Valley.

"We have a great school, a great administration and a great community. Those players are a positive reflection of our community. They come in and practice in the mornings and they work hard on their conditioning."

The Lady Wolves also play team basketball. West Valley rebounds, plays stifling defense and shares the basketball.

This is evident in the fact that no West Valley player scored in double figures in the title game against Cedar Bluff.

Trinity Lee scored eight points and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Jalaya Manning added seven points. Tatiana **Continue on page 4**

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Mike Ogan won't return as Powell coach next season

By Ken Lay

A Knox County coaching icon has decided that the 2013-14 season will be his last prowling the sideline.

Powell High School basketball coach Mike Ogan will call it a career at the end of the current high school season ends.

He's spent nearly four decades coaching the Panthers, including the last 22 as Powell's head coach. His 39 years at the school began when Jeff Hunter, another legendary coach for the Panthers, named him as an assistant at his alma mater.

Ogan has spent his entire coaching career at Powell. He had opportunities to leave but he had no desire to coach any team but the

Panthers.

"I spent 17 years under coach Hunter and I had a couple of chances to coach at other places and I told them 'thanks, but I'm not interested,'" Ogan said. "I wouldn't coach any other place but Powell High School.

"I've had a good run and I've enjoyed every minute of it."

Rumors of Ogan's retirement began several years ago. His daughter Erin was the 2003 Sophomore of the Year and went on to play college basketball after a stellar prep career with the Lady Panthers.

Many thought the longtime Powell coach would give up his coaching duties to closely follow his

daughter in college.

But those were just rumors and Ogan stuck around and went through the ups and downs of a long high school coaching career.

"There were some rumors floating around back then," he said.

There were some lean years but Powell clinched its third consecutive Region 2-AAA Tournament bid last week. The Panthers finished fourth in the District 3-AAA Tournament, which was played on their home floor, the Jeff Hunter Gymnasium.

Ogan has led the Panthers to various championships and State Tournament berths throughout his illustrious career and admits

that he still has a passion for the game of basketball.

"I still enjoy basketball and I still get fired up when it comes to coaching," said Ogan, who was honored at Powell's regular-season finale against Central recently.

So why is he walking away?

It's the classroom.

"I don't enjoy teaching anymore," Ogan said. "It's nothing to do with our school or our administration and it's not basketball.

"You used to look forward to coming school and teaching every morning but now, it's not fun anymore and you don't look forward to teaching at Knox County Schools anymore."

Karns overcomes slow start, Powell rally to finish third

By Ken Lay

When the Powell and Karns High School boys basketball teams took the floor Wednesday night both were coming off narrow losses 48 hours earlier.

Both the Beavers and the Panthers seemed to sleepwalk through the early stages of the game before Karns answered its wake-up in the second quarter and had to hang on and earn a 62-56 win in the third-place game of the District 3-AAA Tournament at Powell's Jeff Hunter Gymnasium.

The fourth-seeded Panthers, who blew a big lead against top-seeded (and eventual champion) Oak Ridge in last Monday's semifinal, did enough to seize control in the first quarter.

Powell (20-9) made three 3-point shots in the opening frame and grabbed a 13-7 lead.

The Beavers (22-6), who were flat in the first stanza, answered a second quarter bell with a vengeance. Karns used an 18-4 run to open a 25-17 lead by halftime.

"We were playing uninspired," Panthers' coach Mike Ogan said. "Both teams were.

"You can think and pick brains but the only thing I can come up with is that we just weren't playing inspired. We didn't play inspired. Neither team did and part of it was that we felt like this is what we get when you blow a 17-point

lead against Oak Ridge."

Beavers' coach Lee Henson agreed with Ogan, the longtime Powell coach who will retire at the end of the season.

"You had two teams coming off of hard losses and I think that had something to do with what happened," said Henson, who saw his second-seeded Karns squad fall victim to an upset against Halls in the semifinals on Monday, Feb. 17.

After the Beavers shook off their sluggish start, they stormed back and took control of things in the third quarter.

Karns High's best player Devin Sibley spent much of the night in foul trouble but the Beavers had plenty of players in their supporting cast step up and make some big plays.

"With Sibley going down in foul trouble, our other seniors really stepped up," Henson said.

Despite his foul trouble, Sibley was one of five Beavers to score in double figures. He scored 13 points and hit a big 3-pointer on the final play of the third quarter to give Karns a 45-30 lead.

Blake Bowman, a senior guard, also scored 13 points. Garrett Brown added 12 points. Denzell Mills had 11 points and Matt Larsen finished with 10 for the Beavers, who withstood a fourth-quarter by Powell.

The Panthers pulled to with 59-51



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Powell High School boys basketball coach Mike Ogan gives instructions from the sidelines in Wednesday night's District 3-AAA third-place game. Ogan will retire and end a 39-year career at season's end.

when Conley Hamilton hit a pair of free throws with 1 minute, 43 seconds remaining in the game. Powell then forced the Beavers into a turnover and appeared to pull within 59-53 on a layup by Alex Hill, who also seemed to get fouled on the play.

Hill, however, was called for a charge and his bucket was disallowed.

Powell pulled to with 59-54 on a 3-pointer by Dallas Fields with 52.1 seconds left but the Panthers couldn't get any closer.

Fields and Hamilton both scored 21 points for Powell, which along with the Beavers played in the Region 2-AAA Tournament Saturday. Results were not available at press time.

Second-half slump dooms Halls in title game

By Ken Lay

Halls High School's boys basketball team endured a power outage at the worst possible time.

The Red Devils, who held a halftime lead over Oak Ridge, scored just 11 second-half points and dropped a 61-43 decision to the top-seeded Wildcats in the District 3-AAA Championship Game Wednesday night before a packed house at Powell High School's Jeff Hunter Gymnasium.

"We were squeezed pretty thin," Halls coach Randy Moore said. "You gotta hit shots.

"We were extremely tired and we didn't make shots in the second half. But you've got to give them credit.

They're a great team. I'm extremely proud of my kids."

The Red Devils (20-10) may have come up just short of a District 3-AAA Tournament Championship but their season isn't over. Halls was set to host Bearden Saturday night in the opening round of the Region 2-AAA Tournament. Results were not available at press time.

Halls, which reached the championship game with a semifinal win over second-seeded Karns, fell behind early against Oak Ridge (27-6). The Red Devils scored the first basket of the contest only to see the Wildcats score the next 10 points and open a 10-2 lead on a layup by Jaylin

Henderson with 4 minutes, 21 seconds remaining in the first half.

Henderson scored a game-high 19 points and was named the tourney's Most Valuable Player.

But Halls, which trailed 17-12 by first quarter's end, didn't go quite as easily as the Wildcats might've expected.

The Red Devils rallied and opened a 27-21 advantage midway through the second stanza when Braxton Moore buried a 3-point shot. Moore scored 11 of his 14 points before halftime and finished the night with four 3-pointers.

The long-distance jumpers were falling early for Halls on this night. The Red Devils combined to hit five 3-pointers over the first 16 minutes. Moore had three while Peyton Booker and J.J. Corvette each added one to help the Red Devils take a 32-29 lead at halftime.

Senior center Isaac Merian kept the Wildcats close. He had 10 of his 18 points in the first half.

While Halls had a slight

upper hand early, the second half belonged to Oak Ridge, which surrendered just 11 points after the break and held the Red Devils scoreless for nearly the first seven minutes of the third stanza.

Halls finally scored on Kenny White's bucket with 1:04 left in the period. Even with the third-quarter scoring drought, Halls was still within striking distance and trailed 42-34 heading to the final quarter.

Oak Ridge continued to play stingy defense in the final frame and the Red Devils missed open shots and that enabled the Wildcats to pull away.

"The difference for us was our defense in the second half," Oak Ridge coach Aaron Green said. "We held them to 11 points in the second half and I thought we defended well, especially in the second half.

"Our style of play really wore them down and we knew that they had a team of shooters."



PHOTO BY AMY JAMES

The Northwest Rangers earned the gold basketball trophy and capped a perfect 22-0 season as they won an exciting game over Vine in the finals of the Knox County Middle School Tournament last week.

'A little bit' of luck helps Northwest win boys title

Cont. from page 1

3-pointer by Sadarius Jackson, to start the second period. A floater by Nigal Davis cut the Bears' lead to 26-23 at halftime.

McKinney said the key to victory was "just to play as a team. When we went in (down) at halftime, we came back as a team."

The Rangers built a 35-30 lead by the end of the third period. Vine came back again, with Parks and Jawara Scruggs putting the Bears in front 36-35. A 3-pointer by McKinney from the right corner, however, gave Northwest a lead it managed to hold.

Cassen Jackson-

Garrison, Northwest coach, complimented Vine's play.

"We had to make a few adjustments, but overall our guys stepped up to the challenge. They knew going 22-0 meant a lot more. It doesn't do any good to get here and not win it.

"I had butterflies the entire game. I felt like I was one of the players. I was so excited for the kids and the opportunity they had. It's a great feeling to be a part of this."

In the boys consolation game, Carter defeated West Valley 27-18 to take third place. Trey Oglesby led the Hornets with eight points.



PHOTO BY TRACI GREENE

Carter High captured its first district basketball title in 27 years by outscoring Gatlinburg-Pittman 110-103 last Wednesday at Union County High in Maynardville. (Front row, left to right): Tyler Henderson, Alex Hayes, Blake Dutton, Jordan Bowden, John Woodruff and Toy'Shawn Winton. (Back row, left to right): Austin Hayes, Hank Black, Patrick Blake, Charles Mitchell, Tucker Greene, Trevor Townsend, Davontae Moore and Brian Ortiz.

Carter 110, G-P 103 adds up to one special championship

Cont. from page 1

Christian Maloney 14 and Gabe Hinton 13.

"I feel good about winning, but... even though I had 37, we wanted to play as a team," said Winton, "and get this win for Big Rog (Roger Wilson) and our community and everybody that was behind us the whole time."

Wilson, longtime supporter of Carter High athletics, passed away Sunday, Feb. 16. The Hornets wore special warmup shirts prior to the title game in honor of Wilson and his son, Andy, who died after a car accident in 2008, and are dedicating the remainder of the season to them.

"Tonight was a great chess match," said Boydstone. "G-P's got a great team. They came to play and were hitting on all cylinders. We were just very fortunate on a couple of possessions."

Winton credited team effort with pulling out the win.

"Coach stayed on us. He told us not to give up and push through. His big

thing was effort tonight and that's what he wanted to see. So we gave it all we had."

Three Carter players fouled out, including Bowden with 3:48 remaining.

"Winton had a terrific night," said Boydstone. "He played like he's capable of playing... I thought the kids that came in and played for those who fouled out played their hearts out."

Two clutch foul shots by Winton pulled Carter into a 102-102 tie with 1:48 left. An interception and layup by Greene gave the Hornets the lead for good.

G-P turned the ball over trying to complete a long pass. Winton drew a blocking foul with a minute to play and when his two free throws made it 106-102, the public address announcer asked the crowd, "How 'bout that scoreboard?"

It looked like a NBA score.

Not much later, the championship trophy looked even more impressive.

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Panthers turn to veteran coach John Allen to bring stability to the Powell Football Program

By Bill Mynatt,
Radio Voice of Powell Panther Football on AM 620
WRIZ
powellfootballradiovoice@yahoo.com

In early December of 2011, it looked like the Powell Panther football program had ascended to the upper echelon of high school football in east Tennessee. After all, that 2011 team had just missed bringing home the school's first state championship in a heartbreaking 17-14 loss in the Class 5A finals to Henry County, and had gone 11-1 the year before. Twenty-five and two in those two years combined and returning a solid nucleus of players in to the 2012 season.

But when popular head coach Matt Lowe shocked the Powell community with his resignation just two months later, it began an unlikely scenario that culminated earlier this month with the hiring of John Allen, who became the 4th head football coach at Powell in the last 28 months.

After Lowe, 27-year-old Derek Rang was hired and took the Panthers to the state semi-finals and a 12-2 record in 2012. Rang resigned last March and is currently an assistant football coach at Carson-Newman University.

Next was another 27-year-old, first time head coach in Tobi Kilgore. Kilgore led the Panthers to an injury and off the field issue plagued "perfect storm" of a 5-5 season, and the first time that Powell had missed the playoffs since the 2000 season. Kilgore resigned in December to accept the head football coaching position at Karns High School.

Looking to return some stability to the top of the program, Powell Principal Nathan Langlois and Athletic Director Brad Carr turned to a veteran head coach, as they have hired 49-year-old John Allen, who, to this point, has spent his entire teaching and coaching career in the Southeast Tennessee/North Georgia area.

His head coaching stints include stops at Fort Oglethorpe (GA) Lakeview, Bradley Central High School in Cleveland, Chattanooga's Silverdale Academy, and most recently Chattanooga Central High School. Allen, whose overall head coaching record stands at 76-75, has built his reputation by taking over struggling programs and improving them during his tenure. While Powell is a program that has been more than competitive on the field over the last few years, it is a program that needs some stability in its leadership. Langlois and Carr are looking to Allen to provide that stability.

Orphaned at the age of 11, Allen was adopted by a teacher and a dairy farmer in Rhea County, where he grew up playing high school football at Rhea County High School for one of the legendary coaches in Tennessee, Bill Horton.

"They took me in and became huge influences in my life", Allen told me. "My mother taught me the importance of an education, and my Dad, Taft, instilled in me the values of working hard, as I did on the dairy farm growing up. Growing up on a dairy farm wasn't a whole lot of fun," he told me with a smile on his face. "That will motivate you to get a college education, I can tell you

that." Allen also credits Horton for helping him get in to teaching and coaching. "Bill is the man who gave me my first coaching job out of college, and he is also the man who led me to Christ. Bill was a big part of my wanting to be a coach, and a big part of the philosophy I have today. I owe a lot to Bill Horton."

From Rhea County High, Allen went on to play football at Tennessee Wesleyan College, during the time that TWC fielded a varsity football program. He has also earned graduate degrees from Tennessee Tech and Lincoln Memorial University.

With the revolving door that has been the Powell head football coaching office, Powell administration had a definite set of criteria they were looking for this time as they worked through the hiring process, according to Carr.

"We had a plan going in, and that plan was to be proactive going in, and not reactive. We worked through the process and narrowed it down to three finalists, and Coach Allen was one of those three and we feel very comfortable that he was a great choice. He really just blew us all away when he had the chance to meet and talk to our entire administrative team. It just all came together well."

As one might probably imagine, a program with the success Powell has had over the past few seasons wasn't short on applicants.

"We had a really good applicant pool to choose from, and I mean some really good ones. I know that Coach Allen is going to be very humble about the entire process, but we feel like we got a very good one in John Allen," Carr said. "We had qualities that we were looking for in a coach, and from the get go John Allen exhibited those qualities. I'm sure that he will tell you that we put him through quite a bit during the interview process, but he was great and genuine about everything we asked him and he handled it like a champ."

"Stability was a big thing, but another thing that was on mine and Mr. Langlois' minds was that John has a track record of coming in and making programs better," Carr said. "That is one of the things that impressed us the most."

Allen's coaching career began as a graduate assistant at Tennessee Wesleyan, and then he spent six years as an assistant at his high school alma mater, Rhea County, working under Horton.

From there he went to Lakeview for his first head coaching gig and had great success playing in a tough North Georgia district.

"I had a great coaching staff at Lakeview. We went 46-19 and beat Dalton for the first time in school history," Allen told me.

From there Allen's path took him to Cleveland, TN, where he became the head coach at Bradley Central High.

"At that point in my life I had become very arrogant, and I just did a terrible job there. I've always said that I wish that I had done a better job for the Lord there, but I didn't and I have always owned that," Allen humbly stated.

After that one year stint in Cleveland, Allen moved on to Silverdale Academy in Chattanooga, a private school that was just starting a football program. In his six years there, Allen oversaw the startup of the football program and also worked as an administrator at the school. He took that program quickly to the top of the district, and had them in the playoffs the last three years he was there.

For the past three years he served as the head coach at Chattanooga Central. "We went on to (Chattanooga) Central and did a good job there," he said. "We helped them raise \$100,000 to upgrade the program, and we got them to the playoffs for the first time in many years."

Now it's on to Powell, where tradition says that it is a solid football program, and it sits in a community that is well known for supporting all of its school athletic teams, and especially the football program.

"I do know how I got this (Powell) job. God ordained it, and I really do believe that," Allen told me. "I had been interviewing for jobs that weren't nearly of the caliber that Powell is, and I filled out the application online, got a phone call for an interview, and here I am. God is faithful and I am very humbled to be the head football coach at Powell High School. This program is the kind of program you get in coaching to get to. It's not like they are giving me a handful of dirt and telling me to build something. This is already a great program."

Since being named the head coach the last week of January, Allen has been splitting time between his Chattanooga home and Powell. He will be teaching at Chattanooga Central until the end of the school year, yet he is coming to Powell two afternoons a week to prepare for spring practice, which will be held in May.

In the meantime, Allen has had the tough task of putting together a coaching staff, and with half of the previous staff going to Karns with Kilgore, that's not been an easy task.

Three members of the previous staff have been retained: Rusty Smith, Larry Neely and Charles Birden. Two former Powell assistant coaches, Scotty Stewart and Guy Balenger, have also been hired. Stewart will serve as the defensive coordinator.

That leaves four or five slots for new hires, which Allen has been interviewing candidates for and is nearing solidifying those coaches to his staff.

A lot of discussion throughout the Powell community has been on Allen's offensive philosophy. Allen is traditionally a Winged-T offensive coach, while Powell has run the spread option offense for the past few years,



The Allen Family . Front L-R: Elizabeth, Amy, Henry, John Back: Will.

and was a veer oriented offensive team prior to that. Allen has indicated to me that he plans on running a Pro I set formation based offense, but as any good coach will do, making sure that the offensive scheme fits his personnel.

"I'm smart enough as a coach to know that you have to fit your offense to the talents of the players you have. We'll do that at Powell. We

don't want to put our kids in to a situation where they can't be successful."

Once school is out in May, Allen will be moving his family, wife Amy, and three school aged children, Will, Elizabeth, and Henry, to Powell.

And what can Allen say to those skeptics in Powell who are suffering from "coach fatigue" with that revolving coaching door?

"I can't change the past.

All I can do is to do what I say I will do. I am moving my family here - 97 miles from our current home. My wife has a great teaching job in Chattanooga, and her parents are close by there. We're not leaving that and coming to Powell with the intent of being short timers. I would like to finish my career here, and I plan on coaching for at least 12 or 13 more years."

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PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Randy's Runts are (left to right) Kenny White, Braxton Moore, Robert Miller, JJ Corvette, Harrison White and Peyton Booker.

'Randy's Runts' haven't been short on heart and determination

His players hadn't heard of "Rupp's Runts," but Halls High School basketball coach Randy Moore knew about the famous Kentucky team of the mid-1960s coached by Adolph Rupp.

I had heard Moore had a "short" team this season, so I asked him if he would be offended if I nicknamed his team Randy's Runts.

"Randy's Runts would be fine," answered Moore, laughing. "I'm definitely no Adolph Rupp, but still I'll take the Runts part because these Runts are definitely playing hard like those Rupp's Runts."

One Halls player, Kenny White, had heard about that Kentucky team. He knew Pat Riley was on it. He knew that UK team had lost to Texas Western in a historic NCAA championship game. He just hadn't heard of the team's nickname, "Rupp's Runts."

I told Kenny he might want to google it. He and his teammates also could ask their grandfathers about that team.

Randy's Runts took a 20-8 record into this past Saturday night's Region 2-AAA first-round game against Bearden with the hope of becoming Coach Moore's first Halls team to reach the region semifinals this week.

"Yeah, we're the smallest team, I think, in the district,"



By Steve Williams

said Moore, again chuckling.

"Some of the things we've accomplished with a short team just shows the heart and determination of these players."

Senior starters Peyton Booker is 5-foot-11, White 6-foot, JJ Corvette 5-7, Harrison White 6-2 and Robert Miller 6-2. Braxton Moore, the coach's son and the only junior starter, is 5-10.

"They're all guards," said Moore when asked for the starters' positions.

Harrison, who transferred from Powell to Halls for his senior season, and Miller are technically post players, "but Robert's best asset is his outside shot and not his post up," said Moore.

Moore calls Booker a "power guard." He also jumps center for the opening possession.

"He does a good job timing the tip," Moore pointed out. "We actually get the tip about half the time."

The Halls coach added that Kenny and Peyton are "best at elevating to the rim."

Kenny White, Booker and Corvette have been Halls' leading scorers this season, but that doesn't really matter.

"For them, it's all about winning," said Moore. "It's not about individual statistics. I love that about them."

The Halls coach said his

players have done a good job of playing their roles and have a special camaraderie.

Coach Moore, at 5-9, also was a short player in his playing days. As a senior at Sevier County in 1989, he received honorable mention All-State as he helped lead the Smoky Bears, coached by his dad, Steve, to their first-ever district title.

"I think short people follow me where ever I coach, to be honest with you," said Moore, who coaches the boys and girls teams at Halls as he previously had done at Seymour.

"I've always had smaller boys teams, but I seem to have taller girls. It's an odd thing."

Moore has shared the same message with his team that he heard from his father.

"My dad always told me I've got to play harder and smarter because I'm not big."

One way the Red Devils, or Randy's Runts, try to combat their lack of height is hitting 3-point shots. They made 15 of them in a game against Anderson County.

"If our 3s are going well, I know we will give it all we have defensively," said Moore.

When that's happened, Halls has been a tall order for the opposition.

three points in the contest.

West Valley's defense was solid and gave the Lady Giants fits. Cedar Bluff coach Josh Ballard said he was proud of his squad's effort despite the loss.

"West Valley came out and they played great defense and made things hard for us," Ballard said. "They're a great team."

"I respect my girls for the effort they gave. I'm proud of my girls because the never stopped fighting."

Cornelius, Davis and Claire Wyatt were named to the all-tournament team.

Powell routs Vine to take third place: Powell High School trounced Vine 51-32 to claim third place in the tournament.

The Lady Panthers jumped to a 16-5 lead and never trailed.

Powell lost to Cedar Bluff in the semifinals and first-year coach Paige Ewing

said her team entered the third-place game with a chip on its shoulder.

"We were a little mad about the Cedar Bluff game," she said. "We went 17-4 and that's not too shabby. I'm happy as a clam."

After Powell jumped to the 16-5 lead, the Lady Golden Bears opened the second quarter with a 10-0 run before Ewing called a timeout.

"They needed a little talking to," Ewing said of her team.

She pushed the right button because the Lady Panthers closed the frame by scoring nine consecutive points.

Haley Schubert scored 12 points for Powell. Brooke Huffaker and Haley Crowe added 11 each and Kennedy Cowden finished with nine.

Lorianna Bullard scored a game-high 14 points for Vine.

The Cuonzo Quandary

By Alex Norman

This was supposed to be the season that the Tennessee Volunteers returned to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2011. There wasn't going to be any "bubble" talk this time around.

The Vols returned one of the SEC's top scorers in senior guard Jordan McRae. They had forward Jarnell Stokes back for his junior season and redshirt senior forward Jeronne Maymon was finally healthy.

The 2013-2014 Southeastern Conference was not exactly going to be the 1984-1985 Big East either. Sure, Kentucky brought in another group of future NBA lottery picks, and Florida was filled with experience... but the rest of the conference was a dumpster fire.

Barring an SEC tournament victory (which hasn't happened since 1979), the Vols are going to be a nervous group on Selection Sunday once again.

So why hasn't it worked out?

The buck should, and will stop with third-year head coach Cuonzo Martin, who has not gotten the most out of his team.

Martin is by all accounts one of the nicest guys you'll meet. His life story, which includes a childhood in one of the nation's roughest neighborhoods, and a victory over non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as an adult, is a testimony to the type of character the man has.

But he hasn't gotten the job done at Tennessee.

It hasn't been horrible. The Vols won 19 games in Martin's first year and 20 games in his second season at Tennessee.

However, the expectation now in place for this program isn't just to make the NCAA tournament every few years...

No one is expecting UT to turn into Duke or Kansas... but considering the fan support and the facilities that are in place now in Knoxville, there's no reason why Tennessee should not, at the minimum, be a team that is consistently very busy every March.

The biggest issue for Martin may very well be the fact that his style of play, and his personality, have not connected with Tennessee fans. Martin stresses half court defense and half court offense. His teams rarely play zone and hardly ever push the pace when in possession of the

basketball.

That's not an entertaining evening for fans willing to fight the traffic for a 9 p.m. tipoff against Georgia.

And for all of Martin's positive qualities, he isn't ever going to be the guy that will always accept speaking engagements for the monthly meeting of the Knoxville Civitan Club or the Vonore HAM radio Club or whoever asks for a few minutes of his time.

Former Tennessee football coach Derek Dooley was the same way. Dooley is a more extreme example, as having any dealings with fans his seemingly beneath him, despite his stature in the state and undeserved large salary.

And that's one of the major issues here. Martin hasn't built that equity with Tennessee fans the way his predecessor did.

Bruce Pearl was ready, willing and able to preach the gospel of Tennessee basketball, doing hundreds of public appearances for groups large and small. He did this in the months leading up to the Vols first game in the fall of 2005, and he did this in the months leading up to his inevitable dismissal in the late winter of 2011.

And he did it constantly during his entire six year tenure. Sure, Pearl won big (by Tennessee standards), but fans loved him and he loved them back.

Jerry Green won games too, but at the end Vols fans were ready to throw him and his attitude into the Tennessee River.

It's why the clamoring for Pearl's return, despite his NCAA penalties, is gaining so much steam. An online petition for Pearl's re-hiring has over 10,000 signatures. Even though Pearl would sell games out and be a huge hit for fans, his return is unlikely.

If Martin's Vols find a way into the NCAA tournament, this is a moot point. His job will be safe for at least one more season. And he could survive another year even if they are indeed one of the last teams out.

It shouldn't have been this way.

This team has too much talent to be stuck in the NIT.

But that could very well happen... once again.

And if it does... Tennessee athletic director Dave Hart will have a big decision to make.

West Valley culminates perfect conference run with tourney title

Cont. from page 1

Spikes finished with six for the Lady Wolves, who had all five starters (including Annaka Hall and Kendall Clark) named to the all-tournament team.

"We have three things on the blackboard in our locker room and that's rebound, defend and share the basketball," Comer said. "Those things are on our board and they're not going anywhere. I felt like if we did those things, we would be successful. If we didn't, we were going to struggle."

Lee said the season was special for the Lady Wolves.

"This feels great," she said. "This is a great accomplishment."

"We executed. We rebounded and we held their two best players, Abbey Cornelius and Lizzie Davis in check."

Davis scored eight points after a scoreless first half and Cornelius scored just



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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Random Observations

I noticed the announcement on the door of the Doctor's lounge. It was another list of drug shortages similar to the one that appeared last July. I assumed the first one was an aberration. Apparently it was not. I read over the current list which mostly reflected drugs administered in the hospital. You might ask how this is relevant. Well, I think a shortage of nitroglycerine is a significant issue.

I asked two pharmacist friends, both doctors of pharmacy, about the current shortage announcements. They told me shortages have become an increasingly common problem in the last four to five years. I recalled with them my memory of only the occasional shortage over my forty years in medicine. I was somewhat reassured to see that July's shortages of magnesium

sulfate for eclampsia (severe hypertension of pregnancy), dopamine for shock, and morphine supplies had been restored by year's end, though nitroglycerine was still scarce.

There are multiple factors that contribute to shortages in a country of historical plenty. Regulations place huge burdens on all industries. I read recently that a new regulation appears every four minutes in America. I understand that there may be good reason behind some regulations even those of the EPA. However, I just can't get out of my mind the EPA agent who insisted on turning off the confinement grid in the movie Ghostbusters. I wrote recently about the high cost and risk of new drug development. Additionally, the low profit margin of generic drugs often results in fierce competition with

sometimes just one company producing a generic agent. What happens if there is a production problem at that company's plant because of contamination which forces a voluntary shut down or through government regulation?

Recently, we noticed a leaky faucet which might have been damaged in the Polar Vortex of Al-Gore's global warming. As I prepared to crawl under the house to inspect our pipes I searched for an electrical extension cord. Have you ever wondered why string or ear buds in a drawer tie themselves in a knot just like my extension cord? What goes on in that drawer at night to cause contortions sufficient to produce the proverbial Gordian knot? One tongue in cheek explanation is gremlins. Do you remember the infamous creature in the Twilight Zone episode with William Shatner of Star Trek fame? No one could see the monster wreaking havoc on the airplane's wing except Shatner who finally saved the plane by shooting the little devil. I guess Rod Serling was unaware of TSA regulations when he wrote that episode. I suspect these mischievous sprites are also responsible for twisting our land line telephone

cord making it as tangled as Chevy Chase's Christmas tree lights in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation.

Becky suggested I write about driving issues and older adults. You notice that I did not use the word elderly which is descriptive, but is often pejorative. I recently read that there's been a rash of car accidents in Colorado and Washington State where marijuana has been legalized for recreational use. This is a classic example of stupid legislation and its consequences. These days we are bombarded with public service ads warning us to not drive "buzzed," the new term for being high on alcohol, but not falling down drunk like Otis on the Andy Griffith show. An interesting scientific study appeared in the prestigious NEJM this January. It clearly showed that texting while driving causes impairment comparable to using intoxicants like alcohol. Now the PC (politically correct) liberal legislators have enabled a new class of inebriates to roam the roads in an impaired state. Police don't even have breathalyzers for pot, and no one is talking about the cancer risk of deeply inhaled carcinogens in marijuana joints.

I take a pragmatic approach with older drivers whose reaction time is certainly slowed, but who are more cautious and generally drive slower than teen agers who consider themselves immortal. Frequent fender benders, poor vision, and general frailty are indicators that the family, the older citizen, and the doctor need to talk. There are also programs for driver evaluation at the Patricia Neal Center and the Highway Patrol.

The Hindu philosophy of ahimsa means to cause no harm to another, and this perspective seems operative when considering impaired drivers. No one has the right to harm someone else, and we hope to protect our older folks from harming themselves. I once had a couple who traveled across town through heavy traffic to see me. He had serious Parkinson's disease where all his movements were slowed and delayed. She was demented and could not remember that a red light meant stop and a green one meant go. Like so many older couples they supported each other's weaknesses. Driving became a serious issue when approaching a red light: He would say.... "Stop!", eventually. A family/doctor conference

rescinded their driving privileges.

I've said many times that I'm trinitarian at heart, so a patient's observation of life's three stages intrigued me. "There are three stages of life, Doc. First, you're good looking. Then you're 'looking good.' Finally, they'll say, 'He looks so natural!'" As we age the trick is to stay at the second level as long as possible. General Douglas McArthur once said "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." In a somewhat similar vein, sports figures struggle with the end of their careers. The trick is to finish at the top of one's game before the inevitable decline in abilities. I believe that Chipper Jones of the Atlanta Braves baseball team handled his sport retirement better than anyone I can remember.

The Welsh poet Dylan Thomas eloquently challenged all of us who recognize our aging. He penned, "Do not go gentle into that good night, Old age should burn and rave at close of day; Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

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

Children's Hospital unveiled \$75M expansion plan

East Tennessee Children's Hospital and BarberMcMurry Architects unveiled plans for a \$75 million expansion project on Tuesday, Feb. 18. A 3D model and artist renderings of the planned five-story, 245,000 square foot building was revealed to donors, hospital staff and media. The new facility will be built at the corner of White Avenue and 21st Street, the current location for Emergency Department parking.

President/CEO Keith Goodwin highlighted key features of the project, which include a new 44-bed, private room Neonatal Intensive

Care Unit (NICU), a new perioperative surgery center, two levels of parking and enhanced family areas, such as roof-top gardens.

"We currently have an under-sized NICU and surgery suites," explained Goodwin. "This building will give us the opportunity to build state of the art operating rooms, anticipating emerging technology, as well as providing an even better experience for our patients and families."

Groundbreaking is expected late August 2014; the building will take approximately two years to complete. The plans include

renovations of selected areas within the hospital once the new building is occupied. During construction, all services will continue to be offered at Children's Hospital.

The hospital will pay \$60 million towards the project. Private donors have contributed more than \$9 million. Children's Hospital will look to the community for help raising an additional \$6 million.

For more information call the Children's Hospital Development office at (865) 525-GIVE or visit the Children's Hospital website at www.etch.com/expansion.



Artistic rendering of the main entry proposed for the East Tennessee Children's Hospital expansion.

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Left to right, top to bottom: Chuck Dugal, M.D.; Steven Miller, NP; Tim Ballard, NP; William Lindsay, M.D.; Michael Underwood, M.D.; Lance Jones, CEO; Joseph DeLeese, M.D.; Gabriel Ojeda, M.D.; Malcolm Foster, M.D.; Ravi Mehta, M.D.; Randall Towne M.D.; Nilam Patel, M.D.; and Steven Reed, M.D.



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Faith

Gospel Winter Fest this Saturday

New Destiny Productions LLC, based in Powell, has announced another exciting Christian music concert, Gospel Winter Fest 2014 featuring the award winning Triumphant Quartet with special guest Soul'd Out Quartet. This concert will take place on Saturday evening, March 1 at 6 p.m. at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church. Doors will open at 5 p.m.

Triumphant Quartet was recently recognized by the Singing News Fan Awards with best Male Quartet, best Bass (Eric Bennett), best musician (Jeff Stice) and album of the year 2012 "Songs From the Heart." Their newest radio single, "Take It From Me, Meshach" is receiving rave reviews.

"Christ is the reason we sing," proclaims the members of The Triumphant

Quartet. David Sutton, Clayton Inman, Scott Inman, Eric Bennett and pianist Jeff Stice form the acclaimed Southern Gospel group, the Triumphant Quartet. Their mission is to spread the Word of God through song and share the good news of Christ with other believers. Through the power of their beautiful harmonies, they testify to those who are searching and lost, with the hope that more souls will come to know Christ.

Russ Woolard, President of New Destiny Productions, says that every year the Quartet and its individual members have been nominated for awards. With all of the accolades and success, the men of the Triumphant Quartet keep their work in perspective. They are truly humbled and grateful for the support their fans have shown for their music and ministry. They reaffirm that their main focus is to keep God first in everything they do. The Triumphant Quartet's powerful combination of

talent, commitment, and unwavering faith insures that the years to come will bring even more success, in God's name.

Soul'd Out Quartet is a young, energetic and exciting group. Their performance includes hymns with just piano, bass and vocals, to progressive gospel with full tracks to back the vocals. They have a good balance of entertainment and ministry. The goal of this group is to encourage their audience to enjoy life and to set a positive atmosphere for the entire family while presenting a strong gospel message. Soul'd Out Quartet is a great act for ALL ages.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 1(800)965-9324 or www.itickets.com or Knoxville area Life Way or Cedar Springs Christian stores or the Maryville-Alcoa Christian Supply and Praise 96.3 FM radio studios. Tickets start at \$15 and children under 18 are admitted free,



Cindy Hicks performing at Inskip UMC

Cindy Hicks, Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's Principal Harpist, will perform at the Inskip United Methodist Church's 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 2. The program will be part of a Christian Hospitality series in which the church will emphasize witnessing through music with special guests on each first Sunday of the month. All members, neighbors and friends are invited to attend and stay after the program for a luncheon provided by the church.

Cindy Hicks has been Principal Harp with Knoxville Symphony Orchestra since 2002. She is also Principal Harp with the Knoxville Opera Company Orchestra, the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra, and the Symphony of the Mountains. Cindy received her Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Institute of Music, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She also studied with the late legendary harpist and teacher Alice Chalifoux.

Cindy has performed in countless venues throughout East Tennessee, including the Civic Auditorium, the Bijou Theatre, The Tennessee Theater, The Knoxville Art Museum, Cherokee Country Club, Cafe 4, Fort Loudon Yacht Club, Clayton Center for the Arts, Clarence Brown Theater, UT Alumni Hall, McClung Museum, The Foundry, the Orangery, Bistro by the Tracks, Bridgewater Place, among others.

Cindy enjoys playing for all types of occasions: weddings, corporate events, banquets, funerals, parties, church services, holiday festivities, open houses... any occasion where special music is desired. You are invited to visit her website - knoxharp.com.

Inskip United Methodist Church is located at 714 Cedar Lane and Sunday School classes are held at 9:30 a.m. The church's pastor is Dr. W. David Lewis. Messages may be left on the church phone, 688-3531.

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

A Jealous Love

When you think of jealousy, you don't immediately consider it as a good attribute to have. It seems petty. We picture a middle school girl who is jealous of another girl who is flirting with a boy she likes.

Yet the Bible is clear that our God is a jealous God. "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God" (Deut. 4:24).

In another place we read: "Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:14). Not only is God jealous, but one of His divine names is the word Jealous.

Why is God jealous? Because God wants your complete heart. There is no room for competition. God hates idols of the heart and He has issue with your idols because He loves too much to share you.

God's jealousy is actually a great thing. The Hebrew words for jealous and zealous are basically interchangeable. In English, we spell the two almost the same way because they are derived from the same Greek root. When you think of zeal, you think of enthusiasm. This captures why God is so possessive about us. He has a consuming fire of passion for our lives.

I remember when I first fell deeply in love with my wife. I lived sixty miles away and would have to wait the whole week before I could drive one and a half hours one way to spend two hours with her and then drive back another



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

hour and a half. Keep in mind that this was before cell phones and long distance was expensive. I could not wait for those few hours with her face to face and the long drive was more than worth it. Love makes you

do some crazy things.

The feelings I had for her were unique and still are. I don't share those with anyone else. But as strong as my love for my wife is, it barely scratches the surface of God's love for me. As we read Scripture about God's intolerance of idolatry, we need to keep in mind God's passionate love for us. It is a powerful love and He desires all we are.

God does not give the option of making him one of many. There is only room for God. This is how much He loves you. When we realize how much God loves us, it should change the way we see ourselves. God wants us to love Him with everything we got. Saying this in the negative would read something like this: "You will have no other gods before me." This is because God is our first love.

Not only is God jealous, but He also pursues us. God doesn't just let us chase after others, He chases after us. One thing is certain; God does not give up our souls without a fight. God is like a hound after a fox. In fact, some have called God "The Hound of Heaven." Thank God He never gives up for our heart.

MARCH 1, 2014

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Supreme Ultimate

Tai Chi means Supreme Ultimate in the Chinese language. I thought I would be taking Tai Chi lessons a while back but little inconveniences kept getting in the way. The first week -- bad weather, the second week--a bad cold, third week, my kitchen flooded, (due to a faulty leak from the apartment upstairs), had to wait on a plumber. Finally, I gave up and decided to wait until the offer comes my way again.

"Tai Chi is now known as one of the most effective exercises for physical and mental well-being. Sun style (pronounced Soong) is one of five widely recognized styles. It is especially suitable and effective for those who have arthritis.

Tai Chi is the most prominent Chinese martial art of the internal style. Internal styles place emphasis on breathing (Qigong) and the mental component of their training. Qigong movements, which help breathing and relaxation, are particularly effective for healing and repairing cartilage, inflamed joints and tendons. Execution of movement is generally softer, in contrast to the External style, which tends to be ballistic and harsh, for example, Karate.

Many other martial arts concentrate on the External forms, featuring vigorous body movements, dynamic kicks, and harsh punching actions. In contrast, Tai Chi consists of fluid, gentle, graceful, and circular movements that are relaxed and slow in tempo. Breathing is deepened and slowed, aiding visual and mental concentration. The body relaxes, allowing the life force of Qi (pronounced

chee), which allows the energy inside the body to flow unimpeded. These techniques help integrate mind and body into a harmonious inner and outer self. A person living in harmony is more likely to be happy, fulfilled, and healthy.

Today Tai chi is practiced throughout the world for its many health benefits. Tai chi strengthens and mobilizes the joints and muscles, improving physical fitness and mental relaxation. It is especially suitable as a therapy for arthritis because its movements are slow and gentle, and the level of exertion can be adjusted to suit each person's physical condition. Movements may even be done in a chair if needed or desired.

Arthritis has no cure, but if the condition is under control and you are able to enjoy your chosen lifestyle, then it is not as important. Tai Chi has been proven effective by both logical deduction and scientific evidence.

Well, I can't wait until I can take advantage of this "Supreme Ultimate." To be relaxed, healthy and free from arthritic pain, isn't that the goal of everyone? And I just found out that new classes will start at Hall's Senior Center on March 17th.

Material from "Tai Chi from the Arthritis Foundation," compiled by Don Parsley, Tai Chi instructor.

Thought for the day: A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. Chinese Proverb

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

House to Home



Koko

Having Fun in the Snow

We waited---and it came. The world seems to come to a stop, or at least slow down, when Mother Nature blankets the earth in snowflakes. What was once a common sight in East Tennessee winter is now more rare. The second week of February 2014 brought one of those rare sights, and youngsters took advantage of the snowfall. There was enough snow for sledding, and slowly melting snowmen could be seen for days. The wet snow that clings to trees and bushes creates a winter wonderland, but it can cause problems on the power lines.

This most recent snowfall brought back memories of the mid-March blizzard in 1993. Our power was out for three days. A wood-burning stove provided heat and a means for cooking. My brother

broke the ice for our cattle and horses to drink water from the ponds. Neighbors helped neighbors. One of our neighbors was stranded at work in Knoxville and could not get home to tend his animals. After Wayne broke the ice in the ponds for our livestock, he walked through the fields to the neighbor's farm. He fed hay to the cows and mule, broke the ice so the cattle could drink from the pond, and fed and watered the dogs.

Some animals enjoy the snow; others do not want to leave their warm home. Koko, our red chow and shepherd mix, always loved the snow. Whether it is your favorite forecast or not, a winter snow can bring a sense of quiet and a whisper that says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10, KJV).



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

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Info: Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor
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www.NewBeverly.org
www.EternalVision.net

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carter High School Class of 1984 reunion
 The Carter High School Class of 1984's 30 year reunion will be held Saturday, August 16, 2014 from 7-11 p.m. at the Remedy Backroom, 125 W. Jackson Ave., Knoxville. Cost is \$25/single \$50/couple. Email chs1984classreunion@gmail.com for more information.

Free Online Tax Preparation
 Thanks to grants from the Walmart Foundation, United Way of Greater Knoxville is offering free online tax preparation through myfreetaxes.com/knoxtn.

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allows eligible taxpayers, with a combined household income of \$58,000 or less, to self-file for free using a simple step-by-step process that includes telephone and online chat support.

There are no hidden fees associated with this online service and the live phone chat option is available between 9:00a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Republican Club Meetings
 The 8th District Republican Club meets Tuesday, February 25 at Carter High School. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

The Center City Republican Club meets Thursday, February 27 at the Shoney's on Western Avenue. The meeting begins at 6:30 with dinner and meet and greet at 5:30 p.m. Please go to knoxgop.org for further information.



The Bonny Kate Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution attended the George Washington Birthday Luncheon at Rothchild's. Front row, from left, Margaret Kensinger, Ollie Ellison, Regent Joyce Condry, Madge Day, Nancy Cantrell and Sarah Wimberly. Second row from left, Sue Watson, Glenn Rowell, Liz Wendelken, Lawson Hickox, Amanda Dixon, Mary Porter and Jeanie Sager.

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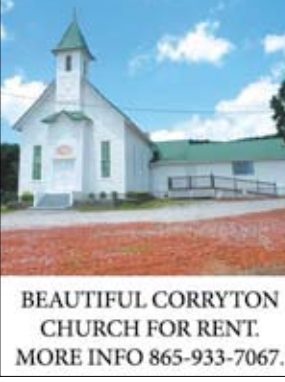
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Slow Cooker Bold Chicken

- cooking spray
- 3 to 3 1/2 lb frying chicken pieces, skin removed and discarded
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 medium green bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme or 1/2 tsp crushed dried
- 2 to 2 1/2 tsp curry powder
- 1 14 oz can no-salt-added diced tomatoes
- 1/4 cup celery
- 3 packet sugar substitute that will retain sweetness during long cooking
- 2 tsp white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons currants or raisins

Lightly coat a large nonstick skillet with cooking spray. Place over medium heat and add the chicken pieces. Saute for 5 minutes per side, turning once. Put onion, bell pepper, and garlic in a crockery slow cooker. Top with browned chicken pieces. Add thyme sprigs. In a bowl, combine curry powder, tomatoes, celery, sugar substitute, and white wine vinegar. Pour over chicken pieces. Sprinkle with currants or raisins. Do not stir. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours or on high for 2 to 3 hours. Good served with rice.

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