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Knox County School Board asks for even more

By Mike Steely
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Promoting their budget request as a 2.5% pay increase for teachers, the Knox County Board of Education passed a \$432,335,000 budget last Monday, even surpassing what Superintendent James McIntyre had presented to the Board before their vote. The current year's budget is \$419,867,000.

Prior to the vote several people addressed the meeting in the public forum. Two people asked the school board not to include cutbacks in the school maintenance staff.

Another two who spoke during open forum thanked the superintendent and school board for including Hardin Valley and Gibbs in the budget for a study on the need for a two new middle schools in their respective communities.

In discussion of the budget it was learned that only \$75,000 is being requested for the study, to be conducted by an outside firm. The study would include all middle schools, not Hardin Valley or Gibbs specifically. The study will look at the needs of all middle schools.

In the overall proposal

McIntyre includes funding for the new Career Magnet School at Pellissippi State's Strawberry Plains campus and he said he hopes the Greater School Partnership will also provide some additional needed funding.

McIntyre also said that he has revised his earlier estimates and is reducing Project Grad to just \$100,000.

Mike McMillan asked McIntyre about 65 Instructional Coaches the superintendent hired over the past year with "one-time" money and asked

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PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

The scene at last Monday's School Board meeting on the budget.

West View Elementary to host spring carnival

By Ken Lay

A long tradition will continue at West View Elementary School next month.

The school will hold its annual Cinco De Mayo Spring Carnival March 2. The festivities begin at 4:30 p.m.

The carnival will go on despite the fact that West View doesn't have a PTO or PTA.

A committee of West View Teachers headed by Mike Wueller and Sue Hamilton is preparing for the event, which is a fundraiser for the school and a time-honored tradition in the West View Community.

The carnival is made possible by donations from local businesses including the Coca Cola Company and Texas Roadhouse.

"This is a really huge event and the West View Community really shows up," Wueller said. "We have a committee led by Sue Hamilton and myself.

"We both teach here and we really wanted to continue this tradition. This is a fundraiser for our school and all the money we raise is for our kids and it stays here at West View."

The business community has really provided support for the carnival. The local Coca Cola Company has donated prizes for a ring toss game.

"If the kid gets the ring around the two-liter bottle of Coke, that's the prize," Wueller said.

Bojangle's and Texas Roadhouse are also heavily involved in the carnival. A local church also purchased and donated pizzas for re-sale at the carnival.

In addition to games and food, the event will feature a silent auction, a book sale and a yard sale.

"We'll take donations and sell just about anything we can sell with our tickets. People can buy those tickets at the carnival or the morning of the event at the school.

Wueller also said that the community can still make donations or volunteer at the event, which will feature a Red Cross Safety booth, a Boy Scouts booth, a Knoxville Police Department K-9 booth and an exhibit booth hosted by the National Park.

"The carnival has something for everyone," Wueller said. "We have fun and games but we also want to provide information for the community.

Community members, who want to donate, volunteer or purchase prize tickets can contact Wueller or Hamilton at 594-3944.



Austin-East students compose an original song in the school's new audio production program.

Austin-East focuses on the arts and music

By Ken Lay

Austin-East Magnet High School is changing its brand.

It will still remain one of Knox County's magnet schools but its emphasis will now be on the arts, including dance, forensics (debate and theatre arts) and audio production.

The school has already begun its musical production program and its forensics team.

"We're still going to be a magnet school but we're in transition to becoming a magnet school of theatre, dance and chorus," Austin-East principal Benny Perry said. "We've started our audio production class.

"It's the first class of its kind in Knox County and the second of its kind in East Tennessee. There's a private school in Chattanooga that has a program. This will give our kids a skill and we have a lot of people from Knoxville who have made it in the music business."

The transition began when assistant principal Chris Caruthers made a trip to Oklahoma.

"I went to Tulsa and went to a school [Tulsa Central High School] that was like our sister school," Caruthers said. "If you know anything about Tulsa, it has cows and oil rigs and I found out that students could come to that school from outlying counties."

Caruthers added that Austin-East made the change, with the blessing of the school district in order for the school to remain

competitive. We're losing students to Fulton's broadcasting program, to [L&M Stem Academy] and to the International Baccalaureate Program at West.

"It was a matter of what we could do differently and what could we offer to our kids," Caruthers said. "Our audio production class already meets and we already had some equipment. The county purchased some additional equipment."

He noted that students in the county's middle schools were surveyed and expressed interested in studying music production.

While the program has had somewhat humble beginnings, Perry said that the school has big plans.

"When school opens next year we will have two new music studios and our kids can do stuff related to music production," he said. "It will also serve as a community studio where church choirs can record CD's to sell for a fundraiser.

"We will also let individuals from the area use the studios."

Perry also added that the school will enter into an agreement with Pellissippi State Community College so that the school's musical production students can have dual enrollment and earn college credit and work toward an industrial certificate.

While Austin-East's administration is excited about the new audio production program, the school also has other opportunities in the arts.

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Headlights, Honors, Farragut Hotel

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville City Council breezed through their agenda Tuesday night and voted to make the city law comply with state law regarding lighting on passenger vehicles. This includes prohibiting flashing lights on the front of cars, prohibiting stoplights in tail lights, and enforcing that vehicle lights must be on 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 before sunrise among other requirements.

The council honored Shelly Collier and the Webb School's Lady Spartans basketball team for taking the recent state Division 2 championship and a record of 30 wins and only 4 losses. Collier said the team is "a great group of young ladies."

The late Felix Gaiter was also honored. Gaiter passed away recently at age 91 and was one of the first minority contractors to build in Oak Ridge and Knox County. His works included construction at UT and the World's Fair. Gaiter was also active in civil rights. He and his wife, Margaret Ross Gaiter, were married 66 years.

His family was present to hear Mayor Madeline Rogero and the council honor him for his contributions to Knox County. The Mayor said he was a great role model for everyone. Councilman Duane Grieve spoke about Gaiter and said, "He showed me how to lay a few bricks."

The council also authorized the condemnation of four properties as

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Focus on the Law

Human Sex Trafficking Part 1

"Sex trafficking or slavery is the exploitation of women and children, within national or across international borders, for the purposes of forced sex work." www.soroptimist.org/trafficking. This



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

exploitation includes businesses such as pornography and prostitution. UNICEF estimated in 2007 that 1.2 million children are trafficked across borders every year for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Our Department of Justice says that every two minutes a child is trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the U.S. Adult women make up the largest group of sex trafficking victims, followed by female children and a smaller percentage of men and boys.

The National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrown-away Children reports that within 48 hours of leaving home one in four runaway children will be approached

for commercial sexual exploitation. The average age of a sex trafficking victim is 13. Juveniles are especially vulnerable to coercion by the traffickers. These victims are drugged, brain-washed, threatened and beaten. The abusers get them addicted to a drug or praise or anything positive in their life. They are convinced that law enforcement will arrest them and abuse them worse than their captors. They are told that no one will believe them. If they are transported from another country, they may have the additional isolation of ignorance of the language and customs of the country in which they now find themselves.

Some sex trafficking can be very visible as in street prostitution. However, many trafficking victims remain unseen in unmarked brothels hidden in unsuspecting neighborhoods in cities as well as

suburbs. Sex trafficking also goes on in other locations such as massage parlors, truck stops, spas and strip clubs. The internet pornography industry is a huge consumer of sex trafficking victims. Victims are also sold for sex via websites like www.backpage.com.

In Tennessee, the sex trafficking problem is not just a problem in cities. It is found in both urban and rural settings. In a 2011 Tennessee Bureau of Investigation study survey of law enforcement and social services, 42% of the rural respondents reported knowing of cases of sex trafficking in their jurisdictions. Sex trafficking clearly has an adverse effect on the mental, emotional and physical well-being of the women and girls involved. In addition to the physical abuse suffered by these victims, they may suffer extreme emotional distress. Post traumatic stress disorder is a common malady. They may experience emotions like shame, grief, fear, distrust

and suicidal thoughts. Victims often turn to alcohol or drugs to numb the pain.

"Sex trafficking promotes the breakdown of society by removing women and girls from their families and communities. Trafficking fuels organized crime groups that usually participate in many other illegal activities, including drug and weapons trafficking and money laundering. It negatively impacts local and national labor markets, due to loss of human resources. Sex trafficking burdens public health systems. And trafficking erodes government authority, encourages widespread corruption, and threatens the security of vulnerable populations." www.soroptimist.org/trafficking

Next week: What is being done to combat Human Sex Trafficking? Sharon Frankenberg is an experienced attorney licensed in Tennessee since 1988. Her office number in Knoxville is (865)539-2100.

Community Development Week April 21-27

The City of Knoxville will mark National Community Development Week April 21-27 with a series of events showcasing projects of the City's Department of Community Development and its nonprofit partners across Knoxville.

The theme this year is "40 Years of Building Strong Communities," in recognition of the creation in 1974 of federal Community Development Block Grants. The CDBG program was created by Congress under President Gerald Ford through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Although we have seen cuts in CDBG funding in recent years, it still helps support vital programs for some of the most vulnerable people in our community," said Becky Wade, the City's Director of Community Development. "Community Development Week gives us a chance to highlight those, along with other work of our staff and our local partners."

The City's Department of Community Development administers a variety of programs geared toward the revitalization of Knoxville's low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. In order for resources to have the greatest impact, the Department targets its programs to strategy areas that are selected periodically.

Those include programs to: improve housing opportunities for lower-income homeowners, tenants and homebuyers as well as assistance to organizations serving Knoxville's homeless population; identify

vacant, blighted or problem properties and seek developers to return them to productive use; assist neighborhoods in identifying and solving their own problems; and provide training and employment to lower-income citizens or to assist lower-income citizens in starting small businesses.

Here is the calendar of events for Community Development Week:

MONDAY, APRIL 21

11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Open house at properties at 3425-35 Bishop St., in the Lonsdale neighborhood. These affordable, energy-efficient houses were built by the East Tennessee Housing Development Corporation, a designated Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO).

5:30-7 p.m.: Open house and block party, 3444 Compton St. in South Knoxville, sponsored by Knoxville Leadership Foundation/Neighborhood Housing Inc. This will showcase homes built by Neighborhood Housing, another CHDO.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

7:30 a.m.: Equity Awards Breakfast at The Standard, 416 W. Jackson Ave. Sponsored by the City of Knoxville, this will recognize nine individuals and organizations for their efforts in housing, disability services and economic development.

9 a.m.: Meeting of the Knoxville/Knox County Homeless Coalition at the L.T. Ross Building,

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Headlights, Honors, Farragut Hotel

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recommended by the Chronic Problem Properties Committee. They included 327 Cansler Avenue, 0 (Zero) Cansler Avenue, 5126 Villa Road and 320 South Castle Street. Becky Wade, director of the Community Development Department, said the city needs to acquire distressed properties and sell them to buyers who will repair and rehabilitate the properties.

The city council also approved a 25-year agreement with Farragut Group LLC, which plans to restore

the historic Farragut Hotel at 530 South Gay Street and create a hotel with 190 rooms. The \$40 million project gets 25 years of payments in lieu of taxes on the project. Councilman Nick Della Volpe asked if 25 years was too long and, after hearing from Brian Larson of the firm, said he was excited about the project.

Councilman Nick Pavlis said that the agreement will be "a benefit to everyone." Councilman George Wallace called bring the hotel back to life a unique

development and added, "It's something we don't have - a historic hotel." Larson said "The Brand is Knoxville," and that downtown Knoxville only has 1,300 hotel rooms and, with the renovated Farragut Hotel, would have 1,500. He said Knoxville can become a destination.

The council also adopted, on first reading, the One Year Plan prepared by the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and approved several rezoning requests. Two of the requests came from

houses with a NO zoning designation.

MPC's director, Mark Donaldson, told The Focus those two properties were annexed into the city by their own request and had not received a zoning code, so the MPC rezoned both properties R-1.

Mayor Rogero was authorized to apply for \$200,000 in grant money and match it with \$50,000 from the city to extend the Sarah Moore Green Trail from the Magnet school to Knoxville Botanical Gardens.

Austin-East focuses on the arts and music

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The school will host a summer dance academy from June 16-21.

"We'll have a dance camp in the summer where students can study jazz, tap, modern and ballet," Perry said.

Recently, Austin-East has started a forensics program and the school's team, in its first year, had a stellar showing at the State Competition in Brentwood.

The school took first place in the Duo Interpretation Category. Actors Malik

Baines and Stephanie Spidell won the competition with an interpretation of "The Face of Emmett Till."

Austin-East's team of Jackson McDowell and Ashley Toepfer took third in the same competition, which actors had to do a 10-minute performance without looking at or touching each other.

Austin-East also posted a second-place finish in the Duet Acting category. The actors were Skai Harris and Moriah Brothers.

In the One-Act Play Competition: Austin-East placed fifth.

In addition, Brothers and Baines were chosen to the All-Star Cast, an honor that went to the top 10 actors.

Austin-East will host the State Championships in 2015.



The newly formed Forensics Team at Austin-East Magnet High School competed in state competition April 11-12, 2014, in Brentwood, TN, and came away with many top honors against 44 other teams. The Austin-East team was formed this year by performing arts teacher Doug James and is comprised of 12 members in grades 10-12. It is a competitive theatre team that competes in both acting and speech events.

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Publisher's Position

McIntyre's Minions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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Minion: a servile follower or subordinate of a person in power.

Superintendent James McIntyre is appointed by the Knox County Board of Education. While the superintendent is tasked with making the daily decisions of running the school system, the Board has the responsibility for managing the superintendent. Under the reign of Jim McIntyre, the Board, with the exception of Mike McMillan, has been servile, allowing McIntyre to do as he has pleased with but few exceptions.

The only notable exception I can recall when the Board refused to go along with one of McIntyre's recommendations is when they balked at outsourcing the custodians.

When the Knoxville News Sentinel ran a series about the security failures in the school system, the incumbent Board members circled the wagons and hysterically defended McIntyre's failures.

The McIntyre regime is one that does not tolerate dissent. Mike McMillan has been persecuted for dissenting from the McIntyre agenda and Board member Indya Kincannon should blush with same for having tried to cite McMillan on a nonexistent ethics violation. Kincannon either is intellectually dishonest or merely stupid, despite her readiness to cite her own educational attainments at the drop of a hat. Clearly, McMillan acted in compliance with state law, a fact never acknowledged by Kincannon or her colleagues.

The Board trying to

enforce is rule is a bad joke as they only attempt to enforce them selectively. Board Chair Lynne Fugate seemed to forget the rules when Pam Trainor violated the civility portion of the Board's own stated rules. Fugate sat silently while Trainor droned on, never once thinking to invoke the rules. Other Board members have violated the rules adopted by the Board, but again, they only seemed to be enforced to silence or punish those who do not approve of McIntyre's imperial school system.

Fugate has used her position as Chair of the Board of Education to cut off speakers critical of McIntyre, yet those fawning over the superintendent are treated with scrupulous courtesy.

Doug Harris recently declared while always having been a conservative, he was now convinced we need to increase your taxes because we need to make a commitment to education in Knox County. Presently, the school system spends

some half a billion dollars of your tax money. Just precisely what does he consider a commitment?

Yet again, McIntyre has submitted a budget which would require a tax increase, ostensibly to give teachers a pay raise. During his six years as superintendent, McIntyre has done almost nothing for educators and his show of support for the teachers in an election year may well be a coincidence. There is little likelihood that either the public or the County Commission will countenance a tax increase this year. The school system had overspent this year and McIntyre was forced to pare back before submitting a new budget asking for more money.

The county's own budget is tight and Mayor Tim Burchett has repeatedly said he is opposed to increasing taxes.

The Board of Education has no responsibility to provide the money for its own budget; they have the luxury of asking for more

and more money without having to find the means to pay their own way. Superintendent McIntyre disingenuously tries to distance himself from tax increases by murmuring he is merely asking for more money and the County Commission has the responsibility for finding the money. Call it what it is, a request for a tax increase.

McIntyre and his minions on the Board have consistently enlarged the school system year after year. McIntyre has added over 120 new employees to the payroll just in the last two years.

McIntyre has a strategy; if the Commission approves the tax increase to pay teachers more, he can crow about what he's done for teachers. If the Commission rejects the idea of increasing taxes, they become the bad guys and McIntyre can claim he did his best.

Jim McIntyre has a sorry record of trying to get more money from the Knox County Commission.

Despite usually being accompanied by either Indya Kincannon or Karen Carson, McIntyre has been singularly unsuccessful in getting more money out of the Commissioners. Obviously the Commissioners have little regard for McIntyre's administrative ability and even less respect for Kincannon and Carson, who are little more than skills for whatever the superintendent wants.

A monkey could likely run any department if the monkey kept getting more and more money. What takes real ability is to operate an organization by doing more with less, just as most county departments and offices have had to do.

The County Commission should send McIntyre back to his drawing board and submit a budget living within his means.

Knox County School Board asks for even more

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if those employees were told they may not be returning for the next school year. McIntyre disputed the number hired but said "Yes" to the second question.

Pam Trainor asked if the employee insurance rate would be higher during the new school year and McIntyre said there were no premium increases.

During the budget discussion, Karen Carson suggested upping the teacher pay raise request from McIntyre's suggested 2% to 2.5%. A few minutes later Indya Kincannon suggested an even larger increase but pulled back her motion and went with Carson's suggestion. Carson had said she could support Kincannon's motion for a higher increase but added "I don't see it happening."

"We need to be realistic, we have to be honest," she said, referring to the board's budget request, which will now go to Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett for review. His recommendations

will proceed to County Commission for the final decision.

"What if they say 'No'?" Gloria Deathridge asked the superintendent. He replied that the funding, larger or smaller, would come back to the school board and they would work on allocating the funds.

During the back and forth between Carson's motion and that of Kincannon the superintendent was silent on an opinion. He had reminded the board before the discussion that sales tax revenue is down locally and called the loss of a state-funded teacher raise "disheartening news."

Both Mayor Tim Burchett and the Knox County Commission have indicated that revenue is down and county employees may not be getting a pay increase. Asking for more money may put a school teachers pay increase in conflict with other county employees.



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Should Knox County hire a lobbyist?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Should Knox County have a lobbyist in Nashville? Should county election day workers get more money? Will the Joint Education Committee continue? These are just some of the questions the Knox County Commission will discuss in their work session today. Commissioner Amy Broyles is suggesting that hiring a lobbyist in Nashville would help keep the commission and Mayor Tim Burchett informed on proposed legislation. Commissioner Mike Hammond is proposing an additional \$6,675 to be paid to Primary Election works in the May

election. The discussion is at the request of the Election Administrator who said recently that the workers have not had a pay increase in years.

The Joint Education Committee, which may face its last meeting Thursday, is on the agenda as an item submitted by Commissioner Sam McKenzie, one of the members of that group. The contract with an outside facilitator will expire and there has been no action to authorize continuing the group thus far. The committee, made up of four commission members and representative of the Board of Education and Superintendent James McIntyre, was

formed last year to work on disputes between the two bodies. The teacher rebellion against the Superintendent, teacher assessments, and Common Core has developed during the term of the Joint Committee.

Commission Chairman Brad Anders has proposed a sublease agreement between Concord Marina and Lake Partners for construction of a restaurant at Concord Marina.

Anders and Mayor Burchett are acknowledging the naming of the Family Justice Center as the "Randall E. Nichols Family Justice Center" in recognition of Nichols service as District Attorney General. Broyles has also added

a discussion regarding Boomsday in Knoxville.

The commission's Rules Committee has asked for amendments to the rules and has recently discussed how the various committee chairs and members are appointed.

The historic Katie Miller House, at 7215 Middlebrook Pike, is the subject of a proposed sale for \$30,000. The home was built by a Knoxville coal mine owner and has served more recently as a home for troubled teen girls with emotional or mental problems.

The Knox County Sheriff is asking the work session to upgrade the jail security system in the amount of \$299,998 in the first year and \$16,100 in support for each following year in a

contract with Black Creek Integrated Systems Corp.

The commission should also pass several honor resolutions: The Salvation Army's 115 year service to Knox County; the UT Men's Basketball Team and coach Cuonzo Martin; the UT Women's Basketball Team and Coach Holly Warlick; Andy Black upon his retirement from Helen Ross McNabb, and honoring Rikki Hall, a newspaper columnist and community activist.

Various other items are on the working session agenda, including repaying some cost the Sheriff's Department had in participating in the internet Crimes Against Children Initiative, declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention

Month, approving a proposal of the Tennessee Department of Transportation for construction of a new bridge on Emory Road over Kerns Branch, and approving a grant contract of \$208,500 with the Tennessee Department of Health for medical and care coordination for Children's Special Services.

Prior to the work session the county's Finance Committee will hear the budget request from County School Superintendent James McIntyre in a 1:30 meeting. The Work Session begins at 2 p.m. in the main assembly room of the City-County Building.

Magnolia Streetscape kicked off

By Mike Steely
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Wednesday evening the city of Knoxville revealed its initial plans to revitalize Magnolia Avenue. A hundred or so people, including several councilmen, attended the event held at the O'Conner Senior Center and heard plans for the 3.5 mile corridor from the James White Parkway to I-40.

Dawn Michelle Foster, deputy director of Redevelopment, introduced Mayor Madeline Rogero, who in turn introduced Councilman Dan Brown. Brown said he welcomes the plan in the 6th District.

The initial study by Kimley-Horn and Associates was presented by David Coode who represents the firm. He said the plan is in the preliminary stage and now the public is being asked to make suggestions. Ms. Foster said any can do so by emailing her at dmfoster@cityofknoxville.org.

Coode said they are looking at three sections of Magnolia at this time: Jessamine, Cherry Street, and the Chilhowee/Zoo area. He also said that the Jessamine section of Magnolia would be a Model Block and plans are under way to make Magnolia a four-lane street with a median, trees, bike lanes on both sides, and extended sidewalks. Asked by audience about bus stops he said that sheltered stops are also being considered.

Earlier plans to revitalize Magnolia have been tried and Coode said the plans are "not starting over, we're continuing the process."



Magnolia Avenue might look something like this once the Streetscape being planned for the area is complete. This illustration was presented at Wednesday's kick-off.

He said the study is a result of working with neighborhood groups, TVA, KUB, developers, realtors and the public. He described some "action items" within the plan that included encouraging private investment, knitting the neighborhoods together with streets and greenways, and focusing initially on the "Model Block" developments.

Coode also said that work needs to be done on the public perception of safety on Magnolia, saying that crime there is not any greater than any other part of Knoxville. He talked of working with Pellissippi

State on the projects, noting that 750 students a day attend classes there and in the near future 1,000 students are expected.

He also mentioned "site specific" ideas, such as finding a buyer that would renovate the Swan Bakery building. He said that Martin Luther King Jr. Drive needs to be connected with Magnolia, that Chilhowee Park and the Knoxville Zoo need to be in a comprehensive plan, and the main gate to Chilhowee needs to be opened and used. He said something like an outdoor adventure center for Chilhowee would be ideal.

"We need to capture the downtown energy on Magnolia, use public and private investment, and maintain the existing private investment," he said.

Within the plan is connecting the Greenways from Caswell Park and described Magnolia Avenue as a "food desert" with few restaurants.

Suggestions from the audience included limiting the size of business signs, planting fruit trees along the sidewalks and greenways, making sure that commercial development doesn't bleed into residential areas,

and seeking out African-American businesses to locate there.

Mayor Rogero said the idea is to "make it a better place for those of us who live there."

"When we start making it better for us than others will want to come in," she said.

Bob Whetsel, Director of Redevelopment, reminded the audience that Magnolia Avenue is actually a state route and the state department of transportation will need to approve any concept adopted.

Community Development Week April 21-27

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2247 Western Ave. The meeting will conclude with the presentation of the Homeless Biennial Study, conducted every two years to provide data and insights on the local homeless population.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Mission Fair and Carry the Torch Event at the Knoxville Convention Center, sponsored by Volunteer Ministry Center. The featured speaker at the luncheon is author Pat Conroy.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

10 a.m.: Volunteer Appreciation event at Minvilla Manor, 511 N. Broadway, sponsored by Volunteer Ministry Center.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Commercial Façade Ribbon-Cutting and Showcase, Gray-Hodges Corporation, 211 Jessamine St. Sponsored by Gray-Hodges and Bittle & Sons, this event will showcase the success of the façade grants program in the Magnolia Avenue Corridor.

4-7 p.m.: Community Development staff will have a table at the "Let's Move!" event at Ashley

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Our Neighborhoods

JOHN SEVIER HIGHWAY

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Every week now for several weeks The Focus has been looking at Our Neighborhoods around Knox County. Each neighborhood or community is special and unique, with its own proud history and with its own claim to the history of our area. This week we look at Governor John Sevier Highway, from one end to the other.

It is no surprise that the highway leading from Alcoa Highway to Andrew Johnson Highway, some 18 miles of State Route 168, is named for Tennessee's first governor. What is surprising is the amount of growth along and near the route. Many Knox and Blount residents use the route as a quick bypass to I-40 or to the Knoxville Airport.

The highway begins on Alcoa Highway and runs east and, along the way, passes several important and historic sites, growing neighborhoods, businesses, and the busy intersection of Chapman Highway. It also passes by the new State Veterans Cemetery, the Forks of the River Industrial Park, and Strawberry Plains Pike.

Throughout its 18 miles are scattered retail and convenient stores, neighborhoods and single family homes on side roads, and South-Doyle High School. From Alcoa Highway to the French Broad River, the area is mostly residential. Once across the bridge headed east, the area is highly industrial at the Forks of the River section.

Nick Pavlis, Knoxville's Vice-Mayor, represents part of the John Sevier Highway area and says he'd like to see a farmer's market on the west end during the season to complement what is already there. "At the Chapman Highway side I am impressed how that area continues to grow and add new businesses. I am formulating a plan to try to lure a Target store to that area. I hear more requests for that than any other business for South Knoxville," Councilman Pavlis told *The Focus*.

JOHN SEVIER, THE MAN

Governor John Sevier Highway is aptly named because the home of Sevier is just off the highway



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Members of the staff at Marble Springs dress in period costumes and stay in character during your visit to John Sevier's home.

near the Chapman Highway interchange. Sevier became our state's governor after being the one, and only, governor of the "lost" state of Franklin. The Tennessee patriot was elected several times as Tennessee's governor, had been a leader in the defeat of the British at the Battle of Kings Mountain, and also served as congressman and state senator. Because of his defiance of North Carolina and the establishment of the State of Franklin, Sevier was captured and jailed but his supporters freed him and he returned to the Southwest Territory (now Tennessee).

Andrew Jackson and John Sevier become verbal and physical enemies over time and once even faced each other in an aborted duel.

Sevier came to the territory in the 1770s and sometime after 1790 moved to the 355-acre Marble Springs farm. The site contains a two-story long home and other 1800 century buildings including a cabin that had been a tavern.

The Tennessee patriot died in Alabama while running a boundary there and was buried there.

Years later his body was exhumed and brought to Knoxville. Today he, his first and his second wife are buried on the grounds of the Old Knoxville Courthouse, their original tombstones placed in the side of the building.

A recent book about Sevier's life "John Sevier, Tennessee's First Hero" by Gordon T. Belt, was issued recently by The History

Press of Charleston, S.C. Belt is Director of Public Service for the Tennessee State Library and Archives and founding editor of The Posterity Project, an award winning blog devoted to archives and the history of Tennessee.

The book gives a birth-to-death account of Sevier, the man, his adventures, politics, family, and how he interplayed in pre-state

and post-state events. It is interesting reading for anyone, especially history buffs.

South/Doyle Homeowners Association Commissioner Mike Brown represents much of the area around John Sevier Highway and was the founder of the South/Doyle Homeowners Association back in the 1970s.

"We've had a 90% success in controlling development there. The John Sevier Highway as began in the 1960s as a traffic moving highway. It was completed in the 1970s with the idea of having limited access," Brown said

"We were promised a four lane road and I hoped it would be, but it didn't. It's three lanes and they used the bourn to get the three lanes," he said, adding, "There's a tremendous amount of truck traffic on it every day. It was designed as a Scenic Route and that limits the amount of buildings, setbacks, etc.," he said.

"We have more and more people wanting commercial zoning but there are 13 parcels along the highway zone commercial, we hope they will use those before adding another," Brown told *The Focus*.

"Martin Mill Pike is already backed up with traffic and there's a developer who wants to put 300 homes there," he said.

SOUTH KNOXVILLE SENIOR CENTER

If it is water aerobics, sewing, games or fellowship, you will find it all at the South Knoxville Senior Center just off Gov. John Sevier Highway at 6729 Martel Lane.

Jane Ward, center coordinator, (whose birthday is today, April 21st!) says there are several things coming up beyond their normal activities. On May 2, Mayor Tim Burchett will be there to talk about the upcoming county budget.

On Monday, April 28 there is a gospel singing from 1 until 3 p.m. and on May 7th and 8th the center hosts the South Knoxville Crafter and Beaders Fair from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"On May 23rd we'll have a Parking Lot Sale," she said. The cost is only \$10 and the sale

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Members of the art class at South Senior Citizen Center pose beneath pictures they have created.

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Our Neighborhoods

JOHN SEVIER HIGHWAY

Cont. from page 1

runs from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., with May 30th as a rain date.

You can call the Senior Center at 573-5843 or find them at www.knoxcounty.org/seniors/south_knox.ph.

THE I.C. KING, FORKS OF THE RIVER PARKS

At the junction of Alcoa Highway and Gov. John Sevier Highway is the I.C. King Park and near the eastern side of the Sevier Highway is the Forks of the River Park.

Forks of the River Park, on Strawberry Springs Pike just west of John Sevier Highway has 12 ball fields including AYSO soccer fields, bathrooms, and a ½ mile walking trail.

I.C. King Park, at the intersection of John Sevier and Alcoa Highway has a boat ramp, mountain bike trails, fishing, picnicking, and a natural trail. Doug Bataille, Senior Director



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The historic Ramsey House, built in 1795, is alive and well and awaits your visit.

at Knox County Parks and Recreation told the Focus the park has been adopted by the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, with more than 200 members, and the club has been working to improve the trails there. He also said that KUB is planning to work in I.C. King part in the near future to install a new gas line, which will result in a new parking lot and improvements there. He said when the work begins the park will be closed for a couple of months until the project is completed.

THE RAMSEY HOUSE AND OLD LEBANON CEMETERY

Thomas Hope, a master cabinet maker and carpenter built the Ramsey House, home of Colonel Francis Alexander Ramsey, about 1795. The house was built in the Georgian style with a central hall design. It is known for its walls of pink marble and carved consoles at corner of the roof.

Three generations of Ramsey's lived there but following the Civil War the home was sold and began to deteriorate. Today the house is fully restored and open to visitors. Operated by Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, the home and some 100 acres give anyone an idea of how the

wealthier pioneers lived.

The historic home is available for weddings, special events, etc. It is open Wednesday through Saturdays, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. and there are many special events there each year. Admission is \$7 and you can Google it at www.ramseyhouse.org or call them at 546-0745.

On May 10th the home will host the Swan Pond Experience - A Songwriters' Workshop. On May a Vintage Baseball game will be there featuring Knoxville vs. Springfield.

The Ramsey House is located just off east John Sevier Highway, turning east on Thorngrove Pike.

The Lebanon in the Forks churchyard is the site of the oldest Christian Church in Knox County. Many early settlers, including Knoxville's founder James White, is buried there. The old Presbyterian Church burned in 1981 but the cemetery is kept up and a portico supports a pavilion containing the church bell. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places and often overlooked by history buffs. Standing in the cemetery you can look out at the Holston River. Just a brief distance the river joins the French Broad River and becomes the Tennessee River.

One of the earliest burials there is for the wife of the church minister who died while the men were chasing down the Cherokee who had raided

the region. The woman's body was taken down river by other women, in a canoe, and buried high on the hill.

The historic old cemetery is now owned by the organization that owns and operates the Ramsey House, the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, Knoxville Chapter.

You can find the beautiful old cemetery by taking John Sevier east until you cross the French Broad and then taking a left on Asbury Road. Follow it until you cross under the railroad and the graveyard in on the right.

TENNESSEE VETERANS CEMETERY

Just on the east side of the river on John Sevier is the Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. The cemetery opened in 2011 and will eventually have room for 28,000 graves for members of all military services. Bill Griffith, cemetery director, has said there are already more than 700 burials there, in graves and in cremation vaults. Two other sections are under development and both veterans and their spouses can be interred. Spouse burial is \$ 700 in the same plot as the veteran or \$ 150 for cremation remains.

The cemetery overlooks the French Broad River at

2200 John Sevier Highway. You can call the director at 594-6776.

NEUBERT SPRINGS

Bet you didn't know that a large health spa once was located not far off John Sevier Highway.

Today Neubert Springs is a neighborhood of houses and farms but at the turn of last century Neubert Springs was a thriving resort with a family owned hotel, mineral waters, and a dance pavilion with live music. It had a lake with a beach, handmade ice cream, and the hotel had wide porches on all three levels.

Founded by August Neubert and his wife, who were German and Swiss, the couple had moved from Wartburg and their spa thrived through the 1920's. The business declined as hotels opened in the Smokey Mountains and has disappeared today except for a single sign. Today what was the hotel and grounds are privately owned.

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'The Terror of Tennessee'

Parson Brownlow

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

William Gannaway Brownlow was one of the most controversial figures in Tennessee history. "Parson" Brownlow was highly controversial during his own time and few figures ever relished the political battles he waged more than the man who was a pastor, editor, governor and United States senator.

Brownlow was born in Virginia in 1805. He found himself an orphan ten years later after both of his parents died. The five Brownlow children were separated and taken in by various kinfolk. Brownlow lived on the farm of his uncle John Gannaway, while he learned carpentry from yet another uncle. Carpentry was a trade Brownlow never employed to support himself. After attending a revival, William G. Brownlow decided to become a Methodist minister.

At the age of twenty-one, Brownlow was allowed to become a circuit-riding preacher. Brownlow traveled throughout an area of North Carolina and was soon at odds with many Baptists. Already a young man of pronounced likes and dislikes, he was evidently unable or unwilling to hide his dislikes of many Baptists successfully, feeling many of that faith were ignorant, bigoted, and practiced religious rituals he found personally distasteful. Brownlow was reassigned to Tennessee and found himself in Maryville.

Yet again Brownlow found himself an adversary in a young Presbyterian who apparently mocked Brownlow's beliefs. To the surprise of some, W. G. Brownlow proved to be an able debater, who not only took the hide off of other Protestant beliefs, but religious opponents as well. Brownlow never hesitated to rip into the personal character of his opponents and rivals. One such effort caused a Baptist who had been verbally mauled by Brownlow to sue for libel. Brownlow was assessed the sum of five dollars as compensation from the suit.

Once again, the Methodist Church sent Brownlow to a different area, but the minister found himself in South Carolina amongst a sea of Baptists. Frustrated with his lack of success, Brownlow displayed a talent for writing when he published a vitriolic pamphlet excoriating Baptists. The pamphlet inflamed local Baptists, many of whom decided Brownlow ought to be hanged. W. G. Brownlow hurried back to Tennessee and managed to avoid being lynched.

As facile with the pen as he was with his tongue, W. G. Brownlow would soon earn his living through writing and lecturing.

William Gannaway Brownlow settled in

Elizabethton, Tennessee and found himself a wife. After marrying Miss Eliza O'Brien, Brownlow abandoned circuit riding, although he remained throughout his life as partisan a Methodist as he would later be a Whig and Republican.

Having already proven his ability as a writer, friends encouraged Brownlow to make an occupation of writing. Partnered with Mason Lyon, Brownlow rolled out the first edition of the Tennessee Whig newspaper in May of 1839. It was not long before Brownlow's fiery editorials divided his own community. W. G. Brownlow was truly one of those figures one either loved or hated and there was an abundance of both.

Brownlow's editorials brought him to a physical altercation with one Landon Carter Hayes. Mr. Hayes had been a Whig at one time, but evidently converted to the Democratic Party, an apostasy which Brownlow found especially hellish. Brownlow encountered Hayes on a street in Jonesborough, Tennessee and proceeded to attack him with a cane which contained a hidden sword inside it. As Brownlow thoroughly battered and beat Hayes with his sword cane, Hayes drew a pistol and shot the parson in the leg. When Hayes was employed by a rival newspaper which supported Democratic candidates, Brownlow and Hayes feuded bitterly in print for years.

Parson Brownlow actively entered politics as a candidate for office when he challenged Andrew Johnson for Congress in 1845. As was usual for him, the parson boiled Johnson in his own special brand of vitriol. Brownlow charged Johnson with all sorts of sins, not the least of which was being an atheist. Johnson won the election, but Brownlow was as vocal as ever, castigating the Democratic Party and praising the Whig Party, whose leading figure was Kentuckian Henry Clay. Brownlow did not spare the first genuine Democrat, who even then was an icon of his party and state, General Andrew Jackson. Brownlow snapped that Jackson was nothing less than a curse upon the nation.

Like many of his contemporaries, Brownlow strongly supported Henry Clay's frequent presidential aspirations. Having lost presidential elections twice before, Clay's best chance seemed to come in 1844 when he faced a little known former governor of Tennessee, James K. Polk. The Whigs in Tennessee were a powerful force and Polk had been defeated twice for governor when he unexpectedly won the Democratic presidential nomination in 1844. James K. Polk really



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

W. G. "Parson" Brownlow, 1871

was the first of the "dark horse" presidential candidates. Brownlow avidly supported Clay's candidacy, but the wily Kentuckian hedged on the question of annexing Texas, while James K. Polk was an open expansionist for American territory. The leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination was former president Martin Van Buren. Van Buren, the "Little Magician", had been Secretary of State and Vice President under Andrew Jackson and had enjoyed the Tennessean's warm support. Van Buren, like Henry Clay, misread the public's mind with regard to acquiring Texas and Jackson himself supported Polk instead. Clay recognized his mistake before the election and altered his position, but the result was that he appeared to many to have no fixed views. The election was extremely close and while Henry Clay carried Polk's home state of Tennessee, James K. Polk won the presidency.

It was a bitter disappointment to W. G. Brownlow to see an apostle of the hated Andrew Jackson win the presidency and even worse still that his idol Henry Clay had been defeated. Brownlow was so devoted to Clay, he literally wept when he received the news some years later that Clay had died of tuberculosis.

W. G. Brownlow moved his newspaper to Knoxville in 1849 and was subsequently greeted by being literally knocked in the head by someone who did not admire the parson. No one ever discovered just who had assaulted Brownlow, but the injury was grave enough to keep the parson confined to his bed for sometime. Eventually Brownlow recovered and he began an editorial war with a rival paper, the Knoxville Register. Brownlow also began promoting temperance in his newspaper and a favorite charge against opponents was labeling them as being, to put it politely, victimized by alcohol. It was not unusual for Brownlow to dismiss opponents as mere drunks.

W. G. Brownlow's attitude on the issue of slavery evolved over the years; he had apparently supported abolition, then backed a proposal to repatriate slaves to Liberia, and later became a supporter of slavery. Brownlow's support for slavery seemed to become

more rabid during the 1850s and he once invited prominent Northerners to debate the issue with him, a challenge which was accepted by Frederick Douglass. Brownlow indignantly refused Douglass's offer to debate slavery due to his race. Brownlow was also violently anti-Catholic, denouncing what he referred to as "Romanism."

Although Brownlow was a supporter of slavery, he was profoundly opposed to the Southern states seceding from the Union. Brownlow, a speaker of note, canvassed much of East Tennessee in an effort to stave off secession. Parson Brownlow finally closed his newspaper, announcing he expected to be arrested by the Confederates. Brownlow was granted permission to leave Tennessee by the Confederate Secretary of War, Judah P. Benjamin, but enemies in Knox County helped to persuade District Attorney J. C. Ramsey to have the editor arrested. Brownlow was charged with treason and jailed. Brownlow did not accept his arrest meekly, but rather immediately wrote Secretary of War Judah P. Benjamin, who promptly informed Knox County authorities he would pardon the parson if he were not released. Brownlow was indeed released and made his way to Nashville, which was then occupied by the Union Army.

Well known throughout the country due to his opposition to secession, Brownlow left Tennessee to go on a speaking tour. Brownlow also wrote a book on secession, which sold quite well. Brownlow returned to Tennessee, arriving first in Nashville and then to Knoxville, where he followed in the wake of the Union Army. Brownlow had earned considerable fees from his speaking tour, as well as his book and used the money to revive his newspaper. Brownlow pursued former Confederates relentlessly in the pages of his newspaper.

Former Confederates had been effectively disenfranchised and William Gannaway Brownlow was nominated for governor in 1865. Brownlow won perhaps the most lopsided victory in state history and assumed the governorship where he continued his campaign of hatred against Confederates. Brownlow's reign as governor would

become notorious and his attitude was not sweetened by his loathing of Nashville, which he had referred to as a "dunghill." Brownlow had helped to steer Tennessee back into the Union, making it the first state to officially leave the former Confederacy.

It was not long before Brownlow came to the conclusion the former military governor of Tennessee, his old rival Andrew Johnson, had treated former Confederates far too liberally. Brownlow assumed the same policies and attitudes held by the Radical Republicans, who dominated the Congress. The Radical Republicans saw former Confederates as absolute traitors who deserved the harshest kind of punishment. The Republicans rejected the more forgiving policies formulated by President Abraham Lincoln, which were also basically the policies advocated by Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson. The Radical Republicans were far less interested in healing the wounds of the Civil War than extracting a pound of flesh from Southerners.

To the horror of many Southerners, Governor Brownlow sought to give rights to slaves who had been freed. Brownlow frequently utilized questionable methods, if not downright brutal tactics, to accomplish his goals. Brownlow bullied the state legislature and hailed the state's adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution by sending the news to President Johnson, along with a personal message to "the dead dog in the White House."

Brownlow employed similar methods when he was up for reelection in 1867. The governor called out the state militia under the guise of protecting voters, but it also that ensured Brownlow received a healthy majority in the election. The legislature gave Brownlow the power to simply dismiss the election returns from those Tennessee counties

the governor thought might be contaminated with votes from those former Confederates who were disenfranchised. Governor Brownlow also demanded federal troops to be stationed in twenty some odd counties in Tennessee, as the Ku Klux Klan was growing in power in the state. General Nathan Bedford Forrest was a bitter opponent of Governor Brownlow and adamantly stated his belief the Brownlow regime to be both immoral and illegal. General Forrest hinted darkly that the governor and Radical Republicans in Tennessee might meet a bloody fate. The governor, hardly intimidated, announced he thought it entirely proper for Klan members to be shot on sight.

Two candidates for Congress supported by Brownlow had been defeated in the recent elections. Brownlow used his power to invalidate the votes from several Tennessee counties, allowing his favored candidates to emerge the victors.

Brownlow was not a candidate for reelection as governor, but had set his sights on a seat in the United States Senate that was held by Andrew Johnson's son-in-law. Brownlow was easily elected by the state legislature and left for Washington, D. C. Immediately upon the departure of the controversial governor, Klan activities in Tennessee subsided considerably.

The years of stress and conflict had taken a toll on the parson and he came to Washington quite diminished. Frequently weak and ill, the once dynamic Brownlow could not apparently even make his own speeches on the floor of the Senate; Brownlow had to resort to having his orations read by a clerk.

Senator Brownlow realized he had little chance to be reelected and his health was poor and decided against running for the Senate again. The parson returned to his Knoxville home and once again entered the newspaper business. When Knoxville College first opened, it was William G. Brownlow who made the opening address.

Brownlow had little time left to live after leaving the United States Senate. He was stricken while at home and died the following day from an apparent bowel obstruction. His funeral was perhaps the most attended at that time and admittedly, there were almost as many glad to see the old parson gone as those who genuinely mourned him.

The remains of the uncompromising and controversial William Gannaway Brownlow lie in Knoxville's Old Gray Cemetery to this day.

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Easter is still special

Well, here it is, the biggest week in the Christian year. I know most folks think that Christmas is more popular, but when the beliefs that we claim to hold are considered, Easter wins hands



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

down. I've always liked the day, even the strange things.

As a kid, I liked going to Sunday school on Easter. It was as if a whole year of lessons culminated in the events of that day. Daddy always seemed to be off work on Easter, and he herded us toward the car for the two mile drive to Beaver Ridge Methodist Church.

Preacher Clark was the first minister I remember at the church. Everyone knew a crowd would show up, and plans to accommodate worshipers included setting up folding chairs in the aisles. We'd stand to sing such songs as "Up from the Grave He Arose" and "The Old Rugged Cross," but the one that always seemed to bring tears to every adult was "In the Garden."

Another good thing about Easter was the meal that Mother prepared. For a change from other holidays, she served ham, and a huge bowl of potato salad along with several other dishes were also fixed. We'd have aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents at our table, and the noise from talking

and laughing filled the kitchen, as well as other places where hungry folks sat.

The Saturday night before Easter, my brothers and I gathered around the kitchen table to color Easter eggs. I can still remember the smell of vinegar and stained fingers from the dyes in cups. We took this part of Easter seriously. Each of us wrote our name on an egg, and then we divvied up the tasks of making special eggs for our parents and grandparents.

The next morning, we'd race to the kitchen to see our Easter baskets. Just like at Christmas, Mother managed to juggle half a dozen chores, and one them was retrieving our baskets from the attic and then filling them with grass, eggs, and candy. Until the last year of her life, we were presented baskets on that special Sunday.

We prayed the night before Easter for fair weather. Nothing was any worse than a wet, soggy Easter because that meant our egg hunts would be confined to inside. Most years, we were fortunate to have clear weather, and we wore out adults by insisting they hide the eggs over and over and over. When cousins came to the house, we hunted with them; by the time we'd

finished, many of the egg shells were shattered. That was okay because Mother used the "bruised" ones to make eggs salad for our school lunches.

My favorite thing about Easter when I was a child was getting new clothes. Somehow, my parents found a way to come up with enough cash for new outfits and shoes for the day. It was important to them that we look our best on such a special day.

When Jim and I were little guys, Mother bought matching outfits that even included hats. As we grew older, our clothes were more sensible and doubled as a second outfit to wear to church or other more formal functions where jeans were frowned upon. On Easter morning, we'd march outside for pictures of the entire family dressed in their church garb. Daddy was in a hurry to finish so we wouldn't be late, and sometimes the grumpy inside him sneaked out long enough to let us know that we needed to get with his schedule.

I don't get clothes for Easter anymore. The fact is I don't need anything else in my closet. However, Amy and I enjoy fixing baskets for our children, even though they are close to or already in their 30's. This year we will spend Easter at home, and I'm looking forward

to it. However, I will miss Lacey and Dallas, and I might even feel the sting of loneliness for grandson Madden. Still, we can attend church on this

special day with friends and listen to a message from one of the best ministers anywhere. The love that Christ showed glows brighter on this good

day. I hope you all have a loving and blessed Easter.

Sale of 9 acres OK'd for Ramsey House

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The historic old Ramsey House, just off John Sevier Highway, has existed for longer than the State of Tennessee has existed. When the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities took the property in 1952 it began restoration and, over the years, have acquired more than 100 acres of the original farm.

The association gained a nod from the Knox County Historic Planning Zoning Commission Thursday, but not after some questions and a vote to permit doing away with the Historic Zoning Overlay for just over 3 acres and not the 9 as requested.

Wayne Decker, president of the association, said that while the group is financially sound the rezoning would help on future maintenance and preservation. The site in question is at the corner of John Sevier and Thorn Grove Pine, where visitors to the Ramsey House turn to visit the historic site.

Decker said the site has no historic value and presented retired Archeology Professor Dr. Charles Faulkner who told them he has conducted surveys there and there's nothing of archeologically significant there.

Gail Mantler, speaking for the Broadway Group that hopes to develop a commercial site there, said that the buffer of trees between the Ramsey House and the commercial site would remain, as would the wetlands there.

Fiona McAnally, former director of the Ramsey House, spoke against the rezoning and potential sale and asked for a postponement.

"Commercial zoning is out of character for the property," she said.

Elaine Clark, of the French-Broad Preservation Association cautioned against changing the history overlay

zoning of the area

Decker said that a family member of the prior owners of the Ramsey House who lives nearby was not opposed to the zoning.

The historic zoning officials reminded both sides that the matter must be approved by the County Commission and both can address the matter there.

Another historic building with new life coming to it also came before the historic zoning group.

The Burwell Building, next to the Tennessee Theater, is being repurposed as an Irish-theme pub called "Clancy's" and owner Art Clancy wants a sign on two sides of the structure at Gay Street and Clinch Avenue.

He's waited two months to get the Historic Zoning Commission to consider this sign but the staff report suggested against the design he wants. Clancy described his wishes and told them that the historic sides of the building would not be damaged and that much of the exterior details there were not historic or part of the original building.

He said he was also planning to refurbish five windows and add goose-neck lighting for the sign.

"We don't propose to drill or destroy" he said of the façade. He said that an awning and signs the commission's staff recommends would obscure the Tennessee Theater sign and reminded them that the regulations involving signs on historic buildings were "guidelines, not rules."

He also said he had the approval of a local home owners group, adding, "We just want an adequate sign."

Historic Zoning member Sean Bolen moved to accept Clancy's sign design but his motion received no second.

The commission passed an approval of two smaller signs and a vertical sign on the corner of the building, denying Clancy the sign he wanted.

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White Beats Orange 129-100, Vols Look Towards August 31st

By Alex Norman

The annual Orange & White Game is a time for optimism at Tennessee. And while many questions remain about the 2014 Tennessee Volunteers, at least for one day, the future looks bright.

The White (Offense) beat the Orange (Defense) 129-100, utilizing a scoring system few understand and even less care about,

in front of an announced crowd of more than 68,000 fans at Neyland Stadium on Saturday, April 12th.

"Well first of all, a very, very productive day for a number of reasons," said Tennessee head coach Butch Jones. "Thank you Vol nation. Every time we ask you to do something, you do respond and what a great, great day. A great environment. Great

illustration to our players of what they represent on a daily basis and also the excellence that is needed that needs to come from them."

Much of the crowd was interested in seeing what the early enrollees looked like on a big stage.

Josh Malone, a wide receiver from Station Camp HS in Gallatin, looked like a player that can contribute

immediately for the Vols. Malone caught six passes for 181 yards and three touchdowns, including a 79 yard catch and run for a score.

"Josh has been doing that all spring," said Jones. "Josh is a competitive young man and very, very talented, and you can see he adds a whole other dynamic to our offense. I said it in the offseason, we have

to be able to throw a five yard pass and turn it into a twenty yard gain. That was missing from our offense last year and we've really helped ourselves in recruiting. Still not there yet, but Josh has been an individual that right from practice one... he can be as good as he wants to be."

Malone isn't alone in being a newcomer that wowed UT fans. Running

back Jalen Hurd, from Beech Senior HS, has 66 rushing yards on 11 carries and a touchdown, and one catch for 27 yards.

"Jalen continues to progress," said Jones. "I thought he had some hard earned yards today. I thought he dropped his pad level, but him understanding too that football rewards those who

Continue on page 2

Panthers win thriller over Halls 3-2

By Ken Lay

The latest chapter in the Halls High-Powell High baseball rivalry went to the Panthers Thursday night at Danny T. Maples Field.

Powell (17-5 overall, 11-2 in District 3-AAA) notched a dramatic 3-2 walk-off victory over the Red Devils when Sam Braden delivered with the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Braden, Powell's leadoff hitter and senior right fielder hit a grounder to Halls second baseman Sam Killion. Killion attempted to gun down Klay Leeper at the plate but Leeper reached home safely to clinch a key win for the Panthers, who entered Thursday's game with a two-game lead over Karns in the district standings.

The Panthers defeated the Red Devils (10-12, 8-6) by playing small ball in the final inning. Leeper opened the frame with a single. Cameron Payne and Keegan Judd then reached on back-to-back bunts to load the bases before

Braden drove in the winning run to send the Powell fans home happy.

"Their kid [Halls left hander Bleu Butcher] threw a great game but I just sat back and waited for a fast ball and I was able to hit it," Braden said. "Keegan and Cameron did a good job getting those bunts down."

"This was really special. It's always good to beat Halls. I'm a senior and I've been in a bunch of these games."

The Panthers and Red Devils will conclude their season series today (April 21) at Halls at 5:30 p.m.

"We'll get a chance to see them again on Monday and every time we get together, it's almost always a good game regardless of the records," Halls coach Doug Polston said.

The Red Devils started fast Thursday night in the Emory Road rivalry. They got a pair of first-inning singles from Bryce Hodge and Clay Walker. But Powell ace Hagen Owenby got out of the jam when Zach Ross grounded out to end the



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Coming Home: Powell's Klay Leeper scores the winning run in the seventh inning of the Panthers' 3-2 victory while Halls catcher Zach Ross awaits a throw. Leeper's run enabled the Panthers to hold on to a two-game lead in District 3-AAA.

inning.

The Panthers tallied twice in the bottom of the frame. Braden led off with a double. He scored when Owenby reached on a two-base error.

Powell then took a 2-0

lead on an RBI groundout by catcher Tanner Latham.

Then Butcher, who hurled a complete game, and Owenby stole the show. Butcher gave up just four hits over the next four innings while Owenby was

masterful before exiting the game after four innings.

Owenby, who gave way to reliever Tanner Hill in the fifth, retired the last 10 Red Devils he faced and finished with five strikeouts.

Hill was just as dominate

early in his stint on the mound. He got Halls in order in the fifth before giving up a run in the sixth with two outs when Hodge reached on an error and scored on a single by Walker.

Continue on page 2



**Promises Made
 Promises Kept**

Jimmy "JJ" Jones
KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF



Lady Eagles break out of slump with win over Central

By Ken Lay

Gibbs High School softball coach Carol Mitchell finally saw the heart of her lineup break out of a long slump Wednesday night.

"The middle of our lineup has been in a slump that's lasted for games," Mitchell said after the Lady Eagles used a five-run fifth inning to defeat Central 7-3 in a District 3-AAA game at Gibbs High School. "It was good to see those girls break out of that."

The timing couldn't have been better for Gibbs (31-2 overall, 11-1 in the district).

The five-run outburst came shortly after Lady Bobcats' senior third baseman Courtney Styles blasted a two-run shot over the left field fence to give Central (11-8, 8-4) at 3-2 lead in the top of the frame.

"I feel like they responded the way that they were supposed to," Mitchell said. "You don't ever know how they're going to respond."

"You don't know whether they're going to give or if they're going to come back and score five runs."

On this night, the Lady

Eagles responded by mounting a two-out rally that plated five runs.

Cheyenne Boles had a scoring double to knot the contest 3-3 before a two-run double by Lexie Needham, the Lady Eagles' No. 6 hitter and left fielder, had a two-run double to give Gibbs the lead for good. The Lady Eagles then took advantage of a Central error to score another run. Holly Moyers then culminated the inning with a two-run single to provide the winning margin.

Gibbs took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second. The bottom third of the Lady Eagles' batting order was clutch with two outs in that frame.

That two-out rally started when catcher Sarah McFarland singled. She was replaced on the bases by courtesy runner Ashley Daniels, who scored when Moyers doubled. Moyers later scored when Anna Mershon, Gibbs High's No. 9 hitter, singled.

The Lady Bobcats answered in the top of the fourth. Bailee Compton drew a walk and later scored when Jordan Hansard reached on an error to make the score 2-1.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Gibbs catcher Sarah McFarland collides at the plate with Central first baseman Bailee Compton (4). Compton scored Central's first run of the game on the play. Gibbs would eventually prevail 7-3 Wednesday night.

Central claimed the lead in the top of the fifth, Gibbs pitcher Abby Hicks surrendered a leadoff walk to Brook Owen and then gave up a homer to Styles.

Hicks finished with 12 strikeouts but she walked

three and hit a batter.

"She threw a lot of pitches and went deep in a lot of counts but she made the pitches that she had to make," Mitchell said of Hicks.

Central missed a chance to come back in

the seventh. Owen had a one-out double in the frame but was erased when Maleah Hipsher rapped into a game-ending double play.

While Lady Bobcats' coach Leah Dailey was disappointed in the

loss, she applauded her squad's effort.

"We hung in there and I was proud of our girls," Dailey said. "I can't fault our effort."

"It was just the execution and our girls have the heart."

Panthers win thriller over Halls 3-2

Cont. from page 1

The Red Devils tied the game 2-2 in the top of the seventh without the benefit of a hit.

Andrew Sylvester started the rally with a one-out walk. Jacob Washam reached on an error and Hill hit Killion, the last batter he faced, to load the bases.

Matthew Fortner then entered to pitch and promptly plunked Halls pinch hitter Jonathan Wyrick. Sylvester scored the tying run on the play, setting the stage for Powell's dramatic win.

Panthers' coach Jay Scarbro was pleased with his team's win.

"I'm really proud of our kids," said Scarbro, who saw his team fall to Clinton 24 hours earlier. "The fact that this was a 3-2 game doesn't surprise me because the Halls-Powell rivalry is such a nasty rivalry. We always play tough games."

"We talked about that before the game in the locker room. The Halls-Powell rivalry has been nasty long before any of us ever got here."

Cont. from page 1

are in great shape... Jalen is going to be a special player for us."

Like last year, Tennessee will not enter fall camp naming a starting quarterback. Justin Worley, Nathan Peterman, Josh Dobbs and Riley Ferguson are all in the mix, and each had their moments during the Orange & White Game.

But Dobbs was the most impressive of the signal callers, throwing for 199 yards and three

touchdowns, and running for 59 yards and a touchdown.

"It was a good performance," said Dobbs. "I felt like I did a good job executing the plays... that is what I have been working on all spring. I have to make sure I continue to do that. Coach Jones always talks about consistency in performance. So not only me, but the entire offense had a good day as we have had all spring. It was just another great day to continue to build on our style of play and continue to

work on plays and execution."

The major concerns for the Vols heading into the 2014 season, and the opener on Sunday, August 31st against Utah State, are on the line of scrimmage. The offensive line has to be replaced from 2013, and the defensive line has depth issues.

The offensive line is a work in progress, while the defensive line will be bolstered with the addition of 18 more Vols this June. Some of those guys will only have a couple of

months in the program before they are playing important minutes for Tennessee.

The Vols are trying to return to their spot among the elite teams in the Southeastern Conference. The transition from Fulmer to Kiffin to Dooley and now Jones has been a rough one.

But just maybe, we are starting to see light during what have been dark days at Tennessee.

White Beats Orange 129-100, Vols Look Towards August 31st

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Classy Cuonzo finds 'peace of mind' in California

My first thought when I heard the breaking news: Is this a belated April Fool's joke?



By Steve Williams

I wish it had been, but this was real.

Cuonzo Martin had left the University of Tennessee men's basketball program to become head coach at California.

A little later, as I listened to the news and the reaction of the hosts and fans on a sports talk show, a clever producer began a new segment with bumper music containing lyrics from a Mamas and Papas' 1965 classic hit . . . "California dreamin' on such a winter's day."

Last Tuesday in Knoxville certainly felt like a winter's day, with freezing temperatures and spittin' snow. And while coaching

the California Bears might not exactly be Cuonzo's dream job, it became his ticket to "peace of mind."

When Martin made a return to Knoxville to say his good-byes to his team and others, he said the career move and new job had given him "peace of mind."

He said it had nothing to do with the petition.

He said it had nothing to do with money.

Cuonzo added he'd never had much money growing up in East St. Louis, but he got a lot of love.

Martin never got enough love from the Tennessee fan base.

Many UT fans instead longed for the return of former coach Bruce Pearl, who had guided the

Vols through their most successful six-year period in school history before being fired after getting in hot water with the NCAA.

With Martin's team sputtering and Pearl nearing the end of his three-year show cause, over 30,000 reportedly signed an on-line petition this past season stating they wanted Bruce back.

Auburn ended up hiring Pearl shortly after being eliminated from the SEC tournament.

The petition woke up a "hungry bear" but also gave the Tennessee program a "black eye" around the nation, said Martin, as the Vols finished the season strong and made it to the NCAA's Sweet Sixteen before losing 73-71 to Michigan.

In the end, Cuonzo became the coach who had to follow a tough act. I believe he

realized he was fighting a losing battle.

Tennessee, not long after its season ended, almost lost Martin to Marquette, but he withdrew his name from consideration, and longtime Duke assistant Steve Wojciechowski was named the Warriors' new coach.

Martin had a couple of meetings with UT Athletic Director Dave Hart on April 1 and UT fans who supported Martin were glad to hear him say, "Tennessee is where I want to be. That has never changed."

A new and improved contract, including a \$450,000 raise to \$1.8 million and a two-year extension, was drawn up but not yet signed by Martin.

A \$1 million buyout could have been a sticking point in the contract, particularly after Martin learned Jarnell Stokes, his best returning

player, was going to forgo his senior season to enter the NBA draft. Without Stokes, making it to the Dance next season would be difficult. And in this coaching day and age, a million dollar pink slip is not much.

Martin most likely knew a call also could be forthcoming from Cal, since the Pac 12 Conference member had first expressed an interest in him around the time his team had lost to top-ranked Florida in the SEC tourney semifinals.

The call came. The opportunity was too much to pass up. He believed it was best for him and his family.

Martin liked the idea of a more relaxed fan base, Berkeley's milder weather and the chance to coach at the top-rated public university in the country, plus a five-year contract.

It all added up to "peace

of mind." Hart said he understood why Martin left after the "tough year." Calling a 24-13 season that was a basket away from the Elite Eight a "tough year" was telling in itself.

Martin will be following another winning coach at Cal. But there's a big difference this time. Martin will be following in the footsteps of a retired winner instead of a winner on the rebound.

Mike Montgomery coached the past six seasons at California and has a career record of 677-317. Martin just has to carry the baton, instead of trying to carry on a program with a divided fan base.

Tennessee basketball will carry on too with a new coach. Hopefully, he will be as good a man as Cuonzo.

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do... Maybe... Cuonzo Martin Leaves Tennessee

By Alex Norman

The marriages that stay together for the good of the children are rarely actually good for the children. The husband and wife end up blaming the kids for their unhappiness and the children don't grow up in a stable environment.

The marriage of Cuonzo Martin and Tennessee was not a good one. His departure was inevitable... even if the circumstances caught just about everyone off-guard.

A rather cryptic email was sent to the media just after 1pm on Tuesday, April 15th stating the following: University of Tennessee vice chancellor and director of athletics Dave Hart will hold a media availability related to the men's basketball program at 2:30 p.m. ET today in the Ray Mears Room at Thompson-Boling Arena.

At first it was thought that details of Martin's new contract were going to be announced. He had reportedly interviewed

with Marquette, but on April 1st Martin said this in a statement release by the University of Tennessee's Sports Information Department: "Tennessee is where I want to be. That has never changed... I appreciate the unrivaled passion of this fanbase and feel the responsibility to make those fans proud. I also appreciate the commitment that the university and athletic department leadership have shown to this staff. I am excited about the future and remain honored to be the head basketball coach at Tennessee. Go Vols!"

A few minutes after the email went out, twitter was abuzz with reports that Martin was leaving Tennessee to become the new men's basketball coach at the University of California-Berkeley.

"I did not know Cuonzo was involved in the California job until this morning," said Hart at his press conference. "We did have a conversation,

he was very emotional, bottom line is he said in his heart he believed that that was best for he and his family."

Hart said that Martin was offered a \$500,000 raise and a two year contract extension, which would have put him at \$1.8 million per season. That would put him in the top half of SEC coaches, but still below the level many believe Martin deserves.

"In one man's opinion, I don't think Cuonzo's decision was driven by dollars or was driven by necessarily number of years. I don't know. It was a tough year," Hart said.

Martin, like many coaches, wants to operate his program in a bubble. He didn't want any outside distractions or responsibilities other than getting his players to perform at a high level on the court and in the classroom.

But at a place like Tennessee, that isn't good enough. Ask Jerry Green. Ask Buzz Peterson.

Ask Lane Kiffin. Ask Derek Dooley. None of those guys had much of a desire to rally fan support by speaking to the local civic club or ask students to show up and make their arena/stadium a true home court/field advantage.

Bruce Pearl got it... as does Butch Jones. When you are head coach of a revenue sport at Tennessee, you are paid a lot of money to do more than just run practice or call plays during a game.

At Berkeley, Martin won't have nearly the pressure to win or to connect with the community as he did in here in Knoxville. There will be no petition signed by 36,000 folks asking Mike Montgomery to return as coach at Cal if Martin struggles.

At his introductory press conference, Martin addressed the "Bring Back Bruce" petition. "One of things when you're a coach, you can't be consumed with things outside your periphery

and for me, I thought it was a great teaching point for our guys, because we always talked about having character and going through adversity and dealing with situations... I think what happened, was that young men became men in the process, because as a coach, you continue to lead through adversity and for me at the end, it didn't bother me and that it was a great teaching point for our players."

Martin went 63-41 in three seasons at

Tennessee, including one NCAA tournament appearance, which ended with a questionable charge call that might have put the Vols in the Elite Eight. Those are results that most Division I programs would trade for in a heartbeat.

But Martin didn't want to be here... and Tennessee didn't exactly shut down McGhee-Tyson to keep him here.

It was only a matter of time before this separation happened.

Color Me Rad 5k

It's not too late to sign up for the April 26 Color Me Rad 5K. A discount, good exercise, lots of colorful fun and donating to charity are all great reasons to take advantage of last minute registration.

Color Me Rad 5K will fill the streets of Knoxville with bursts of color on Saturday, April 26 at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium. The color bombs start flying at 9 a.m., with waves of color every five minutes after.

Registration is \$52. Register online at www.colormerad.com and use code CHILDREN5K to save \$10 and 15% of your registration fee will benefit Children's Hospital.

For more information, call the Children's Hospital Development Office at (865) 541-8244.

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Stinson now showcasing speed on the track



Central High senior Jajuan Stinson took first place in the 100-meter dash in the Tennessee Sea Ray Relays at UT's Tom Black Track.

By Steve Williams

Just like Jajuan Stinson when he's competing in the 100-meter dash, this year's Knoxville Interscholastic League Track and Field Meet is fast approaching.

The annual Knox County event will be held April 28th and 29th at Hardin Valley Academy. Field event finals and track event prelims are scheduled on the first day, with the track event finals to highlight the second night of action.

Stinson, a senior from Central High, currently owns this season's top time in the 100 for KIL sprinters, a wind-aided 10.78, according to Tennessee Runner, a MileSplit.us affiliate.

He posted that time when he took first place in the Tennessee Sea Ray Relays this spring.

Stinson was a standout running back for the Bobcats last fall and is an East Tennessee State University signee as the Buccaneers restart their football program.

"I ran into (ETSU) Coach (Carl) Torbush recently as he was a speaker at an athletics directors meeting I was attending in Murfreesboro," said Central High's J.D. Lambert. "He's very excited about having Jajuan and said he was getting a playmaker."

In other dash events, Farragut's Chase Biefeldt has the KIL's top time in the 200 with a 22.29 and Bearden's Chase Hilton is the leader in the 400 with a 49.99.

Hilton also is a standout in the 800-meter run with a KIL best time of 1:56.13. Bearden



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Bearden High's Lexus Norwood (left) competes in the 200-meter dash at this season's Tennessee Sea Ray Relays on UT's Tom Black Track. The Focus will spotlight KIL track and field individual girls leaders in its April 28 issue.

teammate Ty Chandler is the pacesetter in the 300 hurdles with a 41.74.

Hardin Valley's defending champion boys team is led by senior All-American Aaron Templeton, a Furman signee who has been clocked in 4:22.88 in the 1600 this season

and 9:09.05 in the 3200.

In addition to Templeton, the Hawks boast KIL leaders in Chris Thomas (15.41w in the 110 hurdles) and Weldon Wright in the long jump (21 feet, 8 inches) and triple jump (44-0.5w).

Field event leaders

also include West pole vaulter Hank Mary (14-6), Grace Christian Academy's Rhett Elwood in the discus (166-5) and Halls shot putter Cole Patterson (52-2).

Currently leading the way in the boys' relay events are Fulton (4x100),

Karns (4x200), CAK (4x400) and Hardin Valley (4x800 and 4x1600).

The Focus will spotlight KIL girls leaders in track and field in its April 28 issue.



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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Facts and Fancy

It's hard to be objective about yourself. This is why doctors and patients are advised to seek medical help rather than treat themselves. However, let's be honest: we all prescribe for ourselves for minor issues.

If my memory serves me correctly, I once wrote a story about the scientific method and how doctors think. The ancient Greeks were the first to apply observational reality. Instead of imagining the world around them as caused by magic or the intervention of gods, they applied careful observation and then used logic to discover how things work.

These days we are bombarded with information. Just recently a patient asked me about the latest diet advised by Dr. Oz. Another asked me if cinnamon would really cure

his diabetes as suggested by a commercial. And as I drove home to write this essay, an infomercial recommended "Dr. Block's Super Food," which is said to contain "50 different organic vegetables and fruits" all in a condensed capsule formulation which will restore vigor and promote weight loss. This particular product did not purport to improve a man's virility as so many others have.

I was sharing my own aches and pains recently with a patient and he recommended Mega Red joint care. He averred that it had really helped his joint pain. I told him that I was glad his knee pain was better, but the scientist in me was skeptical. I thought it was more likely that his weight loss had helped his knee pain.

It must have been a

weak moment or the rainy day that was making my knee pain worse, because I found myself in the nutraceutical section of my local drugstore. I was there to pick up a prescription, but as I waited I decided to look up the ingredients of Mega Red. Aside from the "proprietary ingredients," the formulation contained krill oil and hyaluronic acid, a constituent of cartilage. About a decade ago a flurry of medical papers extolled the virtues of chondroitin sulfate and glucosamine. Though later clinical studies cast doubt on the claims of the original findings.

Hyaluroic acid, chondroitin and glucosamine are all building blocks of the cartilage that covers the endplates of bones. Our earlobes are similarly made of cartilage, and it is easy to imagine how the spongy nature of this material cushions our knee joints. Cartilage is naturally smooth, and most of us have observed the smooth aspect of the head of a soup bone. It is known that degenerative arthritis (osteoarthritis) is caused, not by a bone abnormality, but by a deterioration of the cartilage that covers joints like the knee. The hypothesis was that by ingesting the building blocks of cartilage the

damage could be repaired and arthritic pain would decline.

It never made sense to me how you could swallow a pill of chondroitin/glucosamine or hyaluronic acid and have these substances find their way to a diseased knee. Nonetheless, early studies showed that those people taking significant doses of these formulations had less joint pain. It is interesting that similar proteins obtained from a rooster's comb and then injected into an arthritic joint improves pain, though recent studies have cast doubt on the effectiveness of these joint injections as well. Perhaps the injections work in a way similar to resurfacing a pock marked driveway. However, resurfacing cannot repair potholes!

These thoughts flashed through my mind as I studied the Mega Red formulation. I decided to run my own pseudo-scientific experiment using Becky and me as guinea pigs. Medical science works best with the results of prospective, randomized, double blinded, placebo-controlled medical studies. In this type of study design neither the patient nor the doctor knows who is taking the study drug or a placebo which is determined by random assignment. The

best I could manage was to quantitate our knee discomfort and then use Mega Red for several weeks before reevaluating the pain in our knees. We also plan a followup two-week trial without the nutraceutical. I've recommended this same internal study design for patients who want to try chondroitin/glucosamine. I would add one caveat to this protocol: count your pills when you come home from the drug store. Mega Red shorted us!

You may have heard of the recent sensational study from Northwestern University regarding regular or casual use of marijuana. The research study which appears in the Journal of Neuroscience showed that daily marijuana or even twice a month usage was associated with impairment of "working memory." This study used a sophisticated MRI brain scanning technique and showed that two areas in the brain associated with "emotions, making decisions, and motivation" were structurally abnormal in those who use marijuana. Furthermore, heavier usage of marijuana was associated with even greater abnormalities.

For me it is troubling that two states have legalized recreational use of

marijuana. There seems to be some scientific evidence for medicinal use of marijuana in association with cancer and possibly chronic pain syndromes. There are no studies that show the safety of recreational use of marijuana and it seems premature for our country to legalize this otherwise controlled substance. It troubles me to think or deeply inhaling any partially combusted (burned) plant fiber, since we know that inhaling tobacco smoke (another partially combusted plant leaf) is carcinogenic. And now science raises the specter that the use of marijuana causes structural abnormalities of the brain as well as memory problems and the so called amotivation syndrome.

A lot is said these days about athletes being role models. Given these new scientific findings, should our President (who was a heavy user of marijuana) and Eric Holder (head of the Justice Department) be supporting legalization of marijuana?

John Adams, another president of the United States, once said, "Facts are such troublesome things." Are you listening Mr. President?

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

Rural Metro trains with Jaws of Life



By Daniel Andrews

When traffic accidents trap victims in wrecks, every second counts. The speed at which rescuers can free people from crushed cars can mean the difference between life and death, which is why emergency responders need practice with vehicle extrication – or Jaws of Life – equipment. According to Rick Herrell, Assistant Chief of the Rural Metro Fire Department, one of the biggest challenges in carrying out this training is finding a sufficient number of vehicles for trainees to practice on.

In an effort to bridge the gap between needed

autos for training Pull-A-Part Auto LLC, donated cars, material, and manpower, so that local firefighters could get real life drill simulation in the use of such tools as the "Jaws of Life" and other auto rescue extrication tools. Steve Levetan the executive vice president of Pull-A-Part Auto stated "we are hosting training for first responders in this case Rural Metro and some other agencies that are with them as well. We are providing them an opportunity for them to use cars we are donating to them to practice extrication to get people out of the car.."

The training is

essential. Firefighters are required to be certified and must meet certain training criteria recognized by state insurance requirements. A major concern for rescue personal is the use of boron to protect drivers. This ultra strong metal makes the car safer by providing a "roll cage" environment which is similar to a Nascar vehicle. While the vehicle is safer, currently the "Jaws of Life" cannot cut through this metal. To address this situation rescuers use a trench cut. This makes the car look like it has a huge moon roof.

Training is universal

within the State of Tennessee. Each firefighter and rescue personal gets trained the same way, procedure, and process. This is to avoid confusion during mutual aid scenarios.

During the rescue drill it became very evident just how seriously each firefighter took this training. No mistakes, no jokes, and lots of questions were asked. They trained on multiple vehicles, using multiple scenarios, and are now prepared to save lives, thanks to the good corporate citizenship of Pull-A-Part Auto.

Rural Metro firefighters practice various methods of extraction in a training session last Thursday. Photo by Dan Andrews.

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Faith

The Empty Tomb

This past week we celebrated a holiday. As an American culture, we love Easter. With the arrival of spring, the scent of new life is in the air. It is a time for new clothes, a time for the family to gather for a special meal.



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

It is a time of coloring eggs and egg hunts. It is a time of baskets full of candy and pictures. But as Christians, we know it is so much more than all of that.

As recorded in Luke 24, on that Sunday morning after the death and burial of Jesus, four women who were followers of Christ went to the tomb. When they got there, the stone had been rolled away and two angels were there. In that moment, Christ's veiled teachings about his coming death and resurrection started making sense. But when they heard Jesus' words weeks and months before, it didn't make

sense to them. The ladies immediately reported back to the disciples what they have seen and heard and the disciples were in disbelief.

The disciples had seen Jesus bring other people back from the dead through His power, but this resurrection was different. They had seen Jesus die one of the most brutal deaths imaginable. They watched this horrific death first hand. A Roman centurion's responsibility was to ensure the death of the criminal before they came down from the cross. If not, the centurion's life was at stake. First, there had been the scourging. Only one-third of people survived a Roman scourging due to its brutality. Then, you had the nails in His wrist and feet. Just to be certain Jesus died, the centurion thrust a spear into the side of Jesus where blood and water

flowed out. He was as dead as you could be.

Strangely, the enemies of Jesus were on the lookout for a resurrection while the disciples were not. The enemies of Jesus thought ahead that His disciples might invent some kind of hoax to prove the resurrection by stealing the body. So they went to the trouble of asking Pilate to have a station of Roman

guards posted at the burial site. They sealed the tomb and anyone who opened it, it was their life.

Eight times in the gospels prior to it happening, Jesus predicted His own death. For a person to predict their own death and then rise from the dead, this had never happened before.

After hearing the testimony of the women, Peter decides

to investigate for himself. When he arrives to the empty tomb, he is amazed at what happened. Peter returns to tell everyone else. At this point, the disciples have not seen Jesus in the flesh yet, but by that evening Jesus appears to them in bodily form. What a moment this must have been. They think He is a ghost. Jesus proves He is not a ghost by eating

food and then He reminds them of what was promised and prophesied for hundreds of years. Jesus' death and resurrection was intentional and planned before the world began. Jesus declares that the empty tomb is a symbol of our resurrection. It happened once and it will happen again.

Church Happenings

Glenwood Baptist Church

Glenwood Baptist Church of Powell, 7212 Central Ave Pike, is accepting appointments for the John 5 Food Pantry. Call (865)938-2611 for more information.

Seymour United Methodist

There are no fellowship meals or small group studies scheduled for this Wednesday evening, April 23. They will resume on April 30 at 5:15 p.m.

Next Sunday, April 27, the series of "Confirmation Classes" for youth will start at 12:30 p.m. See Mario Kee for schedule, details and signups.

One week from next

Monday, the 11th annual golf tournament is scheduled for benefit of Camp Wesley Woods. Play will be at Green Meadows in Alcoa on April 28. Last week to organize your team for this fun and beneficiary fellowship event.

Wallace Marriage Night Out

Because having a great marriage can't wait, married and engaged couples of all ages are invited to Wallace Memorial Baptist Church for Married People Night Out. This is an event unlike anything you've done at church before. Join in an evening of laughter, desert, fun and conversation on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per couple and can be ordered online at WMBC.NET.

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Dear North Knox Community!

We are pleased to bring you the first annual Community Spring Carnival sponsored by the North Knox Lion's Club. All proceeds from this event will go back into the North Knoxville community!

Admission to this event is free! Tickets for rides can be purchased individually or an arm band can be purchased for \$20. PRE-SALE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY FOR \$15!!! Pick up locations for pre-sale tickets are as follows: The new Food City in Powell (7350 Emory Road); Computer Depot on Emory Road; First Century Bank on Emory Road; Enix Jewelers on Maynardville Pike and UT Federal Credit Union, Emory Road Branch.

***Additionally, the Powell High School Baseball team are also pre-selling tickets for this event, please contact Coach Jay Scarbro for tickets at: (865) 938-2171 ext 110.

For all other information in regards to the carnival please contact Kim Severance at: (865) 389-1504 or KSeverance@marchofdimes.com.

Dates Of Operation :

Wednesday, 4/30 from 5-10 pm	Thursday, 5/1 from 5-10 pm
Friday, 5/2 from 5-11 pm	Saturday, 5/3 from 1-11 pm
Sunday, 5/4 from 1-11 pm	

Location: Corner of Emory Rd and Blueberry Lane beside the Hardees near I-75

Ride Tickets: Rides can be purchased individually or an arm band can be purchased for \$20

PRE-SALE TICKETS: Sold in advance for \$15 each—they entitle the buyer to trade for a wrist band at the box office that will allow them to ride any ride all night long on Wed. or Thur.



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Rosie's World

Moving Day

Moving is no fun! What a chore! I cannot enumerate how many times I have moved in my life and I get a jealous feeling when people say, "I have lived in this house all my life"--or thirty, forty, or fifty years. I never could afford to have someone come and pack up everything, transport it to my new location and then unpack it. What a dream!

I am a collector. I have about one hundred and fifty bells to wrap in newspaper. Before DVD's, I collected videos. I have about a hundred of them. Thank goodness, they don't have to be wrapped. Now I have

about fifty DVD's. You never know how many "dust catchers" you can accumulate over the years. I collect refrigerator magnets which can be thrown in a box, lighthouses, butterflies, and oil lanterns, recipe books, and, of course, books--four bookcases full of them.

The first thing I look for in my new home is where the sun shines through my windows. This is important to me because I have a lot of indoor plants (and outdoor plants) and some like a lot of sunshine and others don't need as much. The morning sun wakes me in my bedroom and by noon it swings around to the living room. As the day ends, the

dining area and kitchen are aglow with the setting sun. It seems to me that most of my homes follow this route. I sometimes wonder if people building houses use the same blueprints.

Whenever you move the love of family and friends follow. If you move to a far-off place, then you will make new friends, which is something to look forward to. I hope and pray that I don't move again!

Thought for the day: Be the change that you wish to see in the world. Mahatma Gandhi

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

Want to hire a Goat?

By Mike Steely
Steelym@knoxfocus.com

Got a kudzu problem? Is the quick growing vine overtaking your trees and bushes? Want to get rid of the problem with a proven method?

Now, in Knox County, you can hire goats and watch them feast on the pesky vines. Under code changes you can now do so but your "goat" permit is only good for 60 days with some additional restrictions. You must measure, stake and fence the perimeter to prevent the goats from escaping; use them only to control kudzu; remove all goat droppings; prevent erosion; and remove the goats after the time expires.

In a brief meeting recently of the Knox County Codes Commission, several other changes were highlighted that were added from March, 2013 through January of this year. The code changes include hiring preference for military veterans, amending the zoning regulations to regulate electronic message center signs, and requiring servers and sellers of beer to acknowledge a form on criminal penalties on selling and serving beer to minors.

The code changes also included more exemptions for not-for-profit organizations, updating the non-discrimination policy for hiring county employees, and forbidding the sale of beer on-premise consumption within 300 feet of a home, school or church.

The code changes also exempt some persons from the regulations on peddlers, solicitors, street barkers and transient vendors. Those exempted from the ordinance were: persons selling wholesale to dealers, news agents, merchants delivering goods, persons selling agricultural products who produce the products themselves, and transient vendors operating at a location already certified for an exemption.

Additional code changes authorize the payment of unused sick leave to retiring county employees, established an "in-line of duty" disability benefit for eligible employees, and changes to the procurement code.

The meeting of the Code Commission is preparing to publish Supplement 11 of the Codes.

'A God-called leader must learn before he can lead'

"Take time to pray; study and meditate; crave the things of God." This is one of the key concepts in Dr. Mike Boyd's book, "Principles of Preaching, A Guidebook on Biblical Communication." While intended to "assist teachers and preachers in understanding and confirming God's calls on their lives," it is easy for others to navigate through the pages and be inspired. Key ideas, such as: "only God's Spirit can lead people," "the Holy Spirit does the work," and "the key to Biblical preaching is listening" are spread throughout the book. After hearing many of Dr. Boyd's



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

personal stories in his sermons, he may seem an unlikely person to author such a God-inspired book.

When I read that "even the best leaders have human elements," my first thought was about the personal stories Boyd has shared from the pulpit. As a ten-year-old child, he heard a grandmother on her deathbed tell him that she could see Jesus. His other grandmother believed in him when others did not and helped financially with his education. Now, this leader is paying it forward to help those who may not have had the opportunities he did.

Boyd has served in many

leadership roles, including past President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, Vice Chairman of the Trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Carson-Newman University. He has been involved in mission work with Tennessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief, International Missions, and North American Missions. Dr. Boyd has been accepted to do a PhD in World Christian Studies on Dr. Bill Wallace, the medical missionary beaten to death in a China prison and for whom Wallace Memorial is named. He oversees Mike Boyd Ministries, a non-profit corporation designed to facilitate missions and ministry in the future. He wrote "Principles of Preaching" even as he



Mike Boyd in the pulpit at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Photo provided by Wallace Memorial Baptist Church.

dealt with malaria, a disease he contracted while leading a team of Wallace Memorial ministers on a mission trip to Haiti to build homes. (To be continued.)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baccalaureate Service Planned for Central High School Class of 2014

Family, friends and members of the community are invited to attend the Baccalaureate Service to honor Central High School seniors. The service will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 4, at Central Baptist Church in Fountain City. Former principal, Danny Trent will be the guest speaker.

Halls Republican Club

The Halls Republican Club will meet on Monday, April 21, 2014. Fellowship and snacks will start at 6 p.m.; the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The Club will be meeting at the Boys & Girls Club of Halls/Powell located at 1819 Dry Gap Pike just off of E. Emory Rd. across from Brickley-McCloud Elementary School.

Guest speakers will be the candidates running for Criminal Court Clerk: Mike Hammond, Jason Hunnicutt and Steve Williams.

Healthy Choices

Healthy Choices, a plant-based Free Cooking Class, to help prevent/reverse some cancers, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, will conduct its final session for this year at the North Knoxville 7th-Day Adventist Church, 6530 Fountain City Road, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, in the church fellowship hall. Call (865)314-8204 or visit www.KnoxvilleInstep.com. Please pre-register to attend the dinner by Friday, May 9, to be assured of samples, meal service, and handouts.

Sevier County Lincoln Day Dinner

The Sevier County Republican Party will hold its Lincoln Day Dinner Thursday, May 1, with a reception beginning at 4 p.m. and a program at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be Michael Reagan, the eldest son of President Ronald Reagan. Call (865) 406-0165 to reserve your tickets. General admission tickets are \$60. The event will be held at the Music Road Hotel, 303 Henderson Chapel Road, Pigeon Forge.



From State Representative Harry Brooks

As I write this it is Thursday noon, and we have taken a brief recess. We anticipate that today will be our last day of session and that we will adjourn sometime later today. It has been a busy session, and all of us are looking forward to a time

of rest and relaxation with our families. In a previous article I mentioned I would keep you up to date on some bills which affect teachers and schools. This is a brief summary of some of the bills which passed through the Education Committee this year:

A bill was passed which prohibits the Department of Education from revoking or non-renewing an individual's license based on data from Tennessee value-added assessment system (TVAAS), some other comparable measure of student growth, or any other single criterion.

A second bill dealing with teachers' salaries says that the salary will be based on the individual teacher's years of service and educational training. This includes steps for each year of service up to 20 and for the attainment of

advanced degrees. The rule must be amended annually to update the schedule. An LEA may apply for a waiver from the state salary schedule, if it chooses to adopt one of its own. Present law requires the commissioner of education, as approved by the state board, to annually formulate a table of training and experience factors and a state salary schedule to be effective for each school year. However this bill requires that the State Board of Education, instead of the commissioner, formulate this table each year. Basically, the bill with amendments puts into code that a school system can continue to use the previous salary schedule.

Another bill guarantees K-12 teachers two and a half hours of individual planning time to be provided each week to teachers,

during which teachers shall have no assigned duties or responsibilities.

There was much discussion this session dealing with the common core standards. Yesterday the House overwhelmingly voted not to expand further implementation of common core and to continue for the next year with the current mode of testing (TCAP).

This is the last regular weekly article that I will be sending; however from time to time as something newsworthy develops I will keep you informed. I will not be in Nashville on a regular basis until session begins again next January. You can contact me through my Nashville office at (615)741-6879 or 1-800-449-8366x44556 or at my home (865)687-5987. It is an honor to serve as your Representative.

CLASSIFIEDS

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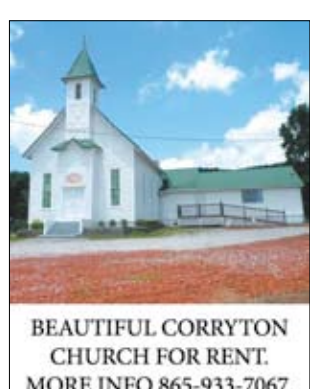
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1 tsp. Paprika
1 can (16 oz.) tomatoes
3 cups COOKED noodles
1 medium onion, chopped
¼ cup flour
Salt and pepper
1 c. sour cream

Chop onion, and add to a skillet, add ground beef, spices, and cook until meat is browned. Stir in flour, and mix until well blended. Add tomatoes and cook covered for 20 to 25 minutes, on med-low heat. Remove from heat and add sour cream, and stir until well blended. Pour over cooked noodles and serve.

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1 Knoxville in bloom

2014 Dogwood Edition | The Knoxville Focus

Bikes & Blooms

Bikes & Blooms, the “lean and green” way to explore the Dogwood Arts Festival’s annual Dogwood Trails is partnering with Outdoor KnoxFest for this year’s event which is scheduled April 26-27. Outdoor KnoxFest is two full days of urban adventure for everyone from outdoor enthusiasts to those who simply love to get outdoors and play.

This year’s Bike & Blooms bike tours will begin at the Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center at Volunteer Landing and each tour will be led by a member of Tennessee Valley Bikes. Each organized route consists of a seven to nine mile scenic bicycle ride that allows everyone to experience the beauty of East Tennessee while pedaling toward a healthy lifestyle. Helmets are required and young riders (age eight and above) must be skilled at on-road riding. Although the trail is open all day for bikers, the following organized routes will be available.

Saturday, April 26

Riders will enjoy river views and tranquil forests as they continue on the greenway to Ijams Nature Center before returning.

When: April 26 at 3 p.m.

Where: Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center [900 Volunteer Landing Lane]

Cost: Free, but pre-registration is required.

Register online at OutdoorKnoxville.com

Sunday, April 27

Leaving the Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center, riders will ride through downtown and loop through historic neighborhoods in North Knoxville.

When: April 27 at 3 p.m.

Where: Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center [900 Volunteer Landing Lane]

How much: Free, but pre-registration is required.

Register online at OutdoorKnoxville.com

Dogwood Arts to Transform Market Square with Art Festival

For three days in April, Market Square and surrounding blocks are transformed into a bustling street fair featuring local artists, live entertainment and performing arts, activities for children and delicious food vendors. New to this year’s lineup is a culinary demonstration by Melissa d’Arabian, host of Food Network’s Ten Dollar Dinners and The Picky Eaters Project [available online at foodnetwork.com].

There will be more than 70 local and regional juried artists exhibiting and selling their original work in mixed media, clay, drawing/pastels, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, painting, photography, sculpture, and wood. During the festival, attendees can take part in interactive demonstrations

including glass blowing, Raku firing, jewelry making, pastel painting, pottery throwing, and fine art painting.

Throughout the free event, live entertainment [full schedule below] will take to the Market Square stage, the pop-up stage on Union Ave. and the Krutch Park stage that is geared toward children. The Creation Station will also have entertaining family-style crafts activities throughout the festival for children of all ages and their families.

For adults, the festival is offering cooking demonstrations, festive food creations, delicious wine and beer pairings at the Culinary Arts stage. Blooming Boulevard returns to Market Square Art Fair providing unique colorful Flower

Markets filled with live blooming plants, herbs, flowers, and trees. With the Art Fair, Market Square’s identity as the city’s communal centerpiece carries on into the 21st century.

The Market Square Art Fair is sponsored by Avanti Savoia, Central Business Improvement District, Clayton Bank, Emerson Process Management, Home Federal Bank, Pattersons Home Appliances, Publix, Regions Bank, Ruffino, Samuel Adams, and Sharpie.

Where: Market Square, Downtown Knoxville
When: April 25-27
Time: Friday: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., and Sunday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Cost: Free

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Join the Knoxville Museum of Art for GLASSFEST14

The Knoxville Museum of Art invites the public to attend GLASSFEST14 at the Knoxville Museum of Art April 30-May 4, 2014.

Festivities for GLASSFEST14 include the Corning Museum of Glass Hot Glass Roadshow, a GLASSBLAST Street Party, and a GLASSFEST Family Fun Day.

The Hot Glass Roadshow, presented by the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY, will present live, hot glassblowing demonstrations for the public beginning Wednesday, April 30 through Sunday, May 4. The Roadshow uses unique glassmaking equipment to recreate a state-of-the-art studio environment. At venues around the world, the Corning Museum's gaffers demonstrate complex hot glassmaking techniques in front of live audiences.

Live glassmaking demos will be offered from 10am to 12noon and then again from 1pm to 4:45pm Wednesday through Sunday. All glassmaking performances are free for the public and all ages are welcome.

The GLASSBLAST Street Party will take place Friday, May 2 from

5 to 9 p.m. outside the KMA on World's Fair Park Drive. Cost is \$20 per person and includes live music by the Vibraslaps. The Corning Museum Hot Glass Roadshow will also be demonstrating during the Street Party. Food and beverages will be available for purchase from a variety of food and beverage trucks. Tickets may be purchased online at www.knoxart.org or at the gate.

GLASSFEST Family Fun Day is FREE and will cap off the weekend's festivities Sunday, May 4 from 2 to 5 p.m. A KMA members-only brunch will be held from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., prior to opening to the public. This Family Fun Day will be filled with activities for children of all ages with a juggling, fire eating show by performer Mark Lippard, the musical sounds of the Northshore Band, dance performances by Ballet Gloria, face painting, balloon twisting, and caricature drawings. Door prizes will be given throughout the day and food and drinks will be for sale by various food trucks. Family Fun Day is free due to the generous sponsorship of Amica Insurance and First Tennessee Foundation.




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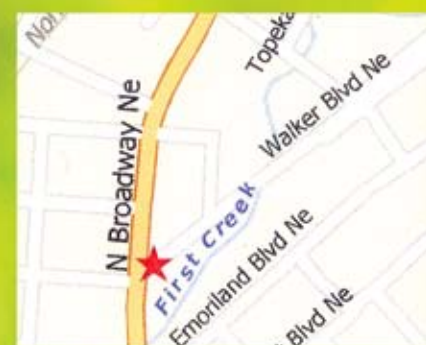
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Lakemoor Hills [Loudon Lake] Dogwood Trail

Welcome to the Lakemoor Hills [Loudon Lake] Dogwood Trail, which begins in a high wooded area where native white dogwood trees abound, and wold redbuds spread pink parasols above the garden plantings!

After winding uphill and down, Timberlake Drive slopes sharply to the level of Fort Loudon Lake. During this descent, look straight ahead for the first view of the shining lake and the distant misty mountains.

At the bottom of the hill, turn right onto Maloney Road, named

for an earlier settler, James Maloney, who built his log cabin beside this little inlet. His great-grandson, General James Maloney, was a prime mover in establishing the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Most of the handsome homes on the Loudon Lake Trail are relatively new, but the large white farmhouse on the right ahead, is an exception. It was built in the 1890's.

Leaving Maloney Road, the trail rises to circle the center-strip of Bluff Point Drive. At #3529, look for the dogwood tree

growing through the roof of the porch!

Another right turn from Maloney Road leads past a Victorian summerhouse and a rustic split-rail fence to a natural sunken rock garden in a shady area replete with wildflowers.

A right turn onto Blow Drive brings the trail out on a high overlook, with vistas of the Sequoyah Hills Dogwood Trail upstream, and the Westmoreland Dogwood Trail directly across the lake. The large building on the opposite bluff is Cherokee Country Club, seen from the rear.

Turn left on Manor Drive beside the grounds of Dogwood Manor, a Greek Revival mansion with a fascinating history. The house was built about 1830 in Tazewell, Tennessee – more than

fifty miles from Knoxville – where it survived the Civil War Battle of Tazewell. Almost a century later, when a new highway threatened its destruction, it was moved to this location, brick by numbered brick.

In the small private cemetery, on the left, is the grave of a Revolutionary War soldier who was probably the first white settler in the area covered by the Loudon Lake Dogwood Trail. North Carolina paid its Revolutionary Militia in “land warrants” good for tracts of wilderness land west of the mountains in what is now the State of Tennessee. Chances are, Private Wells received this acreage as his land grant.

After circling down to the very water's edge, the trail returns along

Maloney Road. The buildings on the opposite bank are part of the state's Lakeshore Mental Health Institute.

Beyond a stretch of handsome homes surrounded by flowering trees and masses of spring-blooming bulbs, Fort Loudon Lake widens into a mirror that reflects its wooded shores. Ahead on the skyline rises the majestic Great Smoky Mountains.

Fort Loudon Lake is one of the “Great Lakes of the South” created by TVA for hydroelectric power production and flood control. A series of mainstream dams and locks on the Tennessee River has made possible a 9-foot shipping channel that links Knoxville to the Gulf of Mexico. Pleasure craft of all sorts and sizes cruise the TVA lakes, and there is something unique about the boathouses that shelter them. Each lake's water level is controlled by a downstream dam, and the water may rise or fall several feet in a matter of hours. For this reason, boathouses on the lake shores cannot be stationary; they must be supported

on air filled buoys.

Just past a little inlet, on the right, a small marina offers a glimpse of these unusual floating boathouses.

The Spacious and comfortable white house on the right is typical of East Tennessee's nineteenth century farmhouses. It stands at the edge of an agricultural experiment station belonging to the University of Tennessee. The tall windmill just visible on the right ahead was a gift from the Australian Pavilion at Knoxville's 1982 World's Fair. It now is part of the University's solar housing experiment.

The Lakemoor Hills [Loudon Lake] Dogwood Trail ends at the busy Alcoa Highway, and downtown Knoxville is to the left. For safety's sake, please turn right, and make a left turn at the next cross-over lane.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to the Lakemoor Hills [Loudon Lake] Trail where lake and mountains meet!

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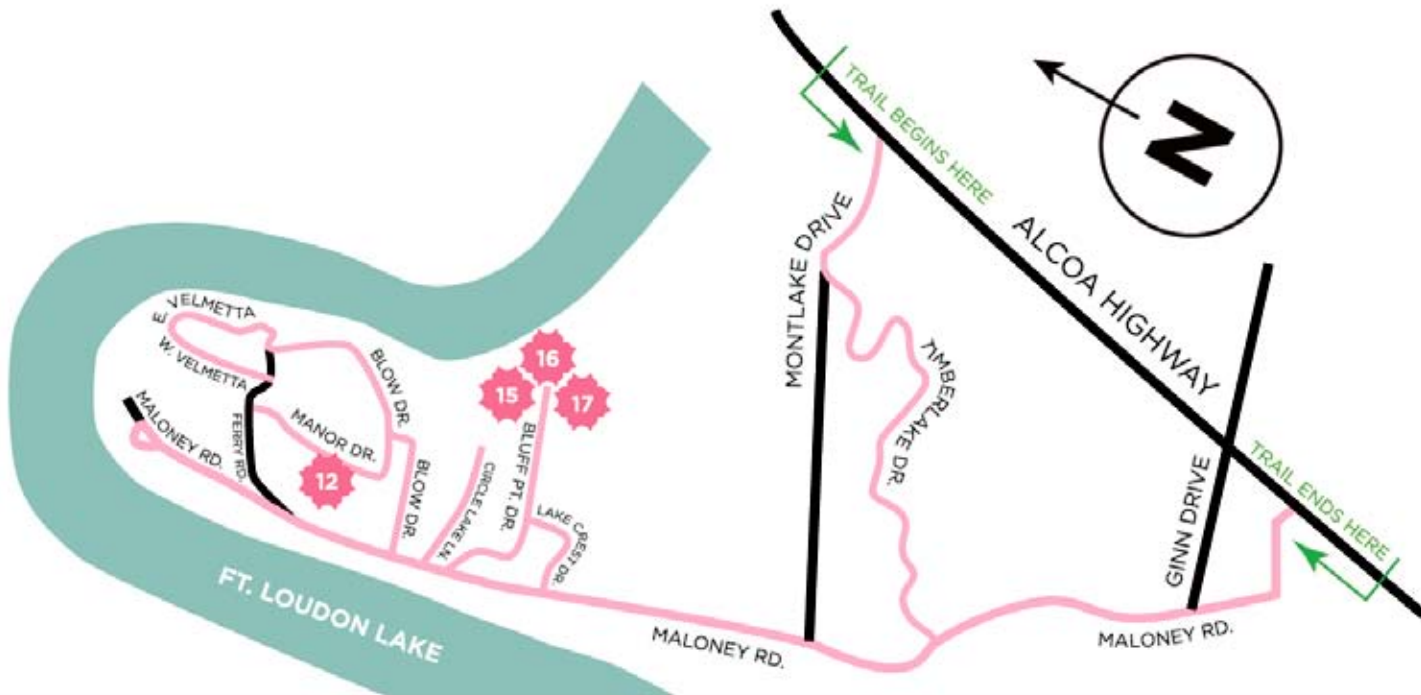
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E6 Chapman Highway Dogwood Trail

Welcome to the Chapman Highway Dogwood Trail, in an area where wild redbud trees vie with the dogwood in beauty. This trail is a two-part story.

The first section is noteworthy for rock gardens bright with candytuft, tulips, and creeping phlox in Redbud-red, pale pink, hyacinth blue, and white. Dogwood branches almost meet overhead as the trail dips down West Redbud Drive. Then in shady hollows, wild blue phlox and trillium decorate the roadside – this portion of the trail is a favorite with

those who like its feeling of privacy and seclusion. At street intersections, it is possible to look down on drifts of wild dogwood trees whose massed blooms turn the hillside white.

Not all lakes in the Knoxville area were created by TVA. On the right is one wing of the natural spring-fed Butterfly Lake where ducks swim and tall weeping willows are reflected in the quiet water; you will come to a stoplight. THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE TRAIL, but the light will help you cross busy Chapman Highway and you

will see the other wing of Butterfly Lake.

Cross Chapman Highway to Lake Forest Road; a white dogwood blossom painted on the pavement marks the entrance to the second half of the Trail

When you turn onto Centerwood, behind the third house on the right relatives of Sam Houston are buried in the little graveyard. Sam Houston lived near here in his youth and was Governor of Tennessee before he moved to Texas. The trail wanders uphill and down. While making a sharp hairpin-turn, look left and

upward to brick walls and terraces shaded by red, pink, and white dogwoods and outlined with flowering shrubs. Then beyond stone retaining walls topped with tulips, candytuft and phlox is a short steep climb; to the left and right hillside gardens show the subtler colors of shade-loving plants. As you follow this section of the street you will wind your way back to Chapman Highway. Turning right on Chapman you will pass the entrance of the trail on the left on your way back to Knoxville.

Vestival brings mix of music and arts to South Knoxville

The 14th annual Vestival, South Knoxville's Art & Heritage Festival, will be held Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the grounds of the historic Candoro Marble Factory showroom in the Vestal neighborhood of South Knoxville. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This year, guests are invited to park and ride to Vestival on free shuttles provided by the South Knoxville Alliance. Shuttles will pick up festival attendees from the Disc Exchange parking lot on Chapman Highway and the site of the former Big Lots on Moody Avenue. Limited parking is still available within walking distance of the Vestival site. The section of Maryville Pike that runs next to the Vestival site will be closed to traffic from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. that day.

Musical performers at Vestival 2014 are Tim Lee 3, RB Morris, Sidecar Symposium, Cereus Bright, Marble City Opera, Carpetbag Theatre, Jamie Cook, Four Leaf Peat, Jon Whitlock Trio, The Jank, Pamela Klicka Jazz Trio, and The Knoxville Ramblers.

Additional performers on the grassy stage include Circle Modern Dance and Dragonfly Aerial Arts.

Festival attendees can shop among a variety of vendors for local arts and crafts, plants, food items, jewelry, as well as get information from community groups and nearby businesses.

Vestival tradition continues with the Mothers Day Brunch, free for mothers, at 11 a.m.

Vestival seeks volunteers to help staff the entrance gates. To sign up or get more information, please contact Trudy Monaco at (865)384-1273 or email candoromarble@yahoo.com. For more information, visit CandoroMarble.org.

Legend of the Dogwood

As a child I heard this tale, Long ago during the days that Jesus was here on earth in the form of man there were many dogwood trees. The dogwood was comparable in size to the oak tree and other monarchs of the forest.

Because of its firmness and strength it was selected as the timber for the cross, but to be put to such a cruel use greatly distressed the tree.

Sensing this, the crucified Jesus in his gentle pity for the sorrow and suffering of all said to it: "Because of your sorrow and pity for My sufferings, never again will the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth it will be slender, bent and twisted and its blossoms will be in the form of a cross two long and two short petals.

"In the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints brown with rust and stained with red and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see this will remember." ~ Author Unknown

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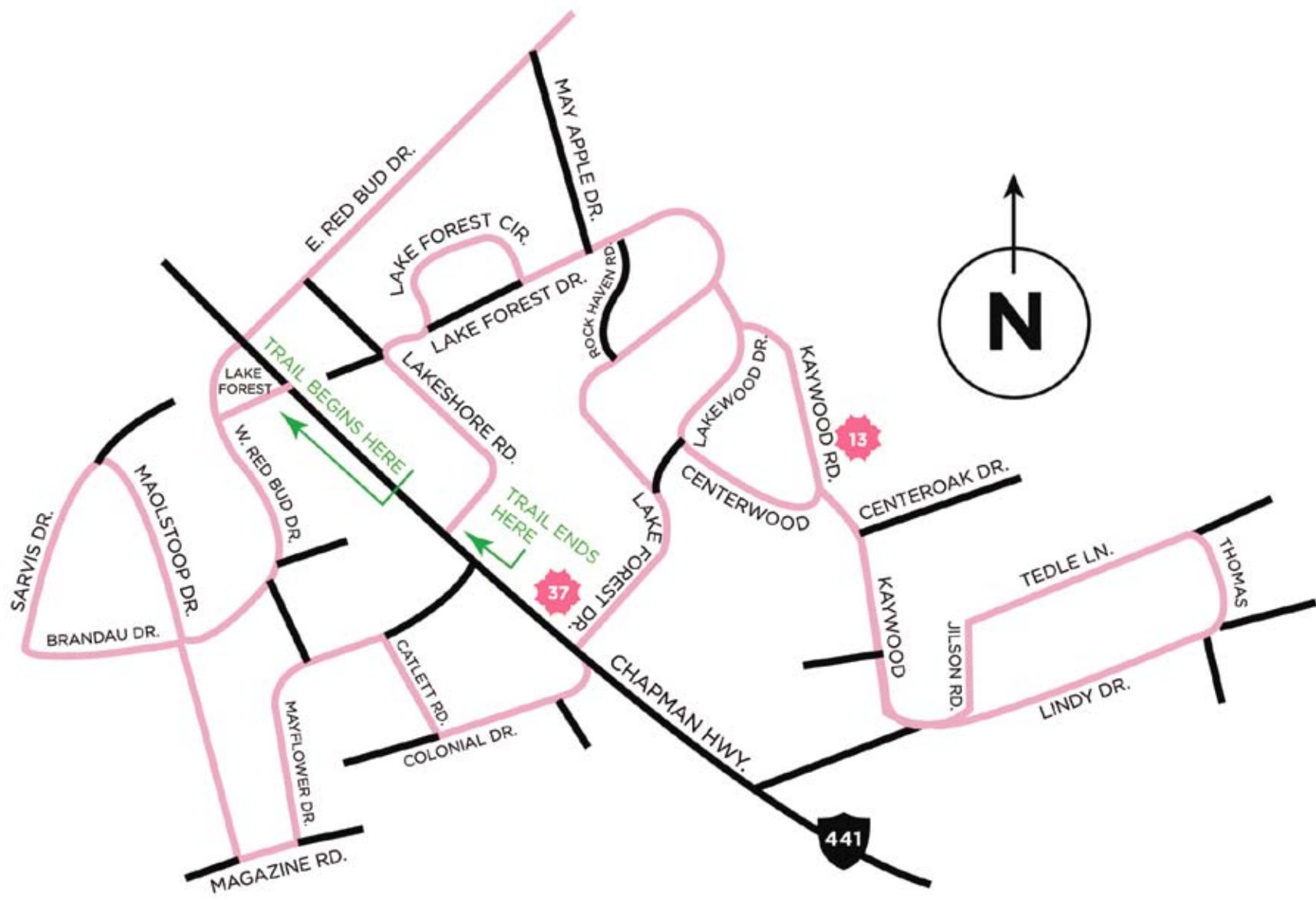
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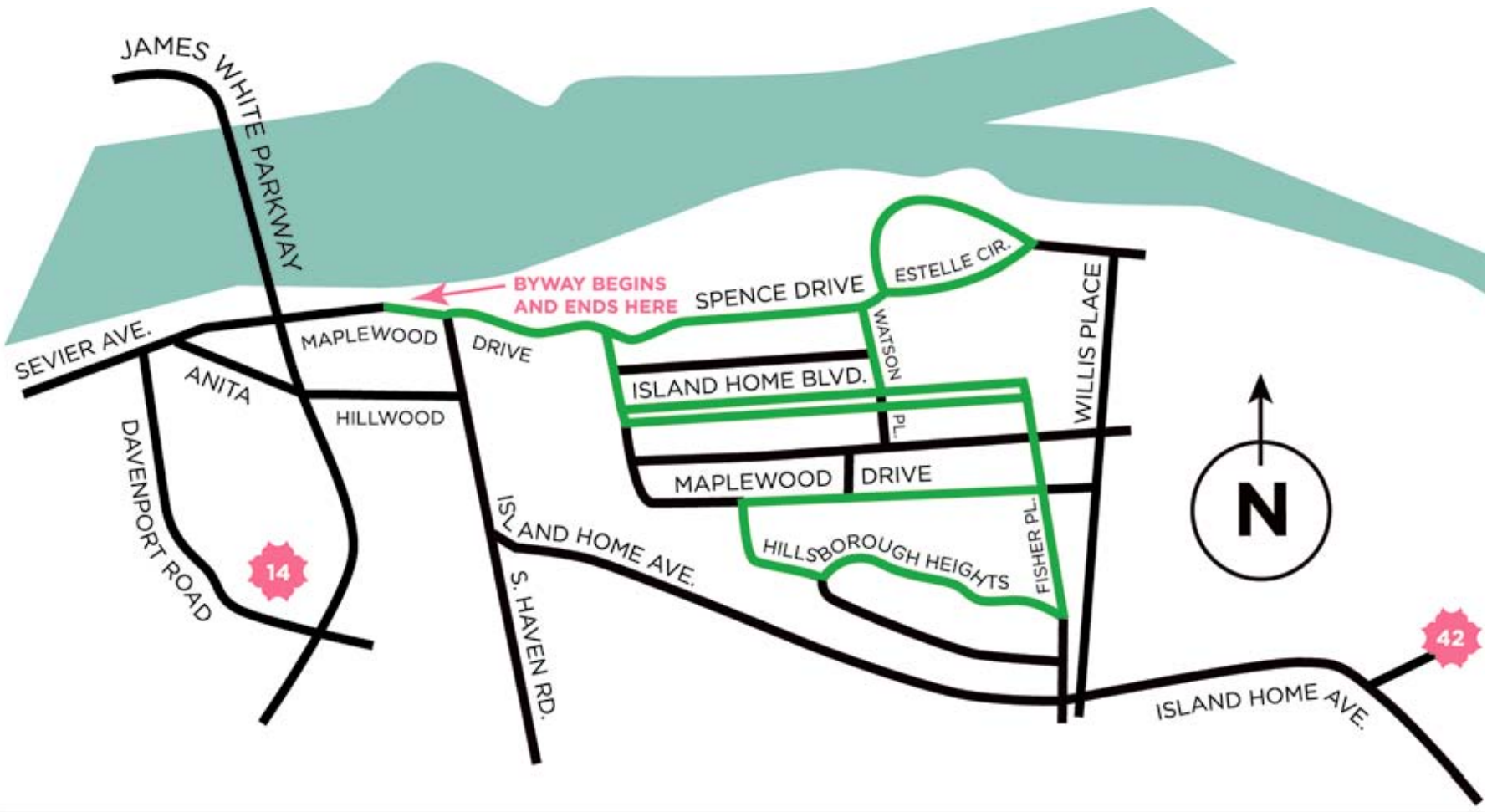
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