

Smokies win, Seymour fifth graders rewarded on 'Kids' Day'



School Board budget may not get approved

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

A combined meeting of the Knox County Commission and Board of Education Tuesday night at Ijam's Nature Center saw the school board continuing to push for additional funding. Commission, for the most part, agreed that teachers need a pay raise but reflected County Mayor Tim Burchett's promise of no new taxes and no commission funding of a raise.

Hosted by Commission Chairman Brad Anders and School Board Chairperson Lynne Fugate, the meeting saw a wide ranging discussion. Also attending the meeting as observers were several recently elected office holders, including Amber Rountree.

"This is what we said we wanted in our retreat," Fugate said, with the idea of the two bodies meeting before the commission votes on the county budget.

Anders said the commission has raised per-pupil spending over the last several years but added, "We feel a little under the gun."

"I don't think we'd be having this (meeting) if the BEP money was there," he said. BEP funding comes from the state and has been cut back this year. BEP is the state's Basic Education Program that returns money to counties for school use, but was cut back for 2015. The school system seems to be asking the county commission to make up the difference and, within that, allot enough money for teacher raises. Mayor Burchett's budget calls for no pay increase for county employees, including teachers, in order not to raise property taxes.

"The public asks how much more does the school system need and when do we stop?" he said.

"I don't know if there's a magic number," Fugate said, adding "We just want to be the best school system in the Southeast."

Third District school board member Doug Harris handed out a per-pupil expenditure chart indicating that the county spends less that the Tennessee average and less per student than Roane and Sevier Counties and the cities of Lenoir City, Clinton or Marvville.

Over the next five years the school board wants about \$30 million in additional money with half of it pledged for teacher pay raises. Anders said that over the past five years the commission has raised per-pu-

Seymour Intermediate School fifth-grade students try to persuade T-shirts to be tossed their way during Safe Kids Health Awareness Day last Thursday afternoon at Smokies Park.

By Steve Williams

Smokies and some 200 fifth graders from Seymour Intermediate School were winners last Thursday.

The 11 classes of students were treated to a field trip to Smokies Park in Kodak – a reward for successfully completing a D.A.R.E. program at their school - and got to see Southern League baseball this year. victory over the Mobile Bay-

Both the Tennessee boosting total attendance build a 5-1 lead in the first to 4,544.

days in Knoxville and Bill Meyer Stadium," said Smokies president Doug Kirchhofer, noting Smokies Park had hosted Kid's SL record. Day events each season it had been open since 2000. School kids from "eight to 10 different counties on before in a 17-7 win over Wolfenbarger, one of Seymost of the Smokies' 6-5 three days" have attended Tennessee.

counties were on hand, the field, saw the Smokies singled in Stephen Bruno two innings. They also saw "This goes back to the some history being made as BayBears first baseman Jon Griffin slugged his fifth straight home run in the second inning to set a new

> Griffin had tied a 45-yearold league record with four

for the winning run.

D.A.R.E. - which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education - is a worldwide program that started in 1983.

"It's a fifth-grade program. Our resource officer at our school, David Lamon, runs our D.A.R.E. straight homers the night program," said Tracy mour's fifth-grade teach-Having to leave the ball- ers, as the game was being "It's sponsored by Chil- park at 1:30 to get back in played. "He came once a dren's Hospital," added time for school dismissal, week for about an hour for 10 weeks.

Bears.

also took part in fun and educational pregame activities in the third and final ments." Safe Kids Health Awareness Day of the season. which occupied 16 rows Tennessee kept the game Other schools from Ander- behind the Mobile dugout from going extra innings

The Seymour students Kirchhofer. "We also get Seymour students missed a lot of support from area an exciting end to the game, police and fire depart-

son, Cocke and Sevier on the third base side of when catcher Charlie Cutler

as Mobile rallied for three runs in the top of the ninth The Seymour group, to tie the score, 5-5, but

"It mainly focuses on drugs and alcohol, but it also now goes into making smart choices and promotes a healthy lifestyle."

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pil spending every year.

The BOE is pushing the commission to not only approve Superintendant McIntyre's budget request but make up the \$2.5 million decrease from the state. The only way for that to happen would be for the county to raise sales or property taxes.

Commissioner Richard Briggs said that two-thirds

Commission quizzes McIntyre

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission's Work Session last Monday quickly turned into a cross-examination of Superintendent James McIntyre. Although the commissioners would meet with the school board the next evening at Ijam's Nature Center to talk about the budget, two of the agenda's eleven "consent" items requested by the Knox County School System were pulled back for discussion instead of being automatically approved.

Commissioner Mike Brown

tracts with NCS Pearson, Inc. and Renaissance Learning, Inc. to provide web-based assessment, monitoring and management for instruction and intervention of students. Brown asked McIntyre to explain the request.

the state requires the system to supply academic intervention to students having difficulty with subjects. Brown then asked why the system needs to spend money and go outside the system to see if a child can read.

"That should be a teacher's job

questioned the proposed con- to do that," Brown said.

Brown also asked why eleven tests that are administered by the Knox County School System are not required by the state. He referred to the list of tests published last week by The Knoxville Focus in an op-ed piece by Superintendent McIntyre said Sally Absher based on information from the Knox County School System Elementary Testing Information for the 2013-2014 School Year. McIntyre questioned the source of the information and Brown said that "KCS" referred to the local school system.

proposed additional 11 tests that teacher pay raises are not not required by the state would cost

"There's a per-unit cost that's in the contract for each of these," McIntyre said, adding "There are resources to support some of these in our grant dollars, but it's in the neighborhood of a couple hundred thousand dollars."

"How about a million and a half?" Brown asked and McIntyre replied, "It depends on the level of services."

"A million and a half, that's half of what you need for teach-Then Brown asked what the er raises," Brown said. He added

entirely the reason for the recent protests.

"They are upset because of the crap they have to go through just to try to teach," Brown said.

"Is it true that you have hired 65 new supervisors?" Brown asked.

"No sir, I'm not aware of that. Within what time frame?" the superintendent responded.

The question went unanswered and McIntyre asked what Brown was looking at and Brown said was looking at a chart from the

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PAGE A2 The Knoxville FOCUS TCAP Score Fiasco, TDOE Style

Teachers learned last Tuesday, the day before the final day of school, that the "TCAP Quick Score" results would not be released in time to incorporate the results

the semester. TCAP scores for students in grades 3 -8 were supposed to be released in time for the results to be incorporated into final grades. Under RTTT, TCAP scores count towards 15-20% of the second semester grade.

The Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) is in charge of the TCAP assessment. According to a memo sent to testing directors by Erin O'Hara, for Data & Research at the

allow a statistical analysis (" post equating") of the results. According to O'Hara, the state "narrowed

By Sally Absher sallyabsher@gmail.com

inate focus on into student grades for school performance indexes that are not aligned to state standards...Post equating compares the performance of test items on this year's assessment to those of last year and requires a large stratified sample of responses from students statewide."

our

assess-

ments this year

in order to elim-

"Post-equating allows the department, our psychometric staff, and our Technical Advisory Committee to review the data more thoroughly before Assistant Commissioner finalizing quick scores and given the number of TDOE, the release of Quick changes made this year, Scores is being delayed to we want to do this before

releasing scores."

Knox County joined other school districts across the state to request a one-time waiver for including TCAP scores in student grades for the second semester. Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman granted the waiver, but not in time to send the report cards home with the students on the last day of school. They will be mailed the week of May 26.

The waiver resolved the issue of what to do about end of the semester grades, but raises new issues. Weeks of classroom time were spent preparing for the TCAP. Reams of paper were used for practice tests. Students across the state were stressed out, to the point of illness, over these high-stakes tests. Some students needed those scores to increase their grades. How is this fair to

them? The TDOE decided that the data is more important than your child's grade.

High stakes assessments are not about your child's education. TCAPs and other high stakes assessments are more about teacher evaluation than student assessment. With the implementation of the TEAM evaluation model and the required use of TCAP/TVASS scores as 35% of teacher evaluation, it became necessary to include TCAP scores as part of student grades.

The TCAP debacle represents mismanagement and incompetence on the part of Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman. He's had all year to make sure this worked. Apparently, the state can make a decision to opt your kids out of TCAPs, but you as parents can't.

Rogero's tax increase may pass

By Mike Steelv steelym@knoxfocus.com

Judging from the "nose count" conducted after a day-long City budget hearing, it appears that Mayor Madeline Rogero's increased budget proposal and property tax increase may pass. The city council meets again Tuesday evening to vote on the \$200.5 million proposal, a 9.5% increase funded by a 34 cent increase per \$100 in property assessment taxes, or \$2.73 per \$100.

Judging from the discussion following the long meeting, if the vote were held then, the budget would pass 5-3. Councilman Mark Campen was absent yet even if he should vote against it Tuesday it would still pass. Two councilmen said they would wait until Tuesday to indicate how they would vote, but from past comments one would oppose the increase and one would vote in favor.

Mayor Nick Pavlis called the budget proposal. it, took place after only one person appeared for increase is unavoidable" public forum. Earlier in the but suggested an addiday the council heard from department after departand requests.

with Marshall Stair guestioning the funding of the 202 program. \$90,000 is in the proposal to the Community Improvement Funds (202) and Daniel Brown said the funding should remain. A nose-count, non-binding, by Pavlis who chaired the meeting, found 6 in favor of stopping the funding.

Vivian Underwood Shipe, the only speaker at public forum, lambasted the council for the idea of cutting the 202 funds. "Some neighborhoods need it," she said.

Councilmen George Wallace, Nick Della Volpe, and Marshall Stair looked for ways to cut the proposed budget, by department or line-item but were told they could not line-item any project and, if they cut the proposal, it had to be by a department's total request.

Della Volpe said, "we should try to live within our The brief discussion, means," adding "we have or "nose count" as Vice- frills in here," speaking of



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Vice-Mayor Nick Pavlis

past years.

"The City has a great opportunity to move forward," he said.

Pavlis reminded the council that it has been 10 years since a city tax increase.

"Look at where we've come...look at what we've been able to do," he said, asking the council not to "walk away from that investment."

Brenda Palmer said that until Tuesday," Stair she will also support the budget proposal, saying Della Volpe said that that low income folks and

Focus on the Law Orders of protection

By Sharon

Frankenberg,

Attorney at Law

An Order of Protection is a legal document signed by a judge that helps protect you from domestic violence. To qualify to obtain an Order of Protection you must have at least one of several particular types

abuser. You may be current or former spouses, have lived together, have dated or had a sexual relationship, be related by blood, adoption or marriage. No specific relationship is required if you have been the victim of a sexual assault or stalking.

There are three kinds of Orders of Protection: No Contact, No Contact with Communication and Social Contact. The first two types do not permit any physical contact between victim and abuser. The last type merely prohibits the abuser from hurting, attempting to hurt or threatening to harm to the victim. The Order of Protection can also designate who lives in the home, award custody and visitation of children and/or pets, require payment of spousal support and/or child support and require the abuser to attend counseling for domestic violence.

You do not have to have a lawyer to get an Order of Protection but a petition for an Ex Parte Order of Protection must be filed with the court in your county. This is called an "Ex Parte" order because initially only one party appears before the judge. The Ex Parte Order is only temporary until a full hearing may be had with both parties having the opportunity to be heard. You will need to fill out of protection or not.

a form describing the abuse. You must be prepared to tell when, where and what happened. You will need to give specific examples of why you were in fear and how you were hurt. This form is

available at both of relationships with your the Family Justice Center (400 Harriet Tubman Street, Knoxville, TN 37915 ph. 521-6336) and the Fourth Circuit Court Clerk (City-County Bldg. , Main Floor, 400 Main Ave., Knoxville, TN 37902 ph. 215-2404). The Chancery Court also has jurisdiction to issue Orders of Protection. When your papers have been filled out, the clerk will tell you when you can see a judge about issuing the Order of Protection.

In addition, almost every Thursday morning, Fourth Circuit Court in Knox County has hearings on Orders of Protection. Fourth Circuit Court is located on the main floor of the City-County Building. Attorneys with Legal Aid of East Tennessee, volunteer attorneys and advocates from the YWCA help victims of domestic violence file the necessary paperwork and complete the court hearings needed to obtain an order of protection. They can also help with pursuing punishment of the abuser if he or she is violating the order of protection. Violations must be reported to the court by filing a violation petition.

Violations of Orders of Protection are punishable by jail time as well as fines. Remember if you are in immediate danger call 911, whether you have an order

Smokies win, Seymour fifth graders rewarded on 'Kids' Day'

Cont. from page 1

Seymour students arrived essay," said Brenda Mize, at Smokies Park around his teacher. 9:30 a.m. Sevier County

"He wrote a fabulous

"It was a very mature K-9 officers brought two of essay, very well thought

May 27, 2014

Wallace said "some tax tional 20 cents rather than 34 cents per 100. He said ment about their needs the council should look for opportunities within the The discussion began budget proposal but added

B

a tax increase may be the elderly might qualify needed but there is "An for property tax relief. She advantage to an overall cut and let the managers live in a safe city." manage."

"It's not up to us to tell the

administration where the

Stair, who said the

increase contribution by

the city to the pension

fund concerns him, was

noncommittal about his

upcoming vote, although

he said recently that he

that will define this council.

That's what drives this for

me. I'm going to chew on

said.

"Pensions are the issue

opposes a tax increase.

cuts should be."

the budget," said Duane the best for our city. He Grieve, pointing to improvements in the city over the off and basic services will

said "We're all looking to

Dan Brown said the "I'm going to support council is "charged to do said no one was being laid be provided, adding that increasing taxes "some things are almost inevitable."

Brown then said he would defer until the Tuesday vote before stating his position.

Della Volpe ended the discussion by saying he doesn't think it's too late to discuss the budget and "We are working in the way the charter is set up."

"There are thing we don't absolutely need right now," he said.

their dogs for kids to see. There were races to put on life jackets, and practice to "stop, drop and roll" in case you ever catch on fire.

A sack lunch and drink stood out when I read it." were provided.

"They have to earn this field trip," pointed out one Seymour teacher. "They have to write an essay about what they've learned in those 10 lessons."

To "graduate" from the D.A.R.E program, said Lamon, in his 23rd year with the Sevier County Sheriff's Department, a student had to do three from drugs, tobacco and things in all – "participate in class, conduct themselves in a mature fifthgrade manner – basically stay out of trouble – and write the essay."

Evan Payne, whose essay was judged No. 1, of course was on the field trip.

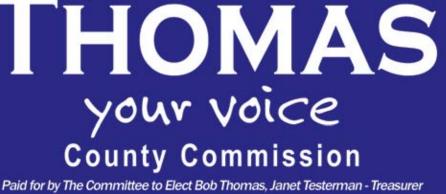
out," added Lamon, who said he read all 210 essays, selected the best ones and passed them on for further judging by others. "Evan's

Evan emphasized "D.D.M., the D.A.R.E. decision-making model, a guideline to figure out the best solution."

The D.A.R.E. model has four steps - Define, Assess, Respond and Evaluate, explained Lamon, who is in his 12th year as SRO at Seymour Intermediate.

"I learned to stay away smoking and other stuff like that," said Evan.

By winning the essay contest, Evan also got to "adopt" Daren, the D.A.R.E. mascot, a stuffed 31/2 year old African Lion, which Lamon had brought to each of the classes.





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Publisher	Steve Hunley
Editor, Art Director	
editor@knoxfocus.com,	design@knoxfocus.com

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

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Sales Tax Grab Stinks Don't Let Your Community Get 'Pond Gapped'



By Steve Hunley, Publisher publisher@knoxfocus.com

Knox County Board of Education member Doug Harris is busy making the rounds promoting the idea of increasing the local sales tax. Making an appearance on the Hallerin Hill radio show, Harris says a half penny increase in the local sales tax will generate \$30 million for our schools, half of which he proposes to give to teachers as a raise and the other half to "technology."

Of course Doug Harris can no more direct how any new revenue is spent than I can; it will take a majority of the Board to decide just how to spend any windfall and where. Along the way, my guess is somebody will get "Pond Gapped." A couple of years ago, the good government folks shook with ecstasy over the some \$6 million appropriated for improving just about everything at Pond Gap Elementary. Then those poor folks got Pond Gapped. Hence the term "Pond Gapped." It is a generally bad feeling kind of like the old "bait and switch."

Superintendent Jim McIntyre moved the money appropriated for Pond Gap Elementary into a project for the new vocational magnet high school. Of course the money to get that up and running wasn't \$6 million, so who only knows where the rest of those funds went. The final result is the Pond Gap project has been delayed. Quite likely, unless the school system gets a ton more money, it's likely to be delayed for quite some time.

Folks have been getting Pond Gapped by the school system for years, yet the Board members just can't get it into their heads why people don't trust them with more money and higher taxes. Harris and other members of the Board offer the weak excuse that priorities change.

That feeble excuse might suffice were it the exception rather than the rule. The school board has collected millions of dollars from the County Commission for specific projects and improvements and then reshuffled their priorities and they certainly haven't given back any of the money. Quite frankly, I consider that a misappropriation of funds and doubt County Commission, City Council or either the City or County mayor could get away with it.

McIntyre has constantly been asking for more money and higher taxes on an almost yearly basis, although never for the same thing. This year the school system is getting less money from the State of Tennessee and that has apparently left McIntyre and his minions scared out of their minds.

Now comes along Doug Harris with his notion of raising an already high sales tax rate (9.75%). Tax and Spend Liberals swoon, always saying government needs more money, without bothering to acknowledge that people seem to expect government to provide for them from the cradle to the grave. There's only so much money and people don't work to pay taxes; they work to have a home, raise their families and provide as comfortable a life for themselves and their loved ones as they possibly can.

Harris is supposed to be a businessman, yet none of these folks talk about why the state is sending less money and why the county has less money: revenue collections are down because working folks have less money to spend. So Doug Harris thinks it's a good idea to jack up the sales tax.

It's not just a bad idea, but a terrible idea.

And don't think for a moment it's just Doug Harris' idea. McIntyre is likely not opposed to anything that will give him more money to spend and lest you think the schools have been starving to death, consider they've gotten almost \$50 million in new money over the last several years.

Every member of the Knox County Board of Education ought to speak out as to whether or not he or she supports the idea of increasing the already high sales tax. Every candidate for the Knox County Board of Education ought to take a forthright stand on this issue.

Giving the current administration more money is like handing money to a panhandler. It's almost impossible to believe anything they say. If the commission gives the school system more money, they're more than likely going to get Pond Gapped again.

Backward Budgeting

By Steve Hunley, Publisher publisher@knoxfocus.com

The hallmark of Superintendent of Schools Jim McIntyre's administration seems to be grand and glorious phraseology along with regular requests to jack up taxes. The superintendent is beginning to sound like a broken record.

McIntyre really seems to believe there's some chance the County Commission will provide extra money to give teachers a raise. Frankly, the teachers seem little interested in getting a raise from McIntyre and a paltry three people showed up at a recent Commission meeting to tell the Commissioners what meanies they are. Commissioners seemed not only unimpressed. but somewhat lethargic about having to engage in a song and dance when nobody is even tapping his feet. There's really no one in Knox County who believes the County Commission will raise taxes to give McIntyre what he wants, which is largely just a show to create the illusion that McIntyre actually cares about teachers. Nobody is supposed to ponder the fact he hasn't given a hoot about them previously, nor is anybody supposed to wonder about the coincidental timing of his sudden interest only after the teachers have openly rebelled. It's less a genuine concern than a tactic to lull the teachers into silence, if not submission.

The fact that we don't know just how much money will be coming from the State of Tennessee makes a bad situation somewhat even worse and reveals a serious flaw in the budgeting process utilized by McIntyre and the Board of Education. For years the school system has been calculating and presenting their budget to **County Commission prior** to knowing exactly what revenue will be coming from across the street to demand bigger and bigger budgets from County Commission who has the responsibility for setting the tax rate. McIntyre and his rubber stamp minions have the best of all worlds. They constantly ask for more money and higher taxes while having no responsibility to pay for their own wants and needs. Each year McIntyre cries he's developing a culture of excellence in the schools and deluded members of the Board trot down to harangue the Commissioners that we need to make an investment in education. Considering we presently spend over half a billion dollars yearly on schools in Knox County, one has to wonder, just what dollar figure

neither Mayor Burchett nor the Commission either respect McIntyre nor do they think he's done a particularly good job of managing the schools and the millions of extra dollars that he's been given since he took over as superintendent.

It takes no real ability to administer any organization or entity that gets a pretty big increase in its operating budget yearly; the real test of an able administrator is what can he or she do with whatever resources are available?

McIntyre's experience as the Assistant Superintendent for Finance of Boston Public School System was heralded as a great qualification when he was hired by the Knox County School Board, With tax revenues down and any additional taxes unpopular, we are about to find out if McIntyre is as good a finance guru as everybody thought he was when he was hired. Let's just hope that his actual experience in school financial matters is far greater than his actual classroom teaching experience.

paying for them in the long term. He has spent millions on studies and consultants and yet doesn't seem to think he should be held accountable for wasting money.

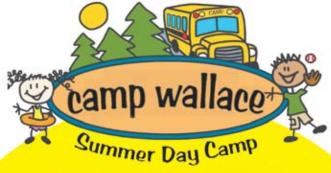
A superintendent of schools needs to be able to run an efficient school system on what funds are available without resorting to reaching into the taxpayers' pocketbook every year. An annual cry for more money doesn't lend itself to credibility and eventually the Chamber, the Sentinel and even the Board of Education are going to have to come to the conclusion that if they want more money from the County Commission, they may need to find a new Director of Schools. It is pretty obvious to anybody paying attention that Mayor Burchett isn't going to raise taxes throughout his tenure; furthermore, the newly elected County Commissioners appear to be more conservative than their predecessors. Like it or not, McIntyre is going to have to finally show us his finance management skills and try to actually watch how he spends our money.

the state. There's nothing legally binding them from presenting a budget to Knox County Commission later in the year, especially after the state legislature has adjourned.

This same show seems to be recurring with alarming frequency annually. Superintendent McIntyre always seems to find that he needs more and more money. Then, he and the majority of the Board of Education come constitutes a commitment from taxpayers that would ever satisfy McIntyre and the Board?

At what point do the Chamber of Commerce, the Knoxville News Sentinel, and the elitists who want to control everybody and everything realize that each and every time McIntyre has gone before the Commission for more money, he's come away empty-handed? These folks can only blame the Commissioners for so long before they have to consider the possibility that

Since he has been superintendent, McIntyre has arbitrarily made decisions that have inflated the school budgets without any regard for



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of county residents no not favor a tax increase.

Fugate said that if the school board could explain what a tax said. increase would be used for, a referendum might pass.

"Let the community decide," said Harris, adding that a halfcent sales tax increase would produce \$30 million.

McKenzie said our property tax is woefully low. "We're not funding not done a good job in explaining enough to get us where we want to be," he said.

Outgoing Commissioner Mike Hammond reminded the two groups of the history of a promise to increase property taxes to build a justice center, which wasn't built, and to authorize a wheel tax to support schools, but the majority did not got to schools.

Commissioner Amy Broyles, also a Joint Education Committee member, said much of the Wheel Tax went to libraries, which she sees as educational.

Hammond said that if the BOE wants a referendum to raise money for schools, "You're going to have to see it."

BOE Member Mike McMillan said that for the public to "buy into something, they have to know the specifics."

Commissioner Jeff Ownby said raising the per-pupil funding isn't administration," Brown said. going to solve the problem. He said the teacher revolt over the past several months "was never about raises, it was about testing." He then asked McIntyre who pays for the in-class testing of students not mandated by the state.

McIntyre said the information of the testing referred to by Ownby has "some inaccuracies."

McKenzie chimed in saying, "I thought this (meeting) was about the budget."

"We give you money but it

doesn't go where it is supposed to go. \$7 million was for Pond Gap School but it went to (the new school) at Pellissippi," Ownby

McKenzie said the new school at Pellissippi State at Strawberry Plains was needed and will attract new businesses and then called the Ownby statement "nitpicking."

"Perhaps the school board has to the public," Broyles said. She added that she was opposed to a sales tax increase because it would hurt the poorer citizens.

"If this is going to be a 'nitpicking' meeting I don't see a need to be here," she said.

Hammond told Fugate that the commission doesn't have the assurance that money authorized would go where it should.

"This year we're just asking to increase the pay of teachers," said BOE member Indya Kincannon.

Commissioner Mike Brown, who had been halted several times in the meeting by Chairman Anders, said that some school system supervisors make \$80 to \$90 thousand per year and said any pay increase should go to the classroom teachers.

"People do not believe in this

At the end of the meeting Fugate said "progress is being made."

"We've got to all get on board," she said.

"If we can't trust the school board to spend the money on what they say they will, I ain't going to vote for it," Brown said.

The meeting ended with no obvious change of minds on either side. The commission may vote in their meeting Tuesday on the county budget.

How Much Money is Enough?

By Sally Absher sallyabsher@gmail.com

There is an old saying that you get what you pay for. Proponents of school reform like to bemoan the fact that Knox County spends less per pupil on K-12 education than surrounding school systems, or even the state average. Which is true - a review of the 2012-2013 TN State Report Card (http://www.tn.gov/education) shows that Knox County has a per-pupil expenditure of \$9,077, compared to a state average of \$9,293.

The TN State Report Card also lists the composite ACT scores for each school system. The ACT forms the basis of "College and Career Readiness," or the Preparation Rate, so the composite score may indicate the value of those dollars in terms of student Knox County's outcome. composite ACT score was 20.2, and the state ACT score was 19.1.

Compare this to the three other major metropolitan areas in Tennessee. Hamilton County (Chattanooga) spent \$9,444 per pupil, with a composite ACT score of 18.7. Davidson County (Metro Nashville) spent \$11,421 per pupil. The composite ACT score is 18.2. And Memphis City (pre-merger) spent \$11,570 per pupil, with an ACT composite of 16.1. Do you see a pattern? Is Memphis getting what it pays for?

Do some school systems

per capita expenditures? Maybe. People always want to compare Knox County to Oak Ridge or Maryville. And those systems do perform slightly better in terms of ACT scores (22.6 and 22.9 respectively), which may indicate those students are better prepared for college and career.

But comparing a small city district with 7 schools to a large metro district with 88 schools is comparing apples to oranges. There are many factors that determine a student's success in school other than the amount of dollars spent. At \$12,075, Oak Ridge spent the most per pupil of K-12 systems in the state. But if per-pupil dollars spent on education was the magic bullet, Memphis schools should be near the top in college and career readiness. This is clearly not the case.

At the recent Joint Knox County Commission and Knox County Board of Education "Retreat" held at Ijams Nature Center, Commission Chair Brad Anders asked, "How much more money does KCS need, and when does it stop?" (See Mike Steely's column for more on the joint meeting).

Is Knox County really not spending enough to support public education? The KCS budget has grown by \$50M in the past 5 years. Ever since the Basic Education Program (BEP) was put in place in the early

get better results with higher 1990s, Knox County has sent more revenue to the state than we get back to fund education. The County currently receives approximately \$40M less for K-12 educational funding than we send to Nashville.

> The difference is made up by local funding. Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett noted in his May 21 Press Release that Knox County ranks 11th out of the more than 130 school districts statewide in local per-pupil funding. The reality is that Knox County's local per-pupil spending is higher than nearly 92 percent of the state.

> "The \$4,835 Knox County taxpayers spend in local revenue per pupil is nearly 30 percent higher than the statewide average of local perpupil spending on education," said Mayor Burchett. When comparing only county school districts, Knox County ranks fourth out of 95 counties in the state in local per-pupil funding. How can so much not be enough?

> "The solution to this problem needs to be found in Nashville, not in Knox County, where some want to raise taxes or raid our reserves. I would encourage the Board of education and the public to contact the Knox County legislative delegation and ask for their support in addressing this state funding problem," said Mayor Burchett.

Commission quizzes McIntyre

Cont. from page 1

number of tests students have to take that was published in last week's Focus.

"Point of order," said Commissioner Sam McKenzie, who serves on the Joint Education Committee, addressing Brown.

including KCS, and McInresources Brown was quoting.

testing, testing, when are they going to have any time to learn anything?" Brown said.

school system about the listed under the graph, tary schools and would be extended to middle and tyre said he's not sure what high schools in later years.

Brown then said that 79% of Knox County gradu-"You are just testing, ates need remedial classes before they can enter Pellissippi State.

isn't doing the job, why voting "No." don't we let the teachers do the teaching?" Brown asked, adding "But they can't if they are hampered When asked how much all the time with this continual paperwork and tests." "Not all of our students go to Pellissippi State and not all of our students require remediation. Students going to UT, Harvard or Yale, obviously don't fall within that statistic," the superintendent said.

sources of information used only in the elemen- has money, so will Harvard and Yale," Brown said. McIntyre said the vast

majority of teachers have chosen to do the assessment testing. The commission then

moved to move the funding along with Commission-"Clearly, all this testing ers Jeff Ownby and Brown

would happen if we vote it down, does it mean anything?"

"You have to have a resolution to get it to the mayor," Armstrong said, adding that it is an "administrative" requirement.

has given the power to the to provide and maintain school board to run the hardware, software, proschools," Armstrong said, "and once you appropriate the money it's entirely in their power to spend it." He said the budget requests go to the mayor and, if he doesn't sign it, it becomes law due to the power of the school board. "All this debate back and forth, it is what it is, but in the end I'll have to support the power of the school board to run the schools," the law director said.

"I realize it's a mute point, but the people of Knox County need to know what's going on," Brown said.

Commissioner Tony Norman then asked McIntyre to explain spending "The state legislature \$64,503 with Gallup, Inc. gramming and research for web-based interviews in hiring teachers and principals. McIntyre said the system is asking for the current contract to be extended but then said that it may only be used through September and added, "We'll likely move away from it, stop doing it."

"If you are quoting newsknown to put out non-reputable information I think that's very unwise," McKenzie said.

The graph of tests published in The Focus was part of an article clearly marked as opinion.

"I quoted where this information came from, if that's not a reputable source you tell me," Brown said.

Brown then quoted the

McIntyre said the system papers that have been is required to have a "universal screener" for student assessment.

> the contracts for assessment would cost in the next year, McIntyre repeated that it would vary by per-unit cost. Brown said that the teachers should be doing the assessments rather than an outside firm. McIntyre said the student intervention is currently

"UT will take anybody who

McKenzie asked the law director if the commission should be voting up or down on the issues.

"The real issue is this has passed," law director Richard Armstrong said, adding "This is already in the budget."

"We've voted on something we really shouldn't have voted on," McKenzie said.

Commissioner Richard Briggs then asked, "What



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Our Neighborhoods

MASCOT SURVIVING ON HISTORY

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

It may be the most unique neighborhood in Knox County. Isolated in the eastern corner, separated by distance and the river, Mascot is also separated by history and culture.

About 2,000 people call the Mascot community home. Founded by the American Zinc Company as a company town the community is much like many of the other old East Tennessee mining company towns except that instead of coal fuelling the boom back then it was zinc.

Most of the homes in Mascot were originally company-owned homes. When the company pulled out in the early 1960s the homes were sold to former employees. Some still remain in those families and others have been repurchased by later residents.

To reach Mascot you can take Rutledge Pike to Old Rutledge Pike and follow it to the Mascot Road. You pass a few houses and eventually drive under an overpass and you're there. An alternate route is to take Andrew Johnson Road almost to Strawberry Plains and turn left on Mascot road and head east. Just after the Industrial Park take a left across the tracks and you're in the historic little community.

Rutledge Pike begins in East Knoxville at Magnolia Avenue and shoots northeast at Highway 11W. The four-lane highway eventually passes through Rutledge in Grainger County and continues its northwest route to Rogersville, Kingsport, and Bristol. While most of us probably know Grainger County for its tomatoes, the small town of Rutledge is the county seat. Beside the courthouse sits a small cabin said to have been a



Teenagers hang out at Mascot's Park, in the center of the small community. Their classes at Carter High School are over and they're thinking about what to do this summer.

the Blaine Community it is crossed by Emory Road, one of the oldest routes in the state.

Along Old Rutledge Pike toward Mascot, there is a huge railroad yard, several farms, some mom-and-pop stores, as well as storage and scrap yards. You really don't get a feeling of the community until you take the Mascot Road and go beneath the overpass.

Suddenly you are back in time.

LIVING IN MASCOT

Mack Walker, who lives in the two-story white house on the edge of the Mascot Park, told the Focus that his house had been a men's boarding house and later a women's boarding house back when the mining company owned the community. He said that American Zinc had its own law enforcement and pointed to the



library just up the street, which was used as a company jail.

Ralph McGee, the librarian, said the right side of the current library was used as a small jail and the other part of the library was added later. Now a part of the Knox County Library System McGhee and Jackie McSwain were busy preparing books to be sent to other libraries around the county.

McSwain, a native of Mascot, spoke of the many photos there of the former mining community, the former school, and many other historic features of the area.

Ms. McSwain also helps out with a Mascot charity known as Year-Round Santa. She runs a flea market every weekend at the Four Way Market on the Andrew Johnson Highway. She explains that the \$10 set-up fee all goes to the charity. Ronnie Greene, a retired truck driver, and his wife Kathy, founded Year-Round Santa to provide toys and relief to local children and families in need. His wife has passed away and Ronnie, along with volunteers, continues to warehouse and distribute items. The charity is well known in East Knox County and Greene's home atop the park is stocked with needed items.

The effort has been featured on national and local television and in various newspaper and magazine articles. Everything donated is given away. You can donate to Year-Round Santa at 1821 Santa Claus Lane, Mascot, TN. 37806.

Over at the post office Tonya Gass, the "officer in charge" as she puts it, says that many of the Mascot people were zinc company employees. The post office and library tend to serve as the gathering place for locals. The internet is available at the library and patrons can order any book that is not on the shelves. Gass said that if someone doesn't come in to get or post mail the community becomes concerned and goes to check on them. She knows all her patrons by name and often the locals stay around for some conversation and to catch up on local news.

Just east on Mascot Road is a former residence that is now the Mascot Senior Citizens Center. It is named for former Sunday School teacher, Barbara Abernathy.

Thomas Talmage Morell, known as Tam, grew up in Mascot and said that the old home was pretty run down when the local citizens were able to buy it.

"Lots of people donated their money and time," he said. At first it was used as a community center and was used for birthday parties and gatherings. Then it was turned over to Knox County and the seniors meet there.

Morell said most of the houses in the center of Mascot and along Staff Drive are original mining town structures, along with those on Sailor's Ford Lane.

"When we were growing up the company funded the houses, the park, tennis courts. a community hall, a drug store, and the doctor's office. We had Little League baseball teams, went fishing and swimming in the Holston River," he said. Over at what is now the Industrial Park, Morell said the company owned a large farm and dairy operation and the milk was delivered to the homes. "It is not the close knit community it once was. We never locked our doors," he said, Continue on page 2

tailor shop of a young and future president, Andrew Johnson.

Rutledge Pike in Knox County begins as an industrial area for several miles. The Pike is home to Bridges Funeral Home and nearby Holston Middle School. Further up is Kinsey Gardens, Pull-A-Part, and RV's For Less. Just north is the Skaggtown community and, to the west, House Mountain State Natural Area.

When Rutledge Pike reaches

Dr. Allen Hunley

PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Ralph McGhee and Jackie McSwain operate the Mascot Library.



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PAGE B2 **Our Neighborhoods** MASCOT

<u>Cont. from page 1</u>

adding that "To this day those people from Mascot agree they loved it."

Some of the current home owners live in the "company" houses but newer arrivals have bought or rented homes there.

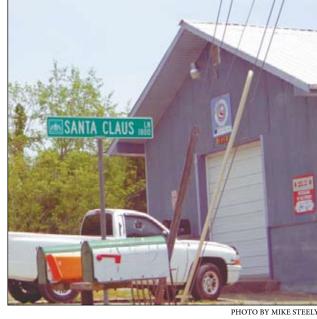
"The older folks have either retired or passed away," he said.

Both Morell and Mack Walker agreed that there should be better law enforcement in Mascot. Morell said that he rarely sees a sheriff's cruiser there.

Memories flow to Morell.

"Over in the area of the rock piles and mills, on top of a tower, was once a red light. There were few phones at that time. My uncle was the local (company) law enforcement and someone would notify the mill of a problem and the mill would turn the red light on. That informed my uncle to get over there," he said.

He added that the company had a whistle and would blow it in different sequences to tell people about fires or other emergencies; the last of the whistles would tell the residents which section of the town the emergency



Atop the hill above the Mascot Park is Year-Round Santa, a local charity that provides toys and the needs of local children and their families.

was located.

"People then know to either get themselves to safety or get over to help with the call," he said.

Author's Note:

I have a warm place for Mascot. I grew up in a little mining town, ours was coal and not zinc based, but when the mines closed the town almost vanished. Like Mascot some of the mining families bought the mining houses and stayed there for generations.

But Mascot hung on. Several of the houses

there are modern and well maintained, expanded beyond what they once were. Generations grew up there. Many of the older folks love small communities like Mascot but most of the young people can't wait to graduate and leave.

Yet, like me, they will hit that time in their life when they want to return to their home town. Some will and find it that it has not changed from when they left.

Sometimes you can go home again.

Internal Audit of School funds on the agenda this week

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville FOCUS

The Knox County Internal Audit of the county school system's use of the Physical Plant Upgrade fund is scheduled to be on the Audit Committee meeting's agenda for Friday, June 6.

The audit was prompted by the county commission's concern on how Knox County School System has been spending this reserve. The PPU fund is separate from the normal school budget and is supposed to finance school projects like repairing roofs, general upkeep, etc., but may have been used to purchase unauthorized items like furniture for new schools, for example.

The 1 p.m. meeting also will hear an upgrade of the county's hotline system, a report by Finance Director Chris Caldwell on the budget to actual revenues, an external audit including a report of the School Activity Funds, and the Internal Audit of the Criminal Court Clerk's office.

One Way or Two Way Downtown?

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

The first public hearing of the Downtown Circulation and Mobility Study took place Thursday afternoon at the City-County Building's small assembly room with representatives of Kimley-Horn and Associates giving a brief description and then talking with about a dozen citizens about their ideas.

John Benditz and Terrance Hill of Kimley-Horn spoke briefly, with Benditz explaining that the plan may propose no major changes to physical streets but is

recommending to redirect traffic.

The study looks at traffic patterns, the transit system, bicycle access, on-street parking, pedestrian use and

the Gay Street corridor. Benditz said they may propose converting Walnut and Locust into two-way traffic from Union and Church, converting Union Avenue to one-way between Walnut and Locust, and creating an auxiliary lane on Gay Street. They will also look at bus stops along the routes downtown, all with the idea of creating better traffic flow.

Locals are fairly accustomed to the oneway streets but, the men said, visitors find it confusing. Attendees to the meeting were asked to fill out a comment card, draw on the maps posted during the session and discuss their ideas about needed changes.

Benditz said the plan is already underway and citizens can post their comments on the city web site www.cityofknoxville.org/downtownmobility. He indicated the final plan will be completed in August following another public meeting.

University Commons may get trolley service

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

The upcoming opening of the University Commons Shopping Center near Cumberland Avenue and Alcoa Highway, and just west of the University of Tennessee Campus, is bringing changes to the city trolley routes and at least one additional trolley.

A proposed route from downtown was introduced to the Knoxville Transportation Authority (KTA) Thursday afternoon.

The shopping center, anchored by Walmart and Publix, is expected to draw not only UT students but downtown residents as well.

Belinda Woodiel-Brill, KTA's Media and Marketing Director, presented the proposed route, which is an extension of the Vol Line trolley route that will follow Cumberland Avenue from downtown to 11th Street and then cut south to Volunteer Boulevard and around campus to load and unload at a covered shelter at University Commons.

She said she has contacted UT and the college has no plans currently to serve the shopping center with their own bus service. She said the extended route will be served by four trolleys and the KTA board will be asked to approve the change in June.

The marketing director said the new route would start on July 28th in order to provide service there during the opening days.

The trolley will offer 20-minute round trips from downtown to the complex.

Changes are also being considered for Route 90 buses that now use Broadway at I-640. The new routes, north and south, will use Old Broadway. The route remains the same from Old Broadway north to Old Tazewell Pike going north.

Woodiel-Brill said that changes at the Transit Center of loading and unloading busses only on the upper platform went well. Trolleys continue to load and unload on the street level and employees worked the street level directing bus passengers upstairs for several days. Sandwich signs remain posted there to help direct people upstairs.

"It was a very smooth transition," she said and thanked KTA Commissioner Hubert Smith for assisting in the effort.

The KTA board also learned that \$3.1 million in grant money, already authorized, is late in arriving.

Federal Funds, tied to the National Transportation Bill, will expire September 30 and Transit Planner Doug Burton said they are "keeping an eye on the federal funds."

"Congress has had a hard time getting anything done," he said.

May 27, 2014

Mayapples

April showers bring May flowers..... Mayapples, that is.

Podophyllum peltatum, also known as Mayapples, Wild Mandrake and Indian Apple,

unique in that it has only two leaves and one flower that grows near the junction of By Mike Cruze, Master Gardener large, twin, umbrel-

is actually from the mayapple are showy. They when first emerging and Barberry family. It is remain closed as the stem lengthens, unfolding 6-8 inches across when the plant has reached its 1-1 1/2 foot height. The plant the leaf stalks. The is sometimes called the Umbrella Plant because it la-like leaves of looks like a closed umbrella

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then opens into the open umbrella shape. The nodding flower is white to rosecolored with 6-9 waxy white petals and many stamens. The nodding fruit is a large, fleshy, lemon-shaped berry. This fruit is edible when fully ripe with a flavor reminiscent of strawberry. One must be very careful however, because all parts of the plant except the very ripe fruit are quite poisonous!! The Mandrake or Mayapple blossoms in the spring. Fruit is available in late summer depending on the climate, July through September. The fruit can be used to make jams, jellies and marmalade.

Mayapples colonize by rhizomes and form dense have been used in the mats in damp, open woods. treatment of lung and tes-They are found in low, ticular cancers as well

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shady lands, roadsides, rich woods, fields and clearings in New England to Florida, Texas to Minnesota. It likes rich, moist soil and is easily increased by division or seed. May apple, or mandrake, thrives under oak trees; the shallow roots of the mandrake feed on the soil fertilized by tannin bearing leaves fallen from the oak tree.

Although the leaves and roots are poisonous, extracts from the roots have been used for a variety of medicinal purposes such as treating jaundice, constipation, and hepatitis. A derivative from this plant has been approved for treatment of some cancers. These compounds

as some leukemias. In Europe, research is being done to use a deriviative of mandrake in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

The Penobscot Indians used the crushed roots of the May apple as a poultice for the removal of warts and the Menominee tribe considered the stems and foliage of the plant to be a good pesticide. They boiled those parts of the May apple in water and then applied the cooled liquid to their potato patches to repel the insects that attacked them.

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."--Albert Einstein

"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit."-Ralph Waldo Emerson



Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill rayhill865@gmail.com

lection fraud is troops to Virginia where politics, nor to Tennessee politics, for that was a staple of the election was seriously wounded, cycle.

Charges of election fraud in Tennessee elections have been almost common place throughout history. William G. "Parson" Brownlow had troops stationed at polling places during one of his gubernatorial bids. Yet one of the little remembered cases of election fraud was the gubernatorial election of 1894 where incumbent Governor Peter Turney faced off against popular Republican H. Clay Evans.

Turney was born September 22, 1827 in Jasper, Tennessee. Peter's father was Hopkins Lacy Turner, who was a Congressman and United States senator from Tennessee. The younger Turney had many more advantages than his father; the elder Turney supposedly never attended school and could not even sign his name until he was twenty-two years old. Hopkins Turney was the very definition of a self-made man.

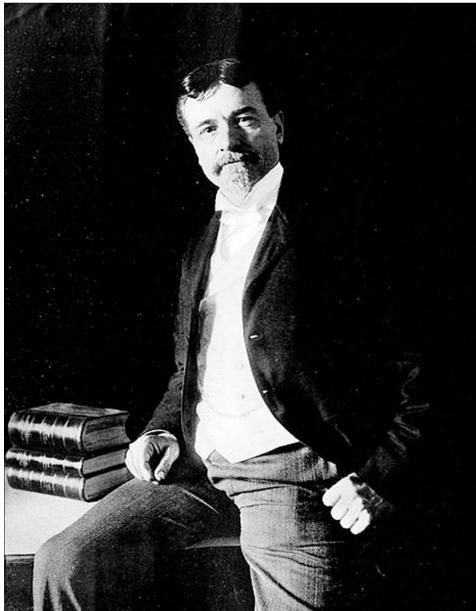
Considering his father's success in politics, it is hardly surprising Peter the practice of law in Winchester, Tennessee, where his family had moved when he was a small child. Turney campaigned for John Breckenridge of Kentucky in the hotly disputed election of 1860. That year saw Republican Abraham Lincoln challenged by Democrat Stephen Douglas of Illinois, Breckinridge, who had been Vice President of the United States under President James Buchanan, and Tennessean John Bell, who ran as the candidate of the Union Party. Breckinridge was the candidate of Southern Democrats and Peter Turney strongly sympathized with his fellow Southern Democrats. Turney was strongly for secession from the Union and even supported the idea of Franklin County seceding and joining the State of Alabama. Turney hurried to raise a regiment of troops and did so before Tennessee had officially seceded from the United States. Turney took his

nothing new to they fought in the first battle of Bull Run. Turney and his soldiers were fighting at matter. In some states, it Fredericksburg when he having been shot in the mouth. His recovery was slow and Turney spent the remainder of the war, serving in an administrative capacity in Florida, well away from the front lines.

> Peter Turney's first forays into politics were less than successful. He was a candidate for Attorney General for his local circuit, but lost. He was nominated for the United States Senate in 1876 and lost yet again.

With Tennessee having rejoined the Union, Peter Turney was elected to the Tennessee State Supreme Court. reelection twice, in 1878 and 1886 and eventually served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. easily, they never really liked

Peter Turney's rise to the governorship came with Governor John P. Buchanan having been weakened due to the controversy of the "Coal Creek War". The Cold Creek War was a labor uprising, which occurred in Anderson County. Mine owners thought to replace mine workers with convicts, which they proposed to businessmen and those Turney followed Hopkins lease from the State of who strongly supported big Turney in both the practice Tennessee. Infuriated business. It quickly became of law and politics. Young miners retaliated against apparent John Buchanan Southern planter might some 23,000 ballots, which Republican presidents. Peter Turney commenced mine owners by burning property, including the stockades where prisoners were housed. The conflict quickly escalated into armed warfare. had been something of a political wunderkind. A former member of the Tennessee General Assembly, Buchanan had become President of the Tennessee's Farmer's Alliance. Later, the organization would join together with the Laborer's Union and Buchanan would serve as president of the combined groups. Buchanan won the loyalty and affection of many first term proved to be Tennessee farmers when tumultuous. he sponsored legislation to exempt the cooperative stores of the Farmer's Alliance from a tax imposed upon merchants.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION. Henry Clay Evans around 1896.

Turney won surprised Tennessee's more conservative Bourbon Democrats and while he won the general election

nor supported Buchanan.

Governor Buchanan was considered friendly to the miners, yet his handling of the Coal Creek War won him criticism from both sides. Peter Turney was supported in his gubernatorial campaign by more conservative Democrats, as well as could not win renomination as governor and he dropped his bid for the Democratic nomination and declared he would seek reelection as an Independent. Turney easily won the general election John Price Buchanan and Governor Buchanan won only 31,515 votes in the general election.

as well as his personal popularity. Governor Turney was politically vulnerable in 1894.

Tennessee Republicans nominated H. Clay Evans, a former Congressman from Chattanooga, who had been blatantly gerrymandered out of his Congressional seat. Evans was a strikinglooking man and an able speaker. Evans had a full head of hair and wore a moustache and wisp of a beard under his lower lip. He looked rather like what election had been rife with of the GOP for control of the one might think a successful voter fraud and negated federal patronage under look like. Governor Turney did not have the same imposing physical presence as his opponent. A balding, somewhat corpulent man with a wispy beard, he was not at all impressive in appearance.

came in, it was apparent Evans had won. The initial tally was 105,104 votes for when he sought reelection H. Clay Evans and 104,356 votes for Peter Turney. A third candidate, A. J. Mims, a Populist, had won 23,088 votes.

> The delight of Tennessee Republicans soon turned to dismay, then outrage. The Tennessee General Assembly, whose majority was composed of Democrats, reversed the popular election results. Legislators insisted that the

Peter Turney returned to Winchester where he died in 1903. Turney was married twice and fathered thirteen children.

H. Clay Evans enjoyed a successful political career. He had been Mayor of Chattanooga and helped to organize the first public school system in Hamilton County. Although he lost his seat in Congress, largely due to his support for legislation to safeguard the voting rights of African-Americans, he became Postmaster General under President Benjamin Harrison. Evans was in charge of GOP patronage and used it effectively. While his loss of the 1894 gubernatorial race was a bitter disappointment, Evans was hailed by fellow Republicans nationally. He was a candidate for the GOP vice presidential nomination in 1896 and ran second to the eventual nominee, Garrett Hobart. The Republicans succeeded in electing William McKinley president that year and McKinley appointed H. Clay Evans as Commissioner of Pensions in his first administration. Following McKinley's assassination, President Theodore Roosevelt named Evans to the prestigious post as United States Consul to Great Britain in 1902.

After returning from Europe, Evans again settled in Chattanooga and ran for office once again successfully, becoming Commissioner of Health and Education under the new Commission form of government.

Evans remained a leader of Tennessee Republicans, but there was fierce infightingamongstmembers

for both the University

of Chattanooga and the

Buchanan won the 1890 Democratic nomination for governor, strongly supported by farmers and their allies.

Governor Buchanan's defeat ended his political career and while he would live almost another forty years, he was never again a candidate for political office. He returned to his home in Murfreesboro, where he died in 1930.

Governor Turney's Although he had issued rulings seemingly favorable to the convict leasing system while on the Tennessee Supreme Court, he signed legislation ending the practice of competing with labor. There was also a serious downturn in the economy in 1893, which affected Buchanan's nomination Turney's administration

Evans had been quite successful in business, served as Mayor of Chattanooga twice, the State Senate, as well as a term in Congress.

Peter Turney was not at all H. Clay Evans' equal on the stump and it was soon clear the Democrats had a real fight on their hands.

Governor Turney tried hard to stem the tide and assailed Evans again for his support of the "Lodge Bill", which guaranteed the voting rights of black citizens. Turney also scored Evans as a carpetbagger, as Evans had been born in Pennsylvania and married his wife in New York.

As the election returns

gave Governor Turney a Evans served as a Trustee scant plurality.

Republicans were furious, but there was little they could do.

Governor Turney's second administration was even less successful than his first; Turney was tainted by the stolen election and seemed virtually paralyzed in office. Turney could not even manage to adequately plan for Tennessee's centennial celebration, leaving it to his successor. To add to hos woes, the governor's brother, Joseph Turney, was accused of operating a chain gang for his own profit.

While he had officially won the election of 1894, it was a pyrrhic victory. It kept the Democrats in power in Nashville and while they controlled the governor's office, Peter Turney was finished in Tennessee politics.

After leaving office,

University of Tennessee in the later years of his life. The contrast in the lives of Peter Turney and H. Clay Evans following the election of 1894 is almost impossible to overlook. Turney left office disgraced and discredited, while Evans went on to greater honors and remained a highly respected and admired leader of his party. Even

the former governor's fellow Democrats shied away from Peter Turney and he retired to relative obscurity.

H. Clay Evans died in his sleep on December 12, 1921 and was far more celebrated and respected than his former rival Peter Turney despite never having served as governor of Tennessee.



PAGE B4 It came in a dream

By Joe Rector

Dreams are wonderful things. I admit these days I don't remember too many of them when I wake up, but every so often, one sticks

one sticks joerector@comcast.net around through the fog of early morning ity abou

rising. That's what happened to me a couple of days ago. I woke up with that dream in my head, and it brought an immediate smile to my groggy existence.

My mother's parents lived no more than a mile from us. Their house was located on a road, named after Mamaw's family. Her dad once owned a huge farm in the area. No one related the story of how it, at some point, left the family's ownership, but the last few generations of the clan have all been middle class folk who have worked hard and earned honest pay for a day's work.

I'd like to say I know all about Papaw Balch, but the truth is that I know only sketchy things at best. He was a tall man, one who seemed to be a giant to me when I was little. I never knew where he worked other than on a farm. (I have cousins who lived next door to him who will fill me in after reading this.) To be honest, I always thought that he was just a tad laid back; work was something he did in order to provide, but he had no love affair with it.

Instead, Papaw's affections were turned toward reading. Mother used to talk about how he'd sit in his chair in the evening with one leg slung over the arm. Papaw would read until the late hours, even though he had to be up by 4:00 a.m. to milk cows and complete a long list of chores before break-

fast. His curiosity about things kept him plowing through books, much like his two brothers, one who taught high school Latin and one who worked at TVA as an engineer.

Each year, Mother and Daddy would put out a garden. It took over the back yard and covered at least a half-acre of ground. In my early years, I remember Papaw coming to the house to plow that garden. After walking from his house to ours and guiding his horse Prince and the plow, he came into the house for a cup of coffee and conversation with Mother.

Before long, Papaw would exit the house and begin turning the soil with that single blade plow. I can see him grab the reins and throw them over his shoulder and then grip the plow handles. "Git up" was all he said, and that horse began pulling. For the next while, what seemed to be forever to little boys of my age, he walked back and forth and skillfully handled that plow and horse as the rich earth that had once been covered with mulch from the paper plant where Daddy worked was cut open. I learned the meaning of "Gee" and "Haw" from those times.

Eventually, the garden was plowed and then tilled until it was suitable for planting. Papaw would stop, pat his co-worker on the neck, and walk toward the back door again. He'd walk in and collapse at the kitchen table. Mother would supply ice water and lunch for him. She more than likely fed him a sandwich. That was a weak meal for a man whose wife always cooked meat, vegetables, and some kind of bread for every midday meal.

The Knoxville FOCUS

After a while, Papaw stood and said his goodbyes. Then, he returned to Prince, and the two began the return walk to his home. Both man and horse moved with weary steps, and I wished that some way we could have given them both a ride home.

When I woke up after a dream that mirrored an earlier reality, I kept my eyes closed for just a few seconds. Two smells seemed overwhelmingly present right then. One was the scent of freshly turned soil. It's that combination of dirt and moisture, and a kind of metallic odors that always signals a new growing season. The second smell was that of Papaw. It was the sweat from his body and the years of his life that mingled, and to this day, it remains in my memory. In fact, after I've worked especially hard outside, that same "fragrance" comes again. Maybe it's just the smell of old men after work, or maybe it's something much more unique that is passed from one generation to another. Whatever the case, the whiffs of those things greeted me that morning and made me glad I'd conjured up a wonderful dream.

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Remembering our Veterans this Memorial Day

The holiday marks a time to

Though we attended the same

May 27, 2014

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honor those who have died serving their country. A brief look back reminds us of veterans we have lost, though none of them died in service. Still, we recognize their service on Memorial Day. Unlike their fallen comrades, they came home, held jobs, and raised families.

WWII veteran Floyd Sharpe was featured 9-12-11 in "Candy Apples at the Tennessee Valley

Fair." We met "the chief candy apple sticker," his wife, Lucile (also deceased), and their daughter, Barbara, at cardiac rehab. I learned about the HonorAir program for veterans through Floyd, who contributed to the monument in Washington D.C. but was unable to make the trip for health reasons.

Earl Dunn was pictured in paratrooper gear on the front page of *The Focus* 5-29-12, "Remembering Earl Dunn, A World War II Veteran." We met Earl and his wife, Virginia, at cardiac rehab. He worked 41 years at the Y-12 Weapons Plant in Oak Ridge. A most cherished memory for Earl before he passed away was visiting the war memorial in Washington D.C. with HonorAir.

"Enjoying God's Blessings Each Day" (10-1-12) introduced *Focus* readers to Mack Neubert. Mack and his wife, Kathy, have been our long-time neighbors and a part of this close-knit community. It was not unusual to hear our dad say he had stopped down the road in the hayfield to talk to Mack Neubert. Mack cherished his family, church, job, and daily blessings. In January, this US Navy veteran passed away.

After our father's time in the United States Army, he came home and returned to Gibbs High School to finish and get his diploma. Ralph O. Major always credited the late Professor H. G. Loy with encouraging him to graduate. "Love of Country" (5-27-13) shows him wearing his Army uniform.



By Ralphine Major ralphine3@yahoo. com

church, we first met Jim Turner and his wife, Boots, at cardiac rehab. The Turners came from coal country in West Virginia. Jim often talked "writing" with me and brought me a copy of the West Virginia paper he still received. "Who's Billy Graham?" (2-6-12) told much about Jim's early life. Sadly, Jim passed away in March.

Just last week, we lost WWII veterans Sam Benton and Bill Wright. I had first seen Bettye Benton in the church choir and got acquainted with her and Sam at cardiac rehab. The Chattanooga natives were brought together when Sam repaired Bettye's bicycle. Sam spent most of his 41-year career at Y-12 in Oak Ridge. The Bentons were the "Teenage Sweethearts" on 2-13-12.

On 9-4-12, "Celebrating 70 Years---the Bill Wrights of Corryton" appeared on the front page of The Focus featuring Bill and Georgia Wright with their family. Time and time again, our father would say he had been over at the Wrights talking to Bill and Georgia. This neighbor and WWII veteran and our father had much in commondairy farming in their early years and raising beef cattle later on. As a teenager at his grandparents' country store, Perry McGinnis remembers Bill Wright was the first in the neighborhood to buy a new Ford car. Years later, Bill got a white Chevrolet pickup truck. But, Bill was a Ford man and not happy with the truck. Our father bought it and was always so proud to tell everyone that he got his truck from Bill Wright.

On this Memorial Day, may we be ever mindful of all the veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice, those who served and came home, and those who still wear the uniform today protecting this great country and all the freedoms that we enjoy.

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Sparkling Spring Fling for Knox County competitors

By Steve Williams

When it comes to most successful high school girls tennis programs in Tennessee, Webb School now ranks right at the top.

win over St, Mary's at the Spring Fling in Murfreesboro last week, the Lady Spartans moved into a tie for first place with Girls Preparatory School for most state team tennis championships. Both crowns in the sport.

Farragut's baseball program

over Houston, which gives the ball, Gibbs and GCA in softball, Admirals nine state crowns, the CAK in boys soccer and Bearden second most in Tennessee. Chris- in girls tennis. tian Brothers leads with 11.

With their 4-3 Division II-A title for Knox County teams and ath- losers bracket and advancing to letes, Webb captured its fourth the finals in their first-ever Class state crown in boys tennis, while AAA state tournament appear-Catholic celebrated its second in ance. the sport.

of Knoxville struck state gold for 2-1 in its Class AAA opener, then Webb and GPS now have 11 state the first time ever in baseball and bounced back to beat Munford, girls tennis.

with its 4-0 Class AAA title win Academy and Catholic in base-

Owner of nine Class AA state the final score was close, 6-5. Meanwhile, Christian Academy titles, Gibbs lost to Coffee County Wilson Central, Coffee County Six teams discovered silver and Soddy Daisy before bowing to also moved closer to the top sparkles, too – Grace Christian Dickson County 4-1 in the finals.

CAK and Catholic, only about a mile apart in Knoxville, had played six previous times in baseball this spring before meeting for all the Gibbs' Lady Eagles took pride marbles some 200 miles from In a very successful Spring Fling in battling back through the home. The Irish had won four earlier clashes, including the district and regional crowns, but the Warriors got away with the biggest trophy. It was not surprising that

> In singles play in tennis, Webb senior Anna Catharine Feaster won a TSSAA record fourth championship. Combine that with her five medals from team titles and she has a TSSAA record nine gold

medals.

Catholic senior Camille Baker kicked off track and field action by winning the girls' state pentathlon. Other highlights included an impressive victory by Bearden senior Chase Hilton in the Class AAA 800-meter run, a sub-9 minute performance by Hardin Valley Academy's Aaron Templeton in the Class AAA 3200 and CAK eighth grader Rebecca Story getting a head start on her high school career by winning her first state title in the Class A-AA 3200 run.



Christian Academy of Knoxville players begin celebrating a TSSAA Class AA state baseball championship with a dogpile at homeplate, as a disappointed Catholic player kneels nearby, immediately following the Warriors' 6-5 win over the Irishmen Friday in Murfreesboro.

CAK, Farragut win baseball titles

By Ken Lay

MURFREESBORO --- A Feist. seventh-inning two-out rally of Knoxville its first Class (35-9-1) in seven tries this Colton Norrod had a two- committed five errors. AA State Baseball Championship Friday afternoon at Middle Tennessee State University's Reese Smith, Jr. Field.

doubled and was lifted for Catholic error to score three three unearned runs and

netted Christian Academy third victory over the Irish with an RBI double before for the Irish and both teams

runs and take a 5-1 lead. hit a batter. It was the Warriors' Cochran started that rally

Will Martinez went 3-for-3

Catholic, CAK and Webb win state titles

By Ken Lay

MURFREESBORO--- opened week at Old Fort Park.

The Catholic boys and Christian Academy Class A/AA Titles while Webb School of Knoxville claimed both the boys and girls championships in Division II-A.

The Irish culminated perfect season а by defeating Christ Presbyterian Academy 4-0 on Wednesday

Catholic (15-0), which swept CPA, got singles victories from Mitchell Jostes, Jacob Lorino, Stephen Lorino and Johnathan Chavez.

Jostes defeated Jacob Zieman 6-0, 6-1. Jacob title match with a 4-2 Lorino downed Hunter victory over Hume Fogg. Pishie 6-0, 6-1. Stephen Lorino beat Ben O'Donnell Chastain and DeNicola 6-0, 6-1. And Chavez got won singles matches past John Robinson 6-2, 6-1.

The Lady Warriors singles Four area high school competition by winning tennis teams won state at the No. 1 slot when team championships last Leighton Porter notched a 6-1, 6-1 win over the Irish's Sarah Joyce.

Notre Dame won at of Knoxville girls won No. 2 and No. 3 Singles matches to take a 2-1 lead.

> CAK won at No. 4 as Allison Ivey beat Mary Margaret Haywood 6-3, 6-3. The Lady Warriors prevailed in the final singles match as Emily Ann Welles outlasted Katie Lamsey 7-5, 6-2.

> The Lady Warriors, who won their semifinal match, clinched a State Championship when Ivey and Elise DeNicola won the lone doubles match.

CAK advanced to the There, Porter, Holly

The rally was culminated when second baseman singled in pinch runner Justin Feist with the winning run of the Warriors' 6-5 victory over District 4-AA rival Catholic

CAK's game-winning

season.

CAK and Catholic are Cedar Bluff neighborhood rivals. They split their two league meetings this season. Catholic won two of three district tournament three errors by the Warmeetings and won the tournament title. The Irish also defeated the Warriors er Ethan Elliott deserved (30-9) to claim the Region a better fate. He allowed 2-AA title.

surge began when desig- two innings before taking He struck out five and hit nated hitter Josh Johnson advantage of a two-out a batter. He surrendered

run double.

The Irish, which posted their second runner-up finish in the program's history, tied things in the fifth as they took advantage of riors.

Catholic starting pitchjust two earned runs and CAK had a 2-1 lead after nine hits in his 6.2 innings.

It was the sixth State Championship for CAK coach Tommy Pharr, who

won five titles at Farragut. **Admirals claim Class AAA** Championship: Farragut ended its emotional season on a high note Friday night at MTSU.

The Admirals (34-13) defeated Germantown Houston 4-0 to win the Class AAA Championship. It was the second title for Continue on page 2

The Irish advanced to the title match with a 4-0 win over Trinity Christian on Tuesday.

In that match, Catholic got wins from Michael Aleman, Jostes, Jacob Lorino and Chavez.

CAK won the state championship with a 4-2 win over Notre Dame.

while lvey and DeNicola won a doubles match.

In Division II-A Boys: the Spartans won the state championship by sweeping University School of Jackson 4-0.

Lorenzo Rollhauser, Thomas Loaiza, Rajeen Jadhau and Nathan In Class A/AA girls: Feaster all won matches for Webb.

> The Spartans won their Continue on page 2



Hilton refuses to be chased down in boys state' 800 run

Bearden senior Chase Hilton

capped his prep career with

a state title win in the Class

came in second in the

Class A-AA 400 dash with

a time of 50.78. Catholic's

Tim Quayle was fifth in that

Fulton got a fourth place

from senior Daryl Rollins in

Zack Dobson placed fourth

The Falcons' 4x200 relay

also came in fourth, but

their 4x100 relay did not

finish as they were report-

edly disgualified after drop-

ping the baton on the first

Carter senior Charles

CAK's 4x400 relay had a

The Irish also got fifth-

place points from sopho-

more Johnathan Chavez

in the 3200 and was sev-

enth in the Class A-AA boys

team scoring. Catholic

senior Connor Fair contrib-

uted a fifth-place effort in

Webb School senior Mat-

thew Melton finished fifth in

the Division II 400 dash.

the decathlon.

third-place showing, running

a 3:25.79. Catholic came in

Mitchell was fourth in the

long jump with a leap of

in the triple jump.

exchange.

21-93/4.

fifth.

AAA 800-meter run.

race.

By Steve Williams

Chase Hilton.

That's what everybody had to do in the Class AAA 800-meter run at the TSSAA boys state track and field meet Friday. But nobody could chase him down.

Chase Hilton, Bearden senior, posted a winning time of 1 minute, 52.87 seconds at MTSU in Murfreesboro. Bryce Ailshie, Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett junior, was second at 1:53.21.

Hilton was one of three Knox County athletes to capture gold at the boys state.

Aaron Templeton of Hardin Valley Academy broke the 9-minute mark in winning the Class AAA 3200 run. He was clocked in 8:59.81, finishing ahead of three Brentwood High runners. HVA senior teammate Lachlan Dickie was sixth.

In Class A-AA, Rhett the 100. Fulton freshman Elwood, a Grace Christian Academy sophomore, won the discus event with a throw of 156 feet, 11 inches.

Catholic's 4x800 relay team also captured a state crown, posting a time of 8:04.96.

Several Knox Countians earned silver, including Bearden's Jackson Elmore in the Class AAA pole vault with a mark of 14 feet, 6 inches. West's Hank Mary tied for third.

Hardin Valley Academy's 4x800 relay team claimed runner-up honors with a time of 8:03.44. The Hawks, KIL champs, tied for sixth in the Class AAA state team scoring.

In Class AAA sprints, Jajuan Stinson of Central was fourth in the 100, Chase Biefeldt of Farragut was fourth in the 200 and Karns' Blake Wells was sixth in the 400.

CAK junior Sam Cagle

Webb captures three titles at State as Feaster sets records

By Ken Lay

MURFREESBORO ---Webb School of Knoxville certainly enjoyed its latest stay at the Division II-A State Tennis Championships at Old Fort Park.

The Spartans and Lady Spartans both claimed team titles on Wednesday afternoon.

But they were far from finished. On Friday, Webb won three singles titles.

Webb senior Anna Catharine Feaster, who was recently named an Allname into the TSSAA record book by winning her fourth girls singles title and winning her ninth gold medal in high school tennis.

Feaster defeated St. George's Claire Sullivan 6-3, 6-1 to claim her fourth singles championship.

Feaster, who joined the Lady Spartans as an eighth grader, has been part of five consecutive championships at Webb. Her four individual gold medals

American, etched her helped her set a record title with a dramatic win in with nine gold medals.

> In doubles, the Lady Spartans won another title as Kathryn Evans and Diana Grandas claimed the State Championship with a three-set victory over the St. Mary's tandem of Carman Saab and Mary Jane McCaghren 4-6, 6-0, 7-6 (7-5).

After Evans, and Grandas dropped the first set, the rebounded to shut out the St. Mary's duo. They rebounded to claim the the decisive set.

May 27, 2014

In boys singles, the Spartans were guaranteed a title as teammates Lorenzo Rollhauser and freshman Thomas Loaiza battled for the championship in a rematch of the Regional Championship match won by Loaiza in three sets.

In the state title match, Rollhauser, a junior, prevailed over his freshman teammate 6-0, 6-4.

Gibbs, CAK and Grace fall short of softball titles

By Ken Lay

MURFREESBORO ---Three area high school softball teams had hopes of winning State Championships on the final day of the season at Starplex.

Gibbs, Grace Christian Academy and Christian Academy of Knoxville all competed valiantly but all came up short of the ultimate prize but disappointments were few for the Lady Eagles, Lady Rams and Lady Eagles.

Gibbs had a 50-win season in its first year in Class AAA but came of short of a 10th State Championship.

The Lady Eagles (50-6) saw their 2014 campaign end Friday with a 4-1 loss to Dickson County. To win its first Class AAA State Championship, Gibbs would have had to beat Dickson County twice in a long day on the diamond.

Gibbs took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning as Faith Lowry was hit by a pitch. She then stole second and took third on a passed ball. She scored when designated hitter Karri Byrd put down a sacrifice bunt.

The Lady Eagles' lead, however, was short-lived as the Lady Cougars scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the frame and plated two more in the bottom of the second.

After its first-inning run, Gibbs managed just two hits off Dickson County pitcher Brooklin Lee. She threw a two-hitter and finished with 16 strikeouts.

Lowry, the Lady Eagles' junior center fielder and leadoff hitter, had both hits for Gibbs. Lowry was the District 3-AAA Tournament's Most Valuable Player as she led the team to a district tournament title and Region 2-AAA Championship.

Gibbs, which lost its State Tournament opener and battled back from the loser's bracket, advanced to Friday's championship round with a 7-6 victory over Soddy-Daisy earlier in the day,

Ashley Daniels scored the winning run in that game after Gibbs let a 6-1 lead get away.

A double by Holly Moyers plated the winning run in that contest. Moyers

finished 3-for-4 in that game while Cheyenne Boles had four hits and knocked in two runs

In Class AA: CAK had a long day but the Lady Warriors (36-7) might have preferred a longer outing as they would have to win three games to nab their first State Championship.

As it turned out, CAK got to play only one as the young Lady Warriors came up on the short end of a 13-8 eight-inning slugfest against Dyersburg.

CAK had four home runs in the game including one from Lauren Gentry that forced extra innings.

The Lady Warriors got back-to-back solo shots from Emma Webb and Caroline Gavin to keep things close early. Shannon Plese's RBI single knotted the game, 3-3, by inning's end.

Allison Zimmerman also had a home run in the sixth to make the score 8-7.

Gentry evened things in the bottom of the seventh before the Lady Trojans plated five runs in the top of the eighth en route to the title game which they won

7-3 over Greenbrier.

In Class A: Grace Christian Academy made its first-ever State Tournament appearance and landed in the title game where it dropped a 3-0 decision to Gordonsville.

The Lady Rams (32-17) were held to just two hits against the Tigerettes, who were making their second appearance in Murfreesboro.

Grace's two hits came from Kristin Hunt and Leanne Graves.

Gordonsville left-hander Cori had nine strikeouts in the win. She outdueled Grace's Jessica Webb. Webb allowed just one earned run, five hits and four walks.

The Lady Rams advanced to the final round with an 8-7 win over Columbia Academy.

GCA's effort was highlighted by a six-run second inning. In the frame, Ashley Ellison, a freshman, had a three-run double. She later scored on a hit by Bethany Hunt. Callie Kirkland also drove in a pair of runs with a single.

Baker puts team ahead of herself in girls state track

By Steve Williams

best time ever and didn't 15.30. Baker came in Missouri University of In Class AAA, Hardin She was third in the 1600 Track and field is often have enough recovery eighth place to pick up one Science and Technology, Valley Academy's Liza (5:03.47).

thought of as an "individual" time for the hurdles," said point. a NCAA Division II school, El-Ajam, who got took up Farragut senior Katie Baker also took fifth in and plans to compete the shot put event this Beuerlein, who was year after playing softball the past three years, was a surprise winner, edging teammate Tamia Crockett by one-half inch. El-Ajam had a 40-10 mark, while Crockett had a 40-91/2 .Farragut sophomore Destiny Carey placed fourth. Crockett, a junior, also placed fourth in the discus event.

seventh in the Class AAA pentathlon, also was fifth in the high jump. Hardin Valley's 4x800 relay placed fourth, while West took fifth in the 4x200 Maya Barroso of West, a Georgia Tech signee who saw her junior season halted by a knee injury last year, took sixth place in the 300 hurdles. KIL champion Hardin Valley finished third in the Class AAA team scoring.

players, too.

Catholic High.

Baker started off Spring Fling week May 19 by winning the TSSAA Class A-AA state girls pentathlon at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Three days later, the Catholic senior went all out in anchoring the Lady Irish's 4x800 relay team to a state title and school record, even though she knew her efforts would slow her time in the 100meter hurdles event that would soon follow.

"Camille ran her personal

sport, but it has "team" Catholic Coach Brandon Harris. "She gave up her Like Camille Baker of own potential glory in the 100 hurdles for her relay team. That says something about her character.

> "She could have run a slower time in the 4x800 but didn't do that."

Annie Batcheller ran the leadoff leg, followed by Rosa Cinceros, Gabby Prevost and Baker. The foursome combined for a time of 9 minutes, 41.41 seconds. Christian Academy of Knoxville came in second at 9:44.39.

points in the 100 hurdles as sophomore Camille Mancini won the race in

the 300 hurdles and was second in the high jump.

In winning the pentathlon, Baker totaled 3,105 points. Her best event was the 100 hurdles, as she led all pentathletes in that event, clocking a 15.23 for 811 points. Baker also finished first in the 800 (2:27.31 for 727 points) and tied for first in the high jump (5 feet, 1³/₄ inches for 701 points).

Baker also was fourth in the shot put $(15-8\frac{1}{4})$ and eighth in the long jump.

"She had a pretty good Catholic still got 10 day," said Harris. "She's worked hard to get where she's at."

Baker has signed with

in the heptathlon, with the addition of the 200 dash and javelin throw in college.

In other girls highlights at the state, CAK eighth grader Rebecca Story won the Class A-AA 3200 run in 11:21.57 and was third in the 1600. Austin-East's Shenora Rogers prevailed in the shot put (36-03/4). CAK's 4x400 relay team took first in 4:03.10. A-E's Lexus Hall was second in the 200 and fifth in the 100.

Catholic finished fourth in the Class A-AA girls team scoring, while CAK was fifth.

Gibbs' Kelsey DeLapp, a Louisville signee, soared 12-0 to win the pole vault. Farragut's Mack Swicegood was fourth.

closed out her outstanding prep career by winning the 3200 run in 10:52.35.

In Division II, Peighton Emma Mashburn of HVA Meske of Webb came in second in the 3200 and fourth in the 1600.

CAK, Farragut win baseball titles

Cont. from page 1

Farragut coach Matt Buckner. His team played this season with a heavy heart. Assistant coach Scott Dean died just before the season and the Admirals dedicated their season to their fallen coach.

On the field Friday, Farragut pitcher Patrick Raby, a Vanderbilt commitment, hurled a three-hit shutout against the Mustangs (35-10).

He had six strikeouts and five walks.

The Admirals broke a scoreless tie in the top

of the third inning when Duncan Pence's RBI double scored Roy Mutta, who walked earlier in the frame.

away with three runs in the fourth. Designated hitter John Painter had an RBI double. Mutta had a scoring single and Chase Fullington drove in the game's final run with a sacrifice fly.

Admirals' first baseman Chase Chambers closed out his high school career with three hits in the championship game.

In the Class A Championship Game: Johnson County defeated Grace Christian 8-2 on Friday.

It was Grace's only loss Farragut put the game in Murfreesboro. The Rams (27-13), who were making their first title game appearance, had won 15 of 16 games going into the State Tournament.

> Grace had 11 hits in the contest as Justin Shaw, Chandler Adkins and Luke Shepherd each had two,

> Adkins had an RBI while Hayden Coffman and Shaw scored for the Rams.

Catholic, CAK and Webb win state titles

Continued from page 1

semifinal match over Battle Ground Academy 4-0. Rollhauser, Loaiza, Gabi Dagotto and Jadhau all won in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, the Lady Spartans claimed a State Championship with a dramatic

Anna Catharine Feaster opened the singles competition for the Lady Spartans when she defeated Mary Jane McCaghren 6-1, 6-1.

St. Mary's got wins at No. 2 and No. 3 Singles from Carman Saab and Catherine Culpepper.

Webb won at No. 4 when Diana Grandas downed Lilly Saab 6-2, 6-1 and Divya Agawal beat Lizzie Apple 6-0, 6-1.

In doubles, St. Mary's took the

first match when Carman Sabb and McCaghren prevailed.

Webb's Kathryn Evans and Grandas won the final doubles match to clinch the championship.

In the Class AAA girls tournament: Bearden reached Wednesday's final match but fell to Ravenwood 4-0.

The Lady Bulldogs advanced to the championship match with a 4-1 win over Murfreesboro-Siegel.

Bearden dropped the No. 1 Singles match when Brittany Foust fell 6-1, 6-3 to Marissa Kovack.

After that, the Lady Bulldogs won the next four matches. Veronica Allen, Megan Pearson, Natalie Parton and Kelly Spade all notched wins in the match.

4-3 victory over St. Mary's.

www.knoxfocus.com

Holstons to host vintage baseball game at Ramsey House

By Ken Lay

Vintage baseball is now in Knoxville.

The Knoxville Holstons are the county's resident team. The squad is part of the Tennessee Association of Vintage Baseball, an organization that was founded in 2012.

The Holstons began play this spring and they will host the Highland Rim Distillers

Ramsey House. First pitch is slated for 2 p.m. and admission is free.

The Holstons (0-3) play 19th Century baseball. No gloves are used and only one game ball is issued.

"The rules are different and they didn't use gloves back then," said Ramsey House Executive Director Judy La Rose. "They only use

into the weeds, the game stopped until the teams could find the ball and they could start again."

"There are also no umpires because [19th century baseball] was a gentlemen's game. If there was a dispute, you had an arbiter and his decision was final."

on May 31 at the Historic one ball, so if the ball went of an eight-team league which also features the Dry Town Boys (Roane County), the Franklin Farriers, the Distillers (Goodlettsville), the Nashville Maroons, the Oak Hill Travellers (Franklin), the Phoenix of East Nashville and the Stewarts Creek Scouts (Smyrna).

> The Knoxville Holstons have partnered with the The Holstons are part River Rambler Train Tours.

The Three Rivers Rambler will take fans to the game on May 31. The train departs from Neyland Drive and will take fans to the showdown.

"River Rambler has partnered with us and if this [the train ride] works then they will also come to the other home games," La Rose said. "That train ride is about 60 percent booked.

"They're going to drop the fans off about a-thirdof-a mile from the field and the fans will walk from the railroad tracks to the game."

PAGE C3

La Rose noted that concessions including hot dogs, drinks, peanuts and popcorn will be available at the game.

Nothing more than a baby step for young baseball Vols



By Steve Williams this season a "huge step"

for the program. I call it a baby step for the young Vols.

Sure, it was UT's first trip to Hoover since 2007, but when 12 of the 14 teams in the league get in the tourney, making the field as a No. 11 seed is not a big deal in my book.

Had Tennessee beaten Vanderbilt last Tuesday in what amounted to a playin game to the doubleelimination portion of the tournament, then we would have had something to cheer about.

But that didn't happen. In fact, Serrano's club broke Rule No. 5 in The Book of Unwritten Baseball Rules, published by Baseball Digest years ago – Never make the first or third out at third base. Tennessee committed that cardinal sin in the top of the ninth inning and was eliminated by the Commodores 3-2. The Vols didn't break Rule No. 5 the classic way, like trying to stretch a double into a triple. No, their bad was even worse. UT had gotten off to a great start in the ninth when freshman Nick Senzel doubled and was awarded third base on a balk. Leading by one, Vandy brought in its infield. That strategy paid off. Taylor Smart hit a chopper down the line and third baseman Xavier Turner gloved it and tagged out Senzel before he could get back

to the bag. Nick, here's your off-season homework assignment: Copy Rule No. 5 a thousand times. The same for you Serrano and third base

coach Greg Bergeron. Believe it or not, it got worse.

Smart was picked off first base by righthander Carson Fulmer. Let's take a timeout right here to check to see if Carson is related to Phillip Fulmer. I mean, after all, although I don't believe it really exists, we all have heard of the "Fulmer curse" that's been cast on UT athletics since he was fired by Mike Hamilton in 2008.

This felt like a curse. Serrano should have taken blame for the costly base-running mistake at third but didn't in his postgame comments. Instead, the head coach said, "Today was a microcosm about what our season has been about. We have a group of guys that has fought extremely hard, but we just keep doing some things to get in our own way. The ninth inning was probably an example of what we have had to live with all year long." Coach 'em up better, Dave. Did your third base coach have Senzel in a safe position in case there was a shot down the line? Despite the early exit, Serrano said it was important to get the feel of practicing and playing on the field at Hoover. That could prove to be beneficial for his young team, which Serrano said will return "85 to 90 percent" of

There were only two seniors in the starting lineup versus Vandy.

Serrano still held out hope that his team might get selected for a NCAA regional berth. Selections were to have been announced Monday.

Tennessee had a 31-23 overall record and was competitive for much of the season, although it was swept by ETSU in mid-week games and even lost to UNC-Asheville late in the season, a blow to its RPI.. The Vols also were only 12-18 in conference play, losing several close games.

If baseball had the equivalent of college basketball's NIT, that's where this Tennessee team would belong.

The out at third might have been the knockout blow, but I remember another time on the diamond when a Tennessee team didn't get in a run from third that hurt much, much worse.

The Lady Vols already had one win in the bag in the best-of-three NCAA softball championship series in 2007. Monica Abbott, the best pitcher in the history of the sport was blanking Arizona in a scoreless Game 2. UT just needed a run. It had the bases loaded in the fifth with no outs and its 2-3-4 hitters coming up. But Tennessee failed to score. It wasn't because of a base-running blunder. Arizona's defense stepped up big. The Lady Wildcats won 1-0 in 10 innings that night and claimed the crown the next evening with a 5-0 victory.



CAK's Three-Peat Dreams End One Win Short

By Alex Norman

Over the years East Tennessee... specifically Knox County... has been the place for champions in boys' soccer. Catholic, Farragut, Hardin Valley, and Bearden each have had their share of success.

But no team has made the Spring Fling a regular vacation destination like Christian Academy of Knoxville.

On Friday, May 23rd, the Warriors were looking for their ninth state championship, and third in a row. But it was not to be.

Josh Pedicini's header with 18:48 remaining gave Christ Presbyterian Academy a lead they would not relinguish, on their way to a 1-0 victory in the Division I Class A-AA title game in Murfreesboro.

"They (CPA) owned the first half ... the physicality of the game we weren't ready for," said CAK head coach Kurt Backstrom. "Second half I thought we stepped up and played better physically, we really couldn't get much rhythm going they are a very good defensive team. Just have to say that today the better team won but I am still proud of my boys." CAK (20-3-2) captured the District and Region championships this season, but were done no favors in the draw at the Spring Fling. The Warriors faced undefeated Signal Mountain in the guarterfinals, surviving with a 2-1 victory. In the semifinals CAK took on another undefeated opponent, but pulled away in the second half to beat Hume-Fogg 3-0.

portions of the afternoon. CPA took 14 shots, half of them on goal and stopped by CAK keeper Ryan Alberts.

On the game winning tally for CPA, sophomore midfielder Harrison Myers took a free kick from 35 yards away. Pedicini got enough of the cross with his head that Alberts could not catch up. It deflected off the post and dribbled over the goal-line.

The Warriors experienced a key loss when senior defender John Broyles was lost for the game early in the second half with an ankle injury. Later in the day he had been expected to be part of CAK's 4x400 relay team.

In the closing minutes CAK had perhaps their best scoring opportunity of the entire contest. Senior midfield Josh Morgan took the Warriors only corner kick of the game, drove it to the middle of the box where sophomore Anthony Buzzeo got his head on it, but the redirection was just wide of the far post.

"We had some chances at the end," said Backstrom. "Some good chances and crosses, but it just wasn't to be."

Had Tennessee won Game 2 and the title - now I would have called that a "huge step" for a program.

But in the title game the Lions were the more aggressive team for large

For Backstrom the loss also marks

his final game coaching the Warriors. He will shortly leave for Florida to take care of his parents.

"Nothing is taken for granted, at least we tried not to," said Backstrom. "Today we played hard ... we played relentless, but it wasn't enough to win the match. Our boys are highly motivated... they didn't want to disappoint the fans and the school. They played the best they can play. I'm not unhappy with anything. Sometimes it happens. We have had out times as well. Everybody deserves a turn."



2014 Knox County Amateur Tournament Dates: Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8 Format: Stroke Play- 5 different flights.

Flights will be made up after first round. Championship & Senior players must declare before play. Entry Fee: \$140 Per Player.

Refunds: Will be made up to 72 hours before the first day of the tournament. Refunds are for emergencies only.

Deadline: Wednesday, June 4 or until field is full. Rules: U.S.G.A. Rules will govern all play.

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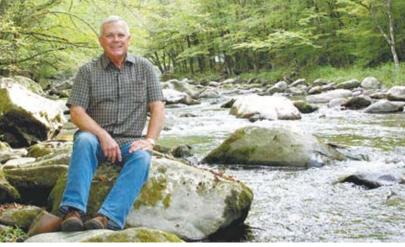
Humor Is Focus of Next Knoxville Writers' Guild Meeting

Award-winning author and longtime "Knoxville News Sentinel" columnist Sam Venable will speak about writing humor columns at the next Knoxville Writers' Guild meeting.

The event, which will be open to the public, begins at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 5, at the Laurel Theater, at the corner of Laurel Avenue and 16th Street in Fort Sanders. A \$2 donation is requested at the door. The building is handicapped accessible. Additional parking is available at Redeemer Church of Knoxville, 1642 Highland Ave.

"I will talk about how to write what I call my 'nutty columns," Venable said. "This is based on real-life situations that I either experience personally or read about in the news. I have a stand-up comedy routine about this insanity called 'You Can't Make This Stuff Up!"

Venable is the author of 12 books. His two most recent are "WARNING! This Product Contains Nuttiness: A Fun Look at the Bizarre World in which



We Live" (University of Tennessee Press 2013) and "How to Tawlk and Rite Good: A guide to the language of Southern Appalachia" (Createspace. com 2013). He has written for the "Knoxville News Sentinel" since 1970, first as outdoors editor and since 1985 as a humor columnist. He has received more than three dozen national and regional writing awards. In recent years, he has been

Sam Venable

successful as a stand-up comedian, covering a wide range of topics from speaking "hillbyese" to the insanity of warning labels to the perils of growing older.

For more information about this and other KWG events, please visit www.knoxvillewritersguild.org. Additional information about Venable can be found at SamVenable.com.

Artists Encouraged to Enter Open Show

May 27, 2014

Fountain City Art Center invites all 2-D and 3-D artists to enter the 9th Annual FCAC Open Show. Artists will bring in work from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17. The opening reception and awards presentation will be on Friday, June 20 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The exhibit will be on view to the public through July 12. Ten cash awards from \$200 to \$30 will be given based on the merit of the work, not on the category. Guidelines and entry forms to enter the show are available at the Fountain City Art Center, by email, (fcartcenter@knology.net), or by going www.fountaincityartctr.com.

Fountain city Art Center also offers classes and workshops all year round and charges no admission to view the exhibits.



Call (865)567-2755 (865)567-3061

Renowned Pianist Anton Nel to Perform June 2nd

On Monday, June 2nd, the University of Tennessee School of Music will host a concert featuring internationally renowned pianist Anton Nel at the university's Knoxville campus.

The concert will be one of the highlights of the Tennessee Music Teachers Association Conference, which is held at various locations within the state each year.

"Anton Nel is an acclaimed Beethoven interpreter, " says Fay Adams, Associate Professor of Piano and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at the School of Music. "I have heard wonderful accolades about his playing," says Adams.

Winner of the 1987 Naumburg International Piano Competition at Carnegie Hall, Nel has performed in major concert halls around the world: Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the New York Metropolitan Museum, the Queen Elizabeth and Wigmore Halls in London, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Suntory Hall in Tokyo,



Anton Nel

Variations on a Minuet by Duport in D Major, K. 57 by Mozart, and Sonata No. 21 in C Major, Op. 53 "Waldstein" by Beethoven.

"I hope Knoxvillians will take advantage of this opportunity," says Adams. "To hear Anton Nel play one of the School's fabulous Steinway pianos in our beautiful new Natalie L. Haslam Music Center is a special occasion for Knoxville classical music fans."



and more.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the Natalie L. Haslam Music Center located at 1741 Volunteer Blvd on campus.

An entrance fee of \$10 will be charged at the door. For conference attendees, the concert fee is included in their conference costs.

The performance will feature Estampes by Debussy, Sonata No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 22 by Schumann,

For more information about the four-day Tennessee Music Teachers Association Conference, please visit www.tnmta.org.

For more information about UT School of Music events, please visit www.music.utk.edu/events.

Statehood Day Living History Weekend At Marble Springs State Historic Site

June 1, 2014 marks the 218th anniversary of Tennessee's admission as the 16th state in the year 1796. In conjunction with the Historic Homes of Knoxville, Marble Springs State Historic Site will commemorate this occasion with a weekend of Living History. Saturday, May 24 from 10am-5pm walk amongst Living History interpreters in 18th Century clothing portraying life on the frontier. Militia drills along with demonstrations of 18th Century life, including tomahawk throwing demonstrations, will take place. The celebration will continue into Sunday, May 25 from 12-5pm with Living History encampments and various interpreters. See the actors of the PBS production, The Mysterious Lost State of Franklin, as they conduct militia drills and a skirmish. Children's activities include falling into a militia drill and playing with period toys. Militia camps will be open between activities. Blacksmithing, weaving, and open hearth cooking will be demonstrated all weekend. A full schedule of events will be

available at www.marblesprings.net. Food will be available for purchase. Details are subject to change.

This event is free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

Programming assistance for this event is provided by the Arts & Heritage Fund and Knox County. Marble Springs is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Historical Commission, and supplemented by additional funds raised by the Governor John Sevier Memorial Association.

All activities take place at the Marble Springs State Historic Site: 1220 West Governor John Sevier Highway, Knoxville, TN 37920.

For details about the Historic Homes of Knoxville and their participation in Statehood Day, please check hhknoxville.org for contact information.

Information can be found at 865-573-5508, email: marblesprings@ gmail.com, or website: www.marblesprings.net.

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Purpose

In a way I'm envious of my other grandson, Noah. He's ten years old and is counting the days until school is over for the summer. He makes me think of those long ago halcyon days which seemed to last forever in the mind of a ten year old boy. A hundred years ago Einstein proved that time was relative to the observer. He needn't have thought so deeply. He must have forgotten what it was like to be a ten year boy because summers last forever for them.

Most of us can't recall many details of the first three years of our lives. Yet, it is during these crucial first years that the constructs of love and self esteem are indelibly imprinted. Oakley just turned two years old and won't remember what we did today, but he will build a life on

the firm foundation of the love we give him. Why does a school day seem so long and summers stretch forever in the mind of a ten year old? For Noah, a year is no more than one seventh of his experience and memory. On the other hand, to a sixtythree year old a year is a much smaller fraction of my awareness, and therefore seems to pass more rapidly than it does for Noah. I can recall those endless summer days playing pick-up baseball, building a tree house with my brothers, and riding my bicycle to the drug store for a fountainmade cherry-coke. It was there that I first heard, "It was an itsy, bitsy, teeny, weeny, yellow, polka dot bikini that she wore for the first time today." To a pubescent boy this otherwise poor excuse of rock and roll was memorable.

My life is certainly different now than when I was working eleven hour days in my large medical practice. Maybe it's because my days still remain so full that I haven't experienced the relativistic time dilation of "retirement." My attention has been diverted from a waiting room full of patients to the programming of a two year old's heart and mind. And I am no longer the professor with all the answers. My wife Becky is the master of this realm. And she, along with my grandson, Oakley, have become my mentors. Everyday I see new things in Oakley's mannerisms, speech and development. Maybe I just forgot many of those childhood milestones and lessons I learned as a young parent. Mostly, what I recall is the feeling of love more than the developmental details. Fortunately, Becky remembers everything about raising our girls and assures me I was there as back up and for the important moments. And I trust her because in matters of the heart she is without equal.

I've been meditating on purpose lately. This perspective and our origin have been recurrent questions for humanity down through the ages.

For most of my adult life my purpose was that of a physician as well as a husband, a Christian, and a father. My emphasis is now redirected toward what I refer to as the three Fs: family; faith; and friends. The intensity of my role as a doctor and counselor has lessened with my transition from the care of thousands of patients to the care of the three dozen in my concierge practice. You would think I would have more time. However, raising a boy is very time consuming, but the most important work I've undertaken since my girls were small. Watching and helping Oakley is now my pleasure and my purpose.

As much as I'd like to focus on the three Fs, and the care of my concierge folks, I am often distracted by the world. Perhaps I should stick my head in the proverbial sand and apply Bobby McFerrin's, "Don't worry; be happy," logic. Unfortunately, I can't be oblivious to the world and remain true to my principles. So, I must speak the truth to those who'll listen as long as I'm afforded a voice.

There is a principle in religion called dualism. The ancient Hebrews were monotheists, believing in one God. After their conquest by the

Babylonians in the 6th century BC they languished in slavery for decades. Subsequent generations asked why they should suffer for the sins of their fathers. In Babylonia the Hebrews were exposed to an eastern religious philosophy called Zoroastrianism, which described a cosmic battle between good and evil. Conceptually, evil must be the source of their suffering, and would later be personified as the Devil.

Like the ancient Greeks I used to believe that all the problems of the world could be explained by man's hubris - arrogant pride. I'm not so sure of this any longer. The notion of evil now seems a more plausible explanation for Boko Haram, the atrocities of the Holocaust and the Syrian civil war, and radical Islam. I used to be more tolerant, but now I identify perspectives and people antithetical to any notion of virtue (right attitude) or morality (right behavior). I actually believe in an absolute good or ideal which I know as God. I measure myself and others against this ideal. Often I find myself and others wanting, but there are people who are seemingly lost to "the rulers, the powers and

the forces of darkness."

Jesus did not compromise with the Pharisees of his day or with Herod. He predicted his own martyrdom and the persecution of the Church we see today by secular humanism and by progressives. Should I turn the other cheek and accept martyrdom? Or should I stand up and oppose evil, exposing it wherever I can? I believe human life is sacred and shouldn't be aborted. We will one day do penance for our American Holocaust. Only God can forgive the lies of our leaders. I refuse to "reach across the aisle" to the people of the lie. And the truth matters, now and always, Mrs. Clinton.

We live in a universe of contrasting opposites: light/dark; yin/yang; matter/antimatter; good/ evil. However, maybe darkness is just the absence of light. And love is the absence of evil.

The great I Am is by definition beyond human understanding. However, I can comprehend love, His motive force of the universe. That is our ultimate quest and purpose.

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

Covenant Health fitness expert Kane leads guided hikes for **Outdoor Knoxville**

You're never too old to go exploring in the summertime, and you're never too far away from a place to explore if you live in or near Knoxville, Tennessee. Outdoor Knoxville and Legacy Parks, organizations developed to support local parks and greenways, are announcing a series of summer hikes, led by Covenant Health fitness expert Missy Kane. Kane, a U.S. track Olympian, has traded in her Olympic torch for the trails as another way to encourage East Tennesseans to achieve fitness while

having fun. Lush greenery, sparkling waters, and wildflowers in bloom await Medical Center and Morthose who choose to step ristown-Hamblen Healthinto the "urban wilder- care System will co-host ness."

at Panther Creek in Hamblen County. Cumberland those hikes.



"Get on Local Trails" starts Thurs., June 5 with a three-mile hike from Volunteer Landing to Morningside Park. Hikes follow every Thursday morning through the last week of July.

This year two hikes will take place out of town. On June 25, participants will visit waterfalls in Cumberland County. On July 23, the featured hike will be

The cost of the program is \$35, which includes the guided hikes, plus a t-shirt, trail map, and sunscreen samples from Thompson Cancer Survival Center. Those who can't take part in the whole series may participate in selected hikes for \$10 per hike.

To sign up, visit outdoorknoxville.com, or call Covenant Health at 1-877-334-4500.

Covenant Health fitness expert Missy Kane (center) is hitting the trail in a summer series of guided hikes.

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Faith

A Charge to Graduates

live

We

This is an exciting time of year for so many students in our community. Some are graduating from college By Mark while others are about to begin their collegiate journey. I thought of Christ a few words of

encouragement to our recent graduates of both high school and college would be appropriate.

Come worship with us New Beverly **Baptist Church** 3320 New Beverly Church Rd. Knoxville, TN 37918 Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor www.newbeverly.org 856-546-0001

Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m. **Bus Ministry** For transportation call 546-0001.

so-called а Christian nation, yet by all appearances the church of Jesus Christ is not making much Brackney, of an impact in **Minister of the** shaping culture. **Arlington Church** In some respects,

> it appears the culture is doing a better job at shaping the church. It is time for the church to reengage culture and send vocational missionaries into the culture-shaping venues of our country: the arts, entertainment, media, and education. We need Christian broadcast journalists, business landscape owners. architects, forensic scientists, nurses, painters, photographers, and film actors.

and women, young and old, who shaped the culture they lived in through their vocation. Joseph, as a young man, rose to become second in command of all

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in Egypt. He was a personal the army of Sisera, who led advisor to the "president" of his day but also Joseph used that position to influence the entire land. God used all the struggles Joseph went through to prepare him to lead Egypt and feed the people of that entire region in the middle of a severe drought. Joseph tells his brothers who feared for their lives upon the death of their father, Jacob: "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Gen. 50:20). What a great attitude and trust in God's leading for his life. Joseph stayed optimistic and trusted that God would use him, and God did.

A woman that God used The Bible is full of men to shape her culture was Deborah, a prophetess and a judge. God used her at a time when women were subordinate to men, yet she rose to the calling God gave her to rally Israel to defeat

the Canaanite coalition. The song Deborah wrote after this ancient battle is one of the finest examples of a song of triumph in Israelite literature (Judges 5). The Lord is shown, in the words to this song, as intervening on behalf of His people and fighting their battles. Deborah is concerned that the glory of the victory is given to the Lord, not her.

Should we not be encouraging and equipping our sons and daughters to become Joseph's and Deborah's? In many cases, the body of Christ has failed to penetrate their community with their values, and they have come to accept their failure as inevitable. If our nation is going to not just survive, but thrive, we need Christians and Christian values to become relevant in the cultural discourse of our nation. Without our involvement in the culture-shaping arenas of art, entertainment, media, education, music, and the like - our nation will not be the glorious one it once was. So, to our graduates, as the late Bob Briner would say, "Be a roaring lamb" (a roaring lamb is a Christian who amplifies their faith).

Church Happenings

Eusebia Presbyterian Church

Alcoa-based East Tennessee Medical Group and Seymour's Eusebia Presbyterian Church are jointly sponsoring a free Health Fair for all on Saturday, May 31, 2014, from 8 to 11 a.m. The event will be at the historic church, located on the corner of U.S. 411 (Maryville-Sevierville Hwy.) and Burnett Station Road. Medical personnel will offer blood pressure checks, body mass index (BMI) profiles, blood tests, and information on area health agencies and resources. Nourishing snacks will be available. For more information telephone the medical group (865) 984-3864 or the church (865) 982-6332; or visit www. eusebiachurch.com.

First United Methodist Church

Come worship Sunday morning with Focus columnist Dr. Ferguson and Becky "down by the river!"

During the summer, First United Methodist Church has worship service at the pavilion over looking the Tennessee River and UT Farms. Riverside service is at 8:30 and the traditional service in the sanctuary is at 10:45.

Come and see why First

Church at 3316 Kingston Pike, (just east of Cherokee Blvd.) is where the difference is worth the distance!

Seymour United Methodist Church

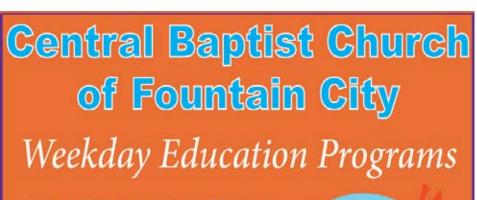
The weekly fellowship meals conclude for the summer months after this Wednesday evening, May 28th at 5:15 p.m. Following, there will be various small group studies beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner reservations required by Tues. noon.

Each Thursday evening, at 6:30 p.m, the Chancel Choir rehearses under the direction of Gaile Todd. New "singers of God's praises" are always welcomed.

Volunteers are needed for the 1st ever Spring-Fest to be held on our church grounds on this coming Saturday, May 31st, beginning at 10 a.m. The public is welcome and invited to participate and enjoy all the entertainment and other various activities.

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

Our church is conveniently located at the corner of Chapman Hwy and Simmons Rd., just one block north of the Boyd's Creek & Rt. 411 intersection with



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May 27, 2014

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This is an eye opener, probably we never thought nor looked at this Psalm in this way, even though we say it over and over again.

The Lord is my shepherd--that's relationship

I shall not want--that's supply

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures-that's rest.

He leadeth beside the still waters--that's refreshment.

He restoreth my soul-that's healing.

He leadeth in the paths

The 23rd Psalm of righteousness--that's guidance.

For His name's sake--that's purpose.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death--that's testing,

I will fear no evil--that's protection.

For thou art with me-that's faithfulness.

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me--that's discipline.

Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies--that's hope

Thou annointest my head with oil--that's consecration.

My cup runneth over--

that's abundance. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of

the Lord--that's security. Forever--that's eternity.

Morning blessing :

As I awoke to the sounds of a pending gloomy day

I sat and mused of all God's gifts and then began to pray.

"Thank you, God, for allowing me to hear the thunder roar.

Thank you for my eyes to see the rain that plants adore.

Thank you for my dusty house, a place to rest my

Many have no place to live, they have no home or

bed. You've given me all I need to cope with life today,

A healthy mind and spirit, your light to lead the way. So, thank you for your

gifts, dear Lord, please stay by my side

I can handle any task, with You by my side."

By Donna Hammerbacher from a little book called, "Give Thanks for Little Things".

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



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1 to 1¹/₂ lbs of your favorite smoked sausage (brats, kielbasa, etc.)

5 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed

1 27 ounce sauerkraut, drained

2 or 3 medium tart apples, peeled and sliced

1 onion, chopped

1/4 cup brown sugar

1/2 tsp salt

In a heavy skillet, brown sausage thoroughly. In a slow cooker combine the remaining ingredients. Stir in sausage and pan drippings. Cover and cook on high 4 to 6 hours or on low for 7 or 8. Cook until potatoes are tender. Serve with fresh baked cornbread.

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