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Haslam signs 'Tennessee Promise' into law



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Gov. Bill Haslam at Fulton High School last Thursday.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam held a ceremonial bill signing at Fulton High School last week for HB 2491/SB2471, the "Tennessee Promise."

The historic proposal, which was approved overwhelmingly by the General Assembly, commits to providing two years of community college or a college of applied technology (TCAT) absolutely free

of tuition and fees to graduating high school seniors on a continuing basis.

"Through the Tennessee Promise, we are fighting the rising cost of higher education, and we are raising our expectations as a state," Haslam said. "We are committed to making a clear statement to families that education beyond high school

is a priority in the state of Tennessee.

"This is a bold promise," Haslam continued. "It is a promise that speaks volumes to current and prospective employers, and it is a promise that will make a real difference for generations of Tennesseans."

Participating students must: graduate from high school; agree to

work with a mentor; complete eight hours of community service; and maintain a 2.0 GPA during their two years at a community college or TCAT.

After graduating from a community college, if students choose to attend a four-year school, the state's Transfer Pathways program makes it possible for those students to

start as a junior. By getting their first two years free, the cost of a four-year degree would be cut in half.

The Tennessee Promise is not funded through taxpayer dollars. Excess lottery reserve funds are being used to create an endowment to strategically redirect existing resources and to keep the program sustainable over time.

Adrian Burnett Safety Patrol is D.C. Bound



Pictured are (back row) Keeli Williams, Kaylin Shipman, Allyson Scott, Grayson Buchanan, Chesney Harris, (front row) Jordan Bishop, Tristan Webb, Jeremy Weinberg, Matthew Matteson, Emily Davi and Stevie Fann

By Focus Staff

A few months ago, *The Focus* reported on 5th grader Jordan Bishop's plan to raise money so his classmates could go on the AAA Adrian Burnett 5th Grade Safety Patrol Trip to Washington D.C.

Bishop represents Mr. Green's 5th grade class on student council at Adrian Burnett Elementary School. During his student council

campaign, Bishop presented his fund raiser proposal to the PTSO and to the parents of the students eligible for the annual trip. He formed a committee of over 30 people with the goal of raising \$20,000.

Through a series of fund raisers including Arts & Craft Shows and snack sales this semester, Bishop and his classmates have worked hard to raise a little over half the cost for the D.C. trip. Instead of

paying the full \$440, parents will just have to pay \$236 for their child to attend.

The 5th graders are going to give it another go before the big trip to see if they can raise even more. A huge Yard Sale will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The sale will be held at 7320 Crown Road, Knoxville, 37918 (in Castlegate Sub-division, just off Emory Road).

City to look at downtown mobility

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

This Thursday, May 22, the city begins to look closer at creating a plan for downtown mobility. The public meeting will review the background of the study as well as existing and planned future conditions.

The design consultants, Kimley-Horn and Associates and Toole Design Group, are working on the plan. Within the plan would be improved strategies for vehicle movement, selected destination downtown, the transit service in and through downtown, bicycle access, adequate on-street parking, pedestrian connections downtown and residential areas near downtown, and looking at one-way and two-way streets.

The Gay Street corridor will also be assessed to determine on-street parking as opposed to turn lanes, traffic signal improvement, and pavement markings to direct motorists.

A second public hearing will be announced later and the plan is expected to be completed this September.

Project limits for the plan are West Depot Avenue to the north, the Tennessee River to the south, Hall of Fame Drive to the east, and 11th street to the west.

Exchange students prepare to return home

By David Klein

Hosting an international student can be a very rewarding experience, both for the students and the host families. Often, friendships are made for life and students and host parents often view each other as second families.

For the past school year, nine students from European countries have studied in Knoxville area high schools. Students from as far away as Norway have participated in the program as part of the Education First Foundation.

The Education First Foundation (EFF) is the leader in

high school exchange, bringing over 55,000 international students to America since 1979. It is funded by the U.S. Department of State.

Lendelle and Sue Clark serve as volunteer International Exchange Coordinators for EFF and hosted the exchange students at a Re-Entry Orientation meeting on May 10. Students prepared a homemade meal to share with each other and their host families before students and host families broke off into meetings. During the student meeting,

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Pictured left to right are: Antonia Cichocki of Austria, Morristown West High; Megan Baldissara of Italy, Knoxville West High; Javier Guerrero of Spain, South-Doyle High; Malika Skogsholm of Norway, Oliver Springs High; Niklas Wisler of Germany, South-Doyle High; Mini Palay of Spain, Knoxville West High; Sue Clark, EF Coordinator; Marin Havnaas of Norway, Gibbs High; and Lendelle Clark, EF Coordinator.

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Focus on the Law

Board Of Equalization

The Tennessee Constitution, Article II, Section 28 permits the taxation of all real property, personal property or mixed. The Legislature is authorized to exempt from this property owned by the State, Counties, Cities or Towns. It may also exempt property used exclusively for "purposes purely religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational."

All property, except that owned public utility companies, is assessed by elected county property tax



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

assessors. Property assessors conduct reappraisals of real property every four to six years. In Knox County the elected property assessor is Phil Ballard and his office is in Suite 204 of the City-County Building on 400 Main Street.

If you disagree with value placed on your real property by the tax assessor, you should appeal to the county equalization board where the property is located. The local boards meet in May or June each year to conduct

hearings. The Knox County Equalization Board meets in June of every year. You should contact Phil Ballard's office [phone number (865)215-2360] starting on May 27th of this year to make an appointment to appear before the Knox County Board. The Board is authorized to hear appeals of current year tax assessments. It can decrease the assessment of properties that is determined to have been excessively assessed. It can correct errors arising from clerical mistakes that are brought to its attention. And, after giving the taxpayer notice and the opportunity to be

heard, it can increase the assessment of property it determines to be under assessed.

If you are not satisfied with the decision of the local board of equalization, you may then file an appeal to the State Board of Equalization in Nashville. This appeal is handled by an administrative judge. You may file your appeal electronically or in writing. Appeals forms may be found at <https://www.comptroller.tn.gov/SBOE/sbappeal.asp> The appeal should be filed by August 1 of the tax year under appeal, or within 45 days after the date the

county board of equalization sent you notice of its action, whichever is later. You must pay a filing fee assessed per parcel of real property under appeal based upon the value of each parcel. Depending upon the outcome, part of this fee may be refunded after the decision.

The next level of appeal is to the Assessment Appeals Commission. This may be done by filing a letter or written complaint detailing your reasons for disagreeing with the decision of the order of the administrative judge. There is also a filing fee for this level of appeal.

Remember, in order to

pursue an appeal, state law requires that you pay at least the undisputed portion of your taxes prior to the delinquency date. You also must pay the full amount of any delinquent taxes due against the property for prior years. When a final certificate of assessment is issued by the Board of Equalization or Assessment Appeals Commission, you will either receive a refund of any overpayment or will owe the amount of any underpayment of taxes, along with interest at the rate provided by law.

MPC, Knox Heritage offering restoration workshops

By Focus Staff

The Historic Zoning Commission met last Thursday with three items on the agenda. One item was for a homeowner in Fourth and Gill at 906 Luttrell St. who wants to repair siding, fascia, soffit, windows, roof, or other features using materials, design, and dimensions that match original or early features.

The second item was for property at 15 Market Square in downtown, historically known as McBath Brothers Building, built in late 1800s. The buildings were originally built as three storefronts. The storefronts have been a saloon, clothing and shoe stores, Market Square Billiards, Snyder's Dry Goods and department store, and eventually Watson's. The request is to build a canopy to cover the outdoor dining area with lighting and dimmers to illuminate the dining tables and new signage. This work is being done in accordance with Market Square Guidelines adopted by Knoxville City Council in 2001.

Item three was to report the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) has been awarded a Historic Preservation Fund grant by the

Tennessee Historical Commission to prepare updates for six sets of design guidelines for local Historic Districts.

The updates will address issues that are of increasing concern within the historic districts such as energy efficiency, the use of alternative materials, and new construction. The grant requires at least four, not to exceed six meetings with MPC staff and/or neighborhood associations to discuss areas of particular concern and to discuss design guidelines currently in place. The timetable for completion is April 29, 2014. Completion date is September 19, 2014. The award of the grant was \$7,402.92 to cover all costs, including direct and overhead expenses.

Also, on Sat., May 31, from 10 a.m. - noon, and again from 1 - 5 p.m., the Metropolitan Planning Commission and Knox Heritage are co-sponsoring an opportunity to learn a cost-effective way to repair those old wooden windows.

Two learning formats will be offered. The morning workshop (10 a.m. -noon) will be a free-of-charge classroom session in

which participants will learn cost-effective ways to repair/restore old windows and make them energy-efficient.

The afternoon workshop (1- 5 p.m.) will be a hands-on opportunity to participate in the art of historic wood-framed window repair. The fee for this session is \$20. Students will learn sash removal, safe paint and glass removal, epoxy repair, glazing putty application, rope and pulley repair, weather-stripping and sash installation. This field workshop will be helpful to homeowners as well as contractors interested in learning about window restoration. Participants may bring their own windows to the workshop, or work with materials already on site.

Both sessions will be held at Historic Westwood located at 3425 Kingston Pike. Space is limited for the afternoon hands-on workshop. E-mail Hollie Cook at hcook@knoxheritage.org or call 865-523-8008 to register. Light sandwiches will be provided. Checks for the \$20 registration fee should be made out to Knox Heritage.

City BZA approves zoning variances

By Focus Staff

The City of Knoxville Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) met on Thursday, May 15, to consider petitions for variance of requirements of the Knoxville City Code Zoning Regulations.

There were eight variances granted. Three petitions were approved for Springdale Partners, located at 261 W. Springdale Ave. in the Fifth Council District, all for subdivision plats.

One petition was approved for Marion Environmental, Inc., located at 1907 Gillespie Ave. in the 4th Council District. They want to construct a garage facility.

Another petition was approved for Randy Cooper, at 7522 Middlebrook Pike in the 2nd Council District, to permit the construction of a new nursing home facility pending the replatting of the site and a Use-On-Review. (State Sen. Doug Overbey was one of

the attorneys representing Shannondale Nursing, but he did not speak).

A petition was granted to Ideal Engineering, 2935 Miller Place Way (Regional Shopping Center) in the 4th Council District to permit the plan parking for a facility that was granted a building permit based on the zoning compliant construction drawings.

A petition was granted to Mark Allan at 4821 Coster Road in the 5th Council District. He wants to reduce the minimum number of required parking spaces from 12 to 4 spaces. This project is part of Helen Ross McNabb residences on Liberty Street.

A petition was granted to Flournoy Development, at 2000 Willow Loop Way) in the 2nd Council District, to permit the construction of a new 246-unit apartment development. This project is part of the ongoing development in the Nothshore Town Center at Pellissippi Parkway.

Data pertinent to these amendments may be seen in the office of City of Knoxville Inspections Division, 5th Floor of the City-County Building, Main Street.

The commissioners unanimously approved all items. (Only three members of the five-member board membership were present). Five members are nominated by the mayor and confirmed by City Council to each serve a term of five years.

A decision of this Board may be appealed to City Council by filing an Appeal Application and paying the required fee with the Metropolitan Planning Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of the decision.

The next BZA meeting is June 19, 2014. If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability, please contact the City ADA coordinator at 215-2034.

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Special Guest Editorial

Knox County Schools Need More Than Money

By Mike McMillan
Knox County School Board,
8th District

All too often the solution to any problem in America is trying to spend it out of existence. President Lyndon Johnson's famous "War On Poverty" is just one such example and the end result is our national debt is almost exactly what our country has spent to obliterate poverty in this country. Not only have we not ended poverty, but we have more people dependent upon the government than ever before. Americans have repeatedly demonstrated they are the most generous people on earth. We have all opened our pocketbooks where children are concerned and there is likely not a single individual who doesn't want the best for the children of this country. Most people would be shocked to realize we spend over half a billion dollars

annually on our schools in Knox County. Sixty-two cents out of every tax dollar collected in Knox County goes to fund our schools, yet some of my colleagues on the Board of Education claim we are not making an investment in our future. Certainly our children are an investment, but an investment implies a return on that investment. Superintendent Jim McIntyre and many of my colleagues on the Knox County School Board cite ACT scores and graduation rates, but are entirely silent on preparation rates. Preparation rates indicate just how many students are prepared to either join the workforce or further their education at universities or colleges. The preparation rates for Knox County seniors, as has been noted in this newspaper, are shockingly low. The highest preparation rate in Knox County is at Farragut High School and that is only

40%, meaning fully 60% of those students graduating at Farragut are NOT prepared to further their education or get a job. Folks are demanding more from every branch of the government, yet few have held school systems accountable in the same way we've held local and state governments accountable. Considering just how much money we are spending, it is neither heartless nor cruel to expect the superintendent and Board of Education to spend your tax dollars wisely. Recently, Superintendent McIntyre strongly recommended a study to be performed by the Parthenon Group, at a cost of \$1.2 million. I voted for this measure, to my regret, and the report as submitted was, in my opinion, useless. Originally, the report was to have shown us where we could eliminate waste; instead, the end report urged the board to request

what would amount to a huge tax increase. Neither Superintendent McIntyre nor the school board seem to be interested in arranging priorities and making do with what we have; instead Dr. McIntyre and the Board ask for more and more money. We are told that businesses will locate here if only we would spend more money on schools and I do not doubt for a moment that good schools do encourage business; however, the Chamber of Commerce and other business folk frequently urge new businesses be given "tax breaks," which means they don't pay the same taxes as working people to support our schools. The notion that Knox Countians are stingy and have not made a commitment to support education is neither true nor fair. A superintendent and a board that cannot manage money are incompetent. Would we

expect less from City Council or County Commission? The truth is no agency of local government has grown as much as has the school system. Few even bother to acknowledge Knox County is \$1 billion in debt. Having been a County commissioner and a member of the board, I think the biggest difference in the two offices is that a commissioner has to give thought to the entire government as a whole, while most board members don't even consider anything outside the school system. If every aspect of local government grew at the same rate as our school system, the tax rate would likely be triple what it is presently. Board members would probably argue there is nothing more important than our children and our schools, but a thinking person would realize that without roads, nobody is getting to school. Without deputies and police

officers, our children wouldn't be safe. Without our courts, criminals would be out on the streets. Nor does it seem to me that some of my colleagues consider inflation; a slab of bacon now costs 53% more than it did a year ago. Gas for automobiles, milk, bread, and the necessities of life have all gone up far more than peoples' salaries. The Chamber doesn't advocate tax breaks for ordinary people. There's nothing at all wrong with the superintendent and the Board of Education being held accountable for how we spend your money and the results we achieve. I contend that you HAVE made an investment in education; now the superintendent and the board need to invest in some common sense in how we spend your money.

Letter to the Editor: Tony Norman responds to Doug Harris

By Tony Norman
Knox County Commission
3rd District

The following is a response to Doug Harris's guest column in last Sunday's News Sentinel. Mr. Harris's conclusion is that the Knox County School System needs more funding to enable our students to be successful in today's economy. Two targets are teacher pay and technology improvements. These are undoubtedly true but need further consideration. There is an implication that KCS policy and practice is serving us well. Mr. Harris cites an important feature when he mentions preparedness as defined by College and Career Readiness data and ACT scores. We know the ACT and the CCR is now the gold standard

for measuring student outcomes. It is apparent that a 21% readiness score for KCS students graduating from high school, and a falling composite ACT (which KCS admin tends to avoid) is unacceptable. There has been a very effective PR campaign to present the system as high achieving. Witness the power point sides of student's holding A+ signs behind Dr. McIntyre at public meetings. This is a conclusion drawn from an obscure portion of TCAP analysis called the Normalized Curve Equivalency. It is past time to be using TCAP scores to evaluate effectiveness given the national shift to higher standards. Mr. Harris's argument to increase funding is based on the Per Pupil Expenditure (PPE) data. He contends that based on our previous

year's budget of \$420 million, our PPE is near \$9K per student and notes how poorly this compares to surrounding counties. However the 2013 Tennessee Department of Education Statistical Report notes KCS expense at \$560 million which would bring the PPE to \$15K. In the same statistical reports it is noted that between the years 1995-2013 KCS student population grew 13% while the administrative function of KCS grew 164%. The total budget more than doubled during this period from \$209 million to \$419 million. It is difficult to derive administration costs from budget reports due to the use of a broad category called classroom support in which the actual expenses for admin and classroom are blurred. Mr. Harris's contention about

teacher pay being low is undoubtedly true. However the notion that teachers are leaving KCS due to low pay does not include some very important factors as evidenced from the teacher uprising this year. KCS's own survey reported that some 70% of teachers were in disagreement with the current administration policies and practices. The losses of morale due to these "initiatives" combined with the lack of autonomy in the classroom are significant factors in teacher drain. This discussion should also include early retirements and resignations with transfers to other systems. Admittedly KCS is in need of tech upgrades and the funding of these can and should be made through adjustments in the capital budget. I would add that research indicates

tech reserved for middle and high school is a better and more useful tact considering the developmental needs of our students. The drive for tech in elementary seems to support what many consider an unbalanced quest for data generation (just get a candid response from an elementary teacher). In conclusion, a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of KCS is in order. The determination of administration costs of the AJ Building is essential before discussing ways to increase revenues. Additionally KCS should start to evaluate the administration function based on ACT outcomes. Perhaps after these are done we can effectively decide if and when tax proposals are advisable.

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My Child is More than a Test Score

KCS Elementary Testing Information, 2013-2014 School Year

A common topic in Public Forum at BOE meetings is the excessive assessments Knox County kids are subject to, especially in elementary school. Parents and teachers



By Sally Absher
sallyabsher@gmail.com

it up to the school systems to select which assessment. Knox County chose the SAT-10, which requires children as young as five to sit for an hour or more, four days in a row, filling in "bubbles" on an answer sheet. This is not developmentally appropriate. Standardized testing is under fire across the nation. In New York this spring, over 33,000 students opted out of the state required, Common Core-aligned PARCC assessment. That is the same test that students in Tennessee were scheduled to take next year, until the TN legislature voted to postpone it by a year. In some NY schools, up to 80% of students opted out. Actually it's not quite accurate to say they "opted out," since California is the only state with an "Opt Out" law. Unfortunately, Gloria Johnson's bipartisan sponsored bill (HB1841) to allow TN parents to opt their children out from high stakes testing was taken off notice after the senate version failed to pass in the Education Committee. If you don't want your child to take the TCAP test in Tennessee, you may "refuse" the test, as a number of parents in Knox

Test and Purpose	Dates	Grades	Mandated by	
			State	KCS
TCAP Writing Assessment- Grade 5, mandatory Grades 3-4, optional	2-3-14 to 2-7-14 2-10-14 to 2-28-14	5 3-4	X	
TCAP - achievement testing Grades 3-5	4-28-14 to 5-1-14	3-5	X	
ELDA- ELL students only, measures English progress	2-11-14 to 2-28-14	K-5	X	
SAT-10 - achievement testing Grades K-2	5-5-14 to 5-8-14	K-2		X
CBM- Curriculum Based Measurement- timed readings to identify students needing reading intervention. Math computation is optional by school	8-26-13 to 8-30-13 1-13-14 to 1-17-14 5-12-14 to 5-16-14 (opt.)	1-5		X
DEA - Discovery Ed Assessment for ELA and Math (science optional for grades 4-5) - gives teacher information to target students' strengths & weaknesses (Mandatory September and December, optional in March 2014 based on grade level PCL decision)	9-16-13 to 9-18-13 (3 rd -5 th) 9-23-13 to 9-27-13 (2 nd) 12-2-13 to 12-6-13 (3 rd -5 th) 12-9-13 to 12-13-13 (2 nd) 3-3-14 to 3-7-14(3 rd -5 th) 3-10-14 to 3-13-14 (2 nd)	2-5		X
Math Fact Fluency Tests- math facts in a timed test	12 x/year grades 1-5 K- 4x/2 nd semester	K-5		X
Math Topic Tests- student knowledge of current unit	Varies based upon unit	K-5		X
Math Module Tests- long term knowledge of curriculum	Every 9 weeks	K-5		X
Math Computational Fluency Test	Every 9 weeks	1-5		X
Reading/ELA Weekly Tests- assess content knowledge	Weekly	K-5		X
Writing Assessments- write to prompts of different genres	2x/ year December & April/May	1-5 K		X
ELA Module Assessments- K literacy assessment	August & every 9 weeks	K		X
Kindergarten Running Records- K reading levels	April/May	K		X

Information compiled from KCS Reading/ELA and Math Intranet, teacher input, KCS Elementary Testing Schedule, and www.tn.gov/education

have spoken out against the number of high stakes standardized tests in Knox County. They have spoken of the negative effects not only on the children, but on the teachers, whose evaluation is based 50% on a misconstrued statistical model of student's "value added" test scores. The sheer volume of tests that kids as young as five are required to take will shock you. I've included a table showing the 2013-2014 KCS Elementary School test information. This list doesn't include the dubious "surveys" such as the Tripod Survey, in which students evaluate their teacher, and then answer a series of personal questions. Would you want a six year old child contributing to your performance review? Only three of the tests on the list are state mandated. Technically the SAT-10 should be listed as state mandated, since Tennessee's Race to the Top (RTTT) application requires a K-2 assessment. The state left

County did recently. There is no state law that says you can't refuse testing for your child. Response varies by district, but in Knox County, the child must be kept home from school on test day(s). And those that "refuse" the TCAP will get a "zero" on the test that now counts for 15% of their grade. Sometimes it's important to stand on principle. Why the opposition to

standardized tests? Don't we need some way to gauge what our kids are learning? Yes, but the current assessment driven educational model, codified under No Child Left Behind and put on steroids under RTTT, is creating an entire generation of children who have learned to take standardized tests, but not much else. These assessments emphasize English/Language Arts and Math. This

leaves little time for social studies and science, and almost eliminates the arts from most children's educational experience. It is also creating a generation of children with severe test anxiety, and who have developed an extreme dislike of school at the tender age of five or six. It's not helping high school students either. The BOE boasts that under Dr. McIntyre, graduation rates

are up and test scores are up. Yet only 21% of Knox County students met all four of the ACT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks in 2013. That means 79% of students are not ready for the work force, or will require remedial courses in college. Wouldn't you fire a coach who only won 21% of his games? We just learned that Knox County will be getting

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King's Academy

*My Child is
More than a
Test Score*

Cont. from page 3

\$2.9M less in BEP money from the state due to lower than expected state revenues. As the BOE and County Commission gear up for the annual battle of the budget, it might be helpful for the BOE to consider the cost of testing in excess of what is required by the state or federal government. It's not improving educational outcomes and it's giving our money to outside corporate interests.

It cost money to purchase the tests, and I wonder how much KCS pays education giant Pearson, Inc. to grade Knox County's TCAPs? In past years, they were scored in-state but Pearson offers a quicker turnaround - which is needed as the state deemed that TCAPs will count as a portion of a student's final grade as well as determining a significant portion of their teacher's year-end summative evaluation score.



Moriah Brothers,
Valedictorian



Destiny Shell,
Salutatorian



Lydia Dowdy,
Valedictorian



Catherine Sharp,
Valedictorian



Jessica Ayers,
Salutatorian

Seymour High



Christopher Bishop,
Salutatorian



Kara Richmer,
Salutatorian



Megan Romines,
Salutatorian



John Taylor,
Salutatorian



Kalia Wright,
Salutatorian

Get ready for summer at Bay Tan

By David Klein

Bay Tan, a neighborhood tanning salon, is reopening to the Knoxville area. The family business, originally opened fifteen years ago by Linda Payne, is now being run by her sister Judy Bryson. Payne passed away from cancer in February.

Linda's husband gave Bryson the business around the beginning of March. Family members have helped run the business since April.

The tanning salon is located at the corner of Jacksboro Pike and Sanders Road. It is open Monday

through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 to 5 p.m.

Bryson said there are nine regular beds, two standup bronzers, one lay down bronzer, one leg bed, and that all beds have facials. The bronzers are the most popular beds, Bryson said. Bryson said she would like to get the business up to 20 people attending a day.

The décor, Bryson said, is what stands Bay Tan apart from other salons. There are black lights in the main hallway, making clothing items glow in the dark. The small family business

gives it a neighborly feel that distinguishes it from large chain tanning salons. There are also hand-painted rooms. "It's very unique," Bryson said.

When getting ready to tan, Bryson said to start slowly. "If you come in and tan only for five minutes, build up from there," she said. "I tell people working in the sun to do the same thing. Fifteen minutes in sunshine will do someone well." Customers tell the front desk how many minutes they would like to tan for, and the controls for the beds are set at the front desk.

In addition to going slowly, Bryson said that people should wear sunscreen and lotions and protective glasses when they tan at the salon. "The big thing is making sure they have their skin checked," Bryson emphasized.

Bay Tan sells tanning by minutes not by visits. It is running a 15 percent discount through May 21 on their minute packages. There are no membership fees and customers have two years to use their minutes. Some of their packaging prices are:

Sixty minutes in a standup

bronzer for \$72.25.

Regular beds for 100 minutes are \$41.65 plus tax.

300 minutes in a regular bed is \$58.65.

The stand up and the bronzer for 200 minutes is \$119 on sale. Just one visit in a regular tanning bed before taxes is \$10 for 5, 10, or 15 minutes. One visit in a standup bronzer is \$18. Customers get more for their money if they purchase packages, Bryson said. Package minutes are also sharable between family members she added. Bryson talked about one

of her goals for the facility. "I'd like to hope in a couple of years that we'd get it up and going and have a portion of the proceeds go to cancer research," Bryson said, talking about honoring her sister.

"It's just the greatest tanning facility I've seen," Bryson said. "I have just been overwhelmed by how sweet people are," Bryson added, talking about how customers brought food, flowers and cards to the business for her sister.

Call (865)687-0866 to schedule an appointment.

Exchange students prepare to return home

Cont. from page 1

Lendelle covered important items students needed to wrap up before heading back to their home countries, such as insurance, bank accounts, phone bills, etc.

Sue talked with the host parents about their thoughts and feelings as the students they hosted were getting near the end of the program and preparing to return home. Parents also discussed the differences in culture they had come to find out between the U.S. and the students' countries. Students also shared with each other what they will miss about their experiences here and how they were coping with returning home.

Getting the word out to people about the program is one of the toughest challenges. "The toughest part is people willing to take a stranger," Sue Clark said. Host parents are screened as well as the students. The best way to find host families to host the students, Lendelle said, is through word of mouth. They have also handed out flyers advertising the program in businesses.

Costs to the international students' parents range from \$10,000-12,000. "Students come with their own insurance and spending money," Sue said. American families volunteer their time and houses to host the students.

The most rewarding aspect

of the program, Sue said, is "watching the students grow and change, mature." One other host parent, Ray Thompson, said that he has made friends for life from the program and that the international students view host parents as a second family. "You can't even put a price on that. I've made five trips to Europe. I have a place to stay. They (international students and their parents) take you to places out of the way."

The Clarks hosted two students over the past school year. Guillermina (Mini) Palay Barca is from Barcelona, Spain, and Megan Baldissara is from Milan, Italy. Mini is a junior and Megan a senior at

West High School. The students do not receive academic credit for their studies and will have to make up their year of study when they go back to their countries.

Megan described her experience as fun, and Mini had the attitude to "go for it." Both of them said the biggest difference between America and their countries is the food and the transportation. Mini said, "Back in Spain I walked everywhere. Here you need a car to get somewhere. You're dependant on people for a ride." However, she does have a scooter in Spain.

Mini has also noticed the differences in schooling.

"I had 14 subjects back in Spain. Here I have eight. Here there is multiple choice (on tests); back there you have to write many essays."

This has been Mini's first time in the states, and she has been to Washington D.C., North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Miami, and New York City. "I'm in love with New York," she said. Megan loved California and Florida.

Both played basketball for West, but Megan suffered an

ACL injury one week before the season began. She said she began running again one week ago. Mini loved going to UT football games, attending five of them last fall.

Both students will take back life lessons they have learned here with them to their countries. "I'll be more open-minded," Mini said. Her advice for international students thinking about a school year in America: "Go for it. Don't think about what it will be like. Come here and

experience it and enjoy it. I've had the best year of my life so far. I don't want to leave."

"It's one of the most enjoyable things I've ever done," Sue Clark said, talking about hosting international students.

For more information on how you can become a host for an international exchange student please visit www.iffoundation.org or contact Lendelle and Sue Clark at elflendelleclark@yahoo.com or call (865) 385-4649.

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Our Neighborhoods

DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE

WHAT THE CITY CAN DO FOR YOU

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Let's say you live inside the city limits of Knoxville and you are curious about what services you are paying for and how you can use them. If you are fairly new to Knoxville or lived here all your life there's probably some information you do not know.

You don't have to live downtown to benefit from City services.

So, what are you getting as a city resident for your tax money? If you don't know who you should contact, you can always use the city's 311 telephone number and be directed to the appropriate department. The following are just a few offices and services the city provides.

THE CITY GOVERNMENT

The city council is made up of nine members and the mayor. Unlike the Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, Mayor Madeline Rogero presides over the meetings of her governing body. You can reach the mayor's office at 215-2040.

The City Council is made up of nine members: six from the city districts and three elected at large. The at large councilmen are George C. Wallace, Marshall W. Stair, and Finbarr Saunders. The six district council members are Nick Pavlis (vice mayor), Duane Grieve, Brenda Palmer, Mark Campen and Daniel Brown. The city council office can be reached at 215-2075.

Mayor Rogero and the council members can also be contacted on the city's website at "www.cityofknoxville.org."

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS

More than 100 different neighborhood groups are coordinated by the Office of Neighborhoods and you can find out about your area by calling 215-3232 or check the internet at the city site.

David Massey is the Neighborhood Coordinator and you can reach him at that number or you can email him at dmassey@cityofknoxville.org. Basically the office works with



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Surprising artwork is placed here and there around Knoxville. This one, Audrey Flack's "Beloved Woman of Justice," is in the plaza of the Howard H. Baker, Jr. U. S. Courthouse.

organized groups to coordinate programs, hear problems, hold meetings with neighborhood representatives, and help with city policy and services. Massey also publishes an on-line calendar of city and neighborhood events.

BUS AND TROLLEY SERVICE

Knoxville Area Transit serves more than 3.6 million riders each year and provides bus, trolley and para-transport. Downtown Trolley rides are free. After 6 p.m. and on weekends, parking is free on downtown streets. So if you live outside the downtown, you may want to drive in and ride the Trolley.

One way bus tickets are \$1.50 or 75 cents to people over 65

with Medicare or KAT cards and students with KAT I.D. Cards.

Loading and unloading at the Transit Center changed recently and you can no longer catch a bus at 301 East Church Street. You must get on or off on the upper level. Trolleys will continue to load and unload on the street.

Buses serving neighborhoods away from the center of town arrive about every 15 minutes on major street bus

stops and you should have the correct change for the fares.

You can contact KAT at 637-3000. Route information is available on their web site, www.katbus.com.

PARKING DOWNTOWN

Parking downtown any day after 6 p.m. is free on the streets or at the State Street garage and Locust Street Garage except for special events. Otherwise you must pay the meters or the garage fees. You can also pay monthly to park in the garages.

There are several commercial parking facilities around downtown but don't be confused because parking in a commercial lot or garage is NOT free after 6 p.m.

Parking meters on city streets are operated from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Also, watch where you park because some parking spaces are now only for mobile food vendors, the handicapped, or authorized vehicles.

KNOXVILLE CITY POLICE

Inside Knoxville the City Police serves the community and David Rausch is police chief. He can be reached at 215-7229. Darrell DeBusk is the public information officer and you can reach him at 215-7229.

Seven citizens serve as the Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC) and reviews complaints and reports to the city council and the mayor. You can reach PARC at 215-3869 or find the committee on the city web site.

Obviously if you have a police or fire emergency you should always call 911 for help.

PARKS, POOLS AND PLAYGROUNDS

There are 81 parks in and around Knoxville, ranging in size from one acre to 331 acres. These include golf courses, historic parks, community playgrounds, and riverside parks. Many connect with greenways and all, by law, prohibit alcohol, drug and firearms.

Many offer playgrounds, Frisbee courts, pools, fountains, bath rooms, and walking trails. All of the parks are supported by taxpayer money and operated by the city's Parks and Recreation Department. You can access a list of parks, what they have to offer, how large they are, etc. at the city's website.

Each of the parks has been named for outstanding national, state, historic or local citizens.

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Mobile Food Vendors on the streets downtown are something new and seem to be doing very well. This one was parked in the designated space on Main Street recently.



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Our Neighborhoods

DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The "Postcard of Knoxville" mural by Bobbie Crews and a lot of local painters decorates the side of "the Visit Knoxville building downtown."

Cont. from page 1

VISIT KNOXVILLE

The information on Visit Knoxville's website says it all:

If you're new to Knoxville you need to make Visit Knoxville one of your first stops. If you're a long-time resident you should stop by, especially over lunch and enjoy the live music during the Blue Plate Special.

Located in downtown Knoxville at the corner of Summit and Gay, the Knoxville Visitors Center is the place for all things Knoxville. From maps and information on tours and

entertainment to locally made art and gifts, visitors and locals alike enjoy trips to our Visitors Center.

Stop by the Visitors Center Monday through Saturday and enjoy the WDVX Blue Plate Special - a free live concert from Noon to 1:00pm. Kids can always find something fun to do in the Kid's Corner at the Visitors Center. If you're downtown on the third Friday of the month, you can be sure the Kid's Corner has something special planned - maybe a fun craft, a furry visitor from the Knoxville Zoo or a meet and greet with athlete from one of our local sports teams!

Our friendly staff is happy to help you plan your visit. Feel free to ask us about local hot spots, walking

tours, trolley schedules, kid-friendly outings, upcoming festivals and more. We look forward to helping you enjoy your stay in Knoxville.

You can call Visit Knoxville at 800-727-8045 or find them online at www.visitknoxville.com.

This is a very quick look at Knoxville and what your tax dollars get you. There's so much more including various upcoming projects and a myriad of city departments: the Fire Department, Garbage Collection, the city courts, special events, and things like building inspections, public works, street repairs, and the departments of Finance, Engineering, Civil Service, etc.

City Budget Talks Postponed

By Focus Staff

Knoxville City Council held its bi-weekly meeting last Tuesday. Per usual, amendments to the agenda began the meeting and there were some important postponements.

All items pertaining to the second reading of the proposed FY' 2014-15 budget were postponed until June 10 by Vice-mayor Nick Pavlis, Dist. 1, who represents South Knoxville and Historic Fort Sanders. The reason is Council has budget hearings all day May 21 and wants to have those hearings done before voting on the budget.

Third District member Brenda Palmer tabled the item dealing with "Zoning Regulations" and development standards for drop off donation centers. Currently there are several types and sizes of drop off donation centers. The issue is under study by Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Duane Grieve who represents parts of West Knoxville, Dist. 2, postponed an Ordinance until June 10 that would to rezone property on Kingston Pike and Kingston Court to allow multi-unit dwellings. This item has drawn much support and criticism from residents.

There was more than usual in the "Mayor's Report." The Knoxville Convention Center, headed by Mary Bogert, received a 2014 "Pauly Award," recognized by their peers and industry partners as the best in their field for facilities and operations.

Knoxville's 311 Call Center received a national award for national customer service for improving local government service, and the city's Public Works Department received national recognition by the American Public Works Association.

Mayor Rogero also introduced a new draft of the "Public Events Guide." The city's website defines the guide's purpose as:

to make it easier for groups to book events on Market Square and elsewhere in the Central Business Improvement District, the City of Knoxville's Office of Special Events is consolidating and updating into a new 27-page guide all the information that an event coordinator might need.

The draft of the easy-to-use Event Guide includes copies of forms that groups typically need, as well as explanations of what permits and insurance policies are required.

Got a question about how to get a beer permit, or where your group can hang a banner? Not sure who to contact to seek permission to close a street? Need help reserving a space or a stage?

Continue on page 4

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Governor Thomas C. Rye

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

Just after the turn of the century, Tennessee's Democratic Party became almost hopelessly fractured. The candidacies of two men helped to heal the deep divisions inside the Democratic Party in Tennessee: that of Kenneth D. McKellar for the United States Senate in 1916 and Tom C. Rye for governor in 1914.

Thomas Clarke Rye was born June 2, 1863 in Benton County; Rye was the son of a reasonably successful storekeeper and farmer. Young Tom expressed an interest in the law and as was common at the time, "read" the law under the supervision of his uncle, Thomas Morris. Once he had been admitted to the Bar, Tom C. Rye moved to Camden, Tennessee where he commenced the practice of law. It was not long after he had been admitted to the Bar that Tom took a bride, marrying Betty Arnold in 1888.

Rye served as the Clerk and Master for the Chancery Court in Benton County and later lived in Washington, D. C. where he worked as a pension agent. When Tom C. Rye moved back to Tennessee, he relocated to Paris in Henry County and got himself elected district attorney. Rye earned notoriety as strictly enforcing the law, as well as cracking down on bootleggers. The future governor was an ardent prohibitionist and he had no sympathy whatever for those making illegal whisky or moonshine.

The gubernatorial administration of Governor Malcolm Rice Patterson had shattered Tennessee's Democratic Party. Challenged by former Senator Edward Ward Carmack in 1908, Patterson had narrowly been renominated. The ill feelings between Governor Patterson and Senator Carmack went back to 1894 when Carmack had defeated Patterson's father, Josiah, for reelection to Congress. Carmack was himself a strong supporter of prohibition, while Governor Patterson was both personally and politically "wet."

After his defeat for the gubernatorial nomination in 1908, Carmack returned to his former vocation as a newspaper editor, having been hired by Luke Lea to be the editor of the Nashville Tennessean. Carmack, still seething over his loss, tormented the governor and Patterson's allies in print without mercy. Carmack, encountering Colonel Duncan B. Cooper and his son Robin on a Nashville street, was left dead in the gutter after shots were exchanged.

Governor Patterson pardoned Colonel Cooper and

was seeking a third two-year term when the Democratic Party in Tennessee came apart at the seams. Most of the state Supreme Court bolted the Democratic Party, announcing they would seek reelection as "Independent" Democrats and promptly formed an alliance with the Republicans. Patterson was stunned when the "Fusionist" ticket soundly thrashed his own slate of regular Democrats. Patterson quickly concluded he could not be reelected and withdrew as a candidate. Democrats urged Senator Robert Love Taylor, perhaps the most personally popular Democrat in the state and a former three-term governor, to run against Fusionist candidate and Republican nominee Ben W. Hooper. The divisions inside Tennessee's Democratic Party were so deep, even Taylor could not beat Hooper in 1910.

Luke Lea immediately took advantage of those divisions and was elected to the United States Senate in 1911 with the support of Independent Democrats and Republicans. Tennessee had just elected its first Fusionist U. S. senator.

When Governor Ben W. Hooper sought reelection in 1912, Democrats were still not united. Benton McMillin, a former governor, was the Democratic nominee to challenge the Republican chief executive, but he had no better luck than Bob Taylor and lost. Just after Hooper's reelection, the Tennessee General Assembly convened and Democrats struggled to maintain control of Tennessee's other U. S. Senate seat. Incumbent James B. Frazier very much wanted to be reelected, but it soon became clear he did not have the votes to win. Once again, a combination of Independent Democrats and Republicans elected a senator, choosing State Supreme Court Justice John Knight Shields. By 1913, the Fusionists had elected the governor and both United States senators.

It was the high tide of the Fusionist movement in Tennessee.

Hooper wanted a third two-year term as governor in 1914, but Democrats had finally coalesced around the candidacy of district attorney Tom C. Rye. Fifty-one years old in 1914, Rye waged an effective campaign and Democrats of every stripe endorsed his candidacy. Rye defeated Governor Hooper, winning 137,656 votes to the incumbent's 116,667 votes.

E. H. Crump, emerging as the leader of the Shelby County political organization, earned some unwanted statewide attention when Governor Hooper



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Governor Thomas C. Rye

complained he had been defeated by the large vote won by Tom C. Rye in Crump's domain. Hooper believed the vote in Shelby County was fraudulent.

If grateful to Crump for his support, Governor Rye had an odd way of showing it. Crump was anything but a prohibitionist and the governor supported an "Ouster" law, which permitted the removal of any officeholder who refused to enforce the prohibition law. The bill was aimed squarely at Memphis Mayor E. H. Crump, who was notorious for his refusal to strictly enforce prohibition in the Bluff City. Crump resigned before being removed and several other Memphis officials were ousted from office, along with others in Nashville and Knoxville.

Governor Rye was responsible for the creation of Tennessee's State Highway Department, the forerunner of the Department of Transportation. Tennesseans were soon having to register their automobiles and the governor implemented a highway tax to help pay for roads. Rye also supported a tax for the benefit of Tennessee's schools and was one of the few governors who did not suffer for it at the polls for increasing taxes.

Tom C. Rye sought a second term in 1916, which was also the first year Tennesseans popularly elected their first United States senator. Luke Lea was a candidate to succeed

himself, but drew strong opposition from former governor Malcolm Patterson and Memphis Congressman K. D. McKellar. Rye did his best to avoid entangling himself in the complicated Senate race, as both Senator Lea and Governor Patterson had strongly supported him in 1914. Lea and Patterson were polarizing figures in Tennessee politics and McKellar ran more as a "harmony" candidate, one who could appeal to every faction inside the Democratic Party. Neither Lea nor Patterson paid much attention to McKellar's candidacy and just about everybody was shocked when McKellar won the first round of balloting, carrying East and West Tennessee. Lea was eliminated in the first primary and McKellar repeated the feat in the run-off election, carrying East and West Tennessee to defeat Patterson and earn the right to face former Republican governor Ben W. Hooper in the 1916 general election. Senator Lea had expected an open endorsement from Governor Rye and was deeply disappointed when he did not get it.

Governor Rye and Congressman McKellar stumped the state and posters urging the election of the Democratic ticket appeared all over Tennessee. President Woodrow Wilson, Vice President Thomas R. Marshall, Governor Rye, Congressman McKellar, and Colonel B. A. Enloe comprised the Democratic ticket in Tennessee and

the Democrats handily won the election. Governor Rye defeated his Republican opponent, John W. Overall, with 146,758 votes to 117,817. McKellar, facing the more popular Ben W. Hooper, won 143,718 votes to the former governor's total of 118,174 votes.

President Wilson despite having campaigned on the slogan "He Kept Us Out of War", soon led the United States into World War I. More than 80,000 Tennesseans took part in the war and only the number of Tennesseans fighting in the Civil War exceeded that of those in Europe fighting in the World War.

Governor Rye signed into law Tennessee's first real primary election law and henceforth candidates would be selected by voters inside party primaries.

Tom C. Rye could have sought a third two-year term in 1918, but instead he opted to challenge the last remaining Fusionist in office, Senator John Knight Shields.

Rye was still popular and had every expectation of defeating the crusty Senator Shields. Rye was from West Tennessee, while Shields was a native of Republican dominated East Tennessee. Senator Shields had quietly backed the senatorial candidacy of Kenneth McKellar in 1916 and his junior colleague proposed to return the favor in 1918. McKellar learned that President Wilson, who

disliked John Knight Shields, intended to send a letter for public consumption to Tennessee stating the senator was no friend to Wilson. Senator McKellar realized if the president sent any such letter, Shields would lose the primary election to Governor Rye.

McKellar managed to convince the president not to send the letter and had little difficulty in convincing his friend E. H. Crump to back Shields's reelection bid. Shields very narrowly won renomination and was easily reelected in the general election.

Tom C. Rye accepted the verdict of Tennessee Democrats and returned to Paris and began practicing law once again. Rye was offered the post of Chancellor for the Eighth Judicial District in West Tennessee and accepted. The former governor remained on the bench until 1940 when he decided to retire. Rye summoned another former governor from West Tennessee to his office, Gordon Browning. Rye told Browning he was ready to retire if Browning would run for Chancellor to succeed him. Out of office and humiliated in the 1938 election, Browning agreed to run and Tom C. Rye ended his career in Tennessee politics.

Governor Rye lived another thirteen years, remaining in Paris, Tennessee until his death on September 12, 1953 at age ninety.

Put the phone down

During my travels up and down the Interstate highways in Knoxville and surrounding areas, I've noticed the electronic signs that the state has erected. Just the other day, the message read,

"Don't text and drive; it's against the law!"

I'm sure doing so is also quite illegal, but that hasn't had much effect on too many drivers. In fact, I've made it a point as I ride along the streets to observe folks. The things they are number with cell phone is disconcerting, to say the least, but the most egregious is texting.

Okay, here's where some folks will call me a sexist, but these comments are



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

based on the observations I've made of late. First, the group that violates the cell phone usage law most often is made up of young women. So many times, I've passed a car

to discover that the driver is a female who is "bobble-heading" between a view of the road and the one on her cell phone. She's driving at break-neck speed and swerving as if she were under the influence of alcohol. On two occasions, I've been forced to swerve my car to avoid being hit. What makes the situation even more aggravating is the fact that the young female had no idea what she'd done; she was too busy looking at that phone.

No one can text and drive at the same time. I know that young people can type out a long message on a cell phone by the time I punch in my name, but they don't have special powers to complete the task and safely drive a car. According to the CDC, 9 people are killed and more than 1,000 are injured each day due to what they call "distracted driving." A whopping 31% of drivers admit they text while driving. I suppose it goes to show that plenty of morons are behind the steering wheels of cars. If that statement offends you, then all I can say is don't text.

Another thing that happens when folks are using a cell phone while driving is that they slow down. Most are so involved with their conversations that they forget to maintain a safe

speed that keeps the flow of traffic going. Both men and women are guilty of this act, and they all need to be aware that the most important job they have is operating the vehicle.

Those who insist upon texting and yakking mindlessly while driving evidently didn't get the memo about the perils they and other motorists face when cell phones are used. For that reason, I've made some simple, poignant points for them to consider:

1. You don't drive that well to begin with.
2. Nothing short of the death of a loved one is so important that you have to use a phone while you're driving. If you must text, pull over, stop your car, and don't kill an innocent driver who is obeying the rules of

the road.

3. If you're grown up enough to handle a 3000 pound projectile, then you're old enough to take responsibility when you injure or kill someone. Don't say, "It's not my fault."

4. A prison cell is a lonely place where you won't have the use of a cell phone.

5. The road was not made for you alone. Your job is to share it, and, yes, that means staying in your own lane.

6. Yes, females are able to multi-task, but that doesn't mean they can drive and text at the same time.

Cell phones are the most dangerous things that interfere with driving. If you'll notice, I don't call them "smart phones" because too many idiots have their hands wrapped

around them as they speed down the highways and back roads of the country. Not that long ago, folks got along fine without a cell phone. They completed conversations on home phones, but driving was their main focus when they climbed into a car. No one tried to drive with one hand, and text, dial phone numbers, smoke, eat, fiddle with the radio, and turn on lights or wipers with the other. I would have included turning on turn signals, but that's another topic for another day.

I know my fussing here won't stop anyone who thinks it's safe to text while driving. Still, if you have even an inkling of concern for other drivers, just put down the phone.

City Budget Talks Postponed

Cont. from page 2

Staff with the Office of Special Events and other City offices will be seeking comments and suggestions about the draft of the Event Guide at a forum at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 19, at the Knoxville Chamber office, Market House meeting room, 17 Market Square.

Copies of the Event Guide will be available at Monday's public meeting. The draft is also available on the City of Knoxville's website at <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/events/guide.pdf>.

Three Ordinances

approving the request of Knoxville City Council for an amendment to the Southwest County Sector Plan from Mixed Use to High Density Residential near the Northshore Town Center drew a fair amount of opposition, but in the end the amendments were approved by a 6-3 vote, with Councilmembers Dan Brown, Mark Campen, and Nick Della Volpe voting in opposition.

The next meeting of Knoxville City Council is Tues., May 27 at 7 p.m. Main Assembly Room in City-County Building.

City of Knoxville's 311 Receives Synergy Award of Excellence

The City of Knoxville 311 Call Center has been recognized with this year's CS Week 311 Synergy Group award of excellence at the annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. The award recognizes one centralized government customer service center that has consistently demonstrated a customer-focused approach to improving local government service.

CS Week is the premier utility customer service conference for managers and executives at investor owned utilities, cooperatives, municipalities and government entities.

Esther Tenenbaum, 311 Synergy Group Conference Chair, presented

the award to Russ Jensen, 311 Director City of Knoxville.

Russ Jensen was happy to accept this recognition. "We are a reflection of our leadership. Mayor Rogero is very service-driven and reminds us regularly that we are fortunate enough to serve the people of our community," said Jensen. "All of us at 311 take seriously that we are Knoxville's phone number and the voice of city government."

Opened in May 2005 and celebrating its 10th year, 311 Call Center is an easy to use, direct line to the government. It is also designed to help the City of Knoxville administration ensure that city services are

being delivered efficiently.

Knoxville's 311 receives approximately 200,000 calls per year and is one of the most cost efficient centers in the country.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Justin Bradley and Russ Jensen of Knoxville 311

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Sheriff, Abid will play soccer at LMU

By Ken Lay

Central High School soccer teammates M.J. Sheriff and Safaa Abid will be continue to play together in college.

The duo made it official when they both signed National Letters of Intent to play at Lincoln Memorial University.

The signings culminated one of the most successful seasons in Central High School history and Bobcats' coach Russ Wise is happy to see two of his top players play college soccer close to home.

"I'm excited and this is a nice high point to end one of the best seasons in

Central history," Wise said. "I'm looking forward to getting the chance to see them play."

"Having players like M.J. and Safaa made our program stronger."

Sheriff and Abid are best friends and they'll be roommates in Harrogate. They also went through the recruiting process together.

Both players had offers from Tennessee Wesleyan, Union College in Kentucky and Cumberland College in Lebanon. Abid also had an offer from the University of Memphis.

"I went on a visit to LMU and the campus and it was

really beautiful," said Sheriff, a defender, who will pursue a degree in architecture.

Abid, a forward for the Bobcats, said he also found the environment pleasing.

"I liked the campus and I liked the dorms," he said. "The dorms are like small apartments and you have your own room."

"This campus was great and the classes have advanced technology."

Abid will pursue a degree in dentistry.

Both players are looking forward to playing together.

"It's important for me to play with [Abid]," Sheriff

said. "It was also important for me to play close to home because I want my family to get the chance to see me play because they pushed me."

Abid agreed.

"It's really nice because M.J. Sheriff is like my brother," he said. "When I first came to America and didn't know how to speak much English, he helped me."

"I've known him since I came to high school. It's really important for my mom that I stayed close to home because she's sick and I wanted to play soccer and have a career. I wanted to stay close to home."



Central High School soccer players Safaa Abid and M.J. Sheriff recently signed National Letters of Intent to play at Lincoln Memorial University. Pictured with Abid and Sheriff is Bobcats coach Russ Wise.

Eckern's hat trick propels Farragut to region title

By Ken Lay

Senior forward Fletcher Eckern stepped up when the Farragut High School boys soccer team needed him most.

Eckern had a hat trick Thursday night to lead the Admirals to a 4-1 victory over rival Hardin Valley Academy before a packed house at the Farragut Soccer Stadium.

"It's really awesome," Eckern said after tallying three goals against the Hawks. "I guess when the lights come on, I step up."

"One goal is nice. Two goals are great and three goals are perfect."

Eckern's first marker came in the sixth minute when he fired a left-footed shot past HVA goalkeeper Drew Meek and into the back of the Hawks net in the sixth minute of the contest.

"I caught it inside and banged it in off the post," Eckern said.

His goal represented the only scoring of the opening 40 minutes.

"We kind of lost the match late in the first half and early in the second half," he said. "But we got it back."

Hardin Valley (14-4-2) pulled even when David Klett scored off a rebound in front of a crowded Farragut net in the 50th minute. That would be all that the Hawks would get because his marker appeared to awaken a sleeping giant in Farragut.

Following the equalizer, the

Continue on page 3



Hardin Valley goalkeeper Drew Meek emerges from the crowd to make a save in the Hawks' 4-1 loss to the host Admirals in the Region 2-AAA Championship match Thursday night at Farragut.

Knox County high schoolers will go for gold in Spring Fling

By Steve Williams

The annual Spring Fling is this week in Murfreesboro and plenty of Knox County high school athletes and teams are expected to be in the action.

State competition will be held in five different sports – baseball, softball, soccer, tennis and track and field.

The girls' pentathlon and boys' decathlon get underway Monday at Middle Tennessee State University. Camille Baker of Knoxville Catholic and Katie Beurlein of Farragut are among the favorites in the Class A-AA and Class AAA pentathlon, respectively.

Other sports start play on Tuesday and will continue through most of the week at different venues (See TSSAA.org for the Spring Fling schedule).

As of last Friday, perennial state power Farragut, Powell, Catholic, CAK, Grace Christian and Webb School were still playing for state tournament berths in baseball.

In softball, Gibbs, winner of nine Class AA state crowns, needed a win Saturday over Daniel Boone to advance to its first-ever Class AAA state tournament.

Other state hopefuls in softball included CAK and Grace Christian – each just a state sectional victory away from making it to the state in Class AA and Class A, respectively.

Farragut, Hardin Valley Academy, CAK and Webb were looking for sectional wins in boys soccer.

In tennis, Bearden, CAK and Webb girls were still in the state hunt, along with the Webb boys.

Among Knox County's top contenders for girls' state honors in track and field included Gibbs pole vaulter Kelsey DeLapp, Hardin Valley Academy discus thrower Tamia Crockett and CAK distance runner Rebecca Story, who's just an 8th grader.

In boys track and field, HVA All-American Aaron Templeton is expected to be a strong contender in the 3200-meter run.



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CAK 8th grader in running for TSSAA state honors

By Steve Williams

Rebecca Story is not yet in high school, but she could be a high school state champion before the end of this week.

Story is an 8th grader at Christian Academy of Knoxville, and with the middle school she attends being on the same campus as CAK's high school, she's allowed, under Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association rules, to compete on the Lady Warriors' high school track team. And compete she does. The young and

diminutive distance runner breezed to easy wins in the 1600 and 3200-meter runs and also anchored the Christian Academy girls' 4x800 relay team to victory at the TSSAA Class A-AA East Sectional Thursday at CAK.

After helping the relay team turn in a winning time of 9 minutes, 58.80 seconds, Story coasted to a 5:21.50 in the 1600, finishing six seconds ahead of the runner-up, then completed her day with an 11:29 in the 3200, crossing the finish line with a winning margin of over 16 seconds.

Rebecca knows the competition will be much stiffer at the state Thursday at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

"Mallory Young is really good, and a really nice person, too," said Story, who ran against the Signal Mountain High junior in the TSSAA state cross country meet last November. Story was among the favorites in that race but came in sixth place. Young was third.

Young owns the state's top 1600 time in A-AA this outdoor season, a 5:04.97, while Story's PR

in that event is 5:06.

Story has the state's top A-AA times in the 3200 (11:03.54) and 800 (2:21.75) this spring.

"She's just a tremendous competitor more than anything," said CAK Coach Tony Cosey.

Despite her youth, Story meets her coach's three requirements for an 8th grader to compete on the high school team.

"Rebecca has a great work ethic," said Cosey. "You're talking about somebody that's getting it done in the classroom - a straight A student - and someone that has a

tremendous amount of maturity. Those three factors are paramount, with academics being first."

Story said she did a couple of triathlons - running, cycling and swimming - in the 4th grade and that led to her start in elementary school cross country in the 5th grade. She liked distance running and on into middle school. She's still involved in swimming in the summer.

This is Cosey's third year coaching Story. "A lot of coaches probably automatically assume that Rebecca is over-trained or doing high

mileage," said Cosey, who competed in the steeplechase in the 2000 Olympics after an outstanding track career at UT and Central High. "The reality is I've actually kept her mileage quite low. She's still got some growing to do, and the last thing I want to do is hinder her long term development.

"The sky is the limit for her. She's reaching the goals she has set each year. Before too long she's going to have to put down on paper some goals that I don't think she was thinking about maybe two years ago.

Tyndall's whirlwind recruiting haul creates excitement

Not since the 1970s, when Tennessee signed Ernie Grunfeld and Bernard King out of New York City, can I recall there being as much excitement over basketball recruiting as we've seen the past couple of weeks.

New coach Donnie Tyndall had to work fast to fill up a roster that was dwindling. As of Friday, only five scholarship players remained from the Vols' 2013-14 squad, and there was speculation that another might be leaving. On top of that, all four of former coach Cuozzo Martin's signees had decided to play their college ball elsewhere.

I doubt there's another "Ernie and Bernie Show" waiting in the wings, but a flurry of signees, thankfully, had boosted UT's Class of 2014 to six members. A couple of more may also be on board by the time you read this.

Tennessee fans are used to getting excited about a big haul of football signees every February. The sport of basketball is much different, of course, as it allows for only 13 players to be on scholarship. As basketball fans, we are used to seeing about three, maybe four new signees per year. And their pledges to sign could be spread out from one end of the calendar to the other.

The fallout from the latest coaching change put a huge hole in the Vols' roster.



By Steve Williams

Now I sort of know how a Kentucky fan must feel following John Calipari's unique system, which puts a practically brand new Big Blue team on the court each season. Well, at least a poor man's version of the

Calipari system, you might say.

Tyndall wasn't bringing in McDonald's All-Americans left and right, but the new Vols have solid credentials. They should fit right in with the new coach's aggressive style of play. He said "toughness" was the common characteristic of this group.

Tyndall and his staff were unable to win the re-recruitment of Philip Cofer, a Martin signee whose father, Mike, had played at old Rule High in Knoxville before going on to a standout football career at UT and with the Detroit Lions. Florida State won out, but the Cofer family did say the UT coaches made an impressive effort.

Tyndall and staff did convince Robert Hubbs III to remain a Vol, a significant unofficial recruiting victory. Other Vols still on board are Josh Richardson, Armani Moore, Pops Ndiaye and Derek Reese.

Newcomers include 6-8½, 225-pound forward Jabari McGhee, junior college guards Kevin Punter and Devon Baulkman, a very confident Detrick Mostella, former Southern Mississippi commitment

Willie Carmichael and graduate transfer guard Ian Chiles from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

McGhee averaged 24 points and 15 rebounds at Hargrave Military Academy. The 6-4 Punter, a first-team JUCO All-American from close to Grunfeld and King's playgrounds, the Bronx, is a sharpshooter.

Mostella is an explosive 6-3 combo guard from Decatur, Ala., who played last season at Notre Dame Prep in Fitchburg, Mass. He was rated the overall No. 43 player in the nation in the Class of 2013. Baulkman is a 6-5 guard who scored 48 points in one game at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, Fla. He previously had signed to play for Tyndall at Southern Mississippi.

The 6-8, 210-pound Carmichael of Apopka, Fla., was the Class 7A Player of the Year in Florida. He also is a former Southern Miss commitment. Chiles, 6-1 guard, led IUPUI with a 15.8 scoring average this past season.

Eric McKnight, a high-flying 6-9 forward and graduate transfer who starred on Florida Gulf Coast's 2013 Sweet Sixteen team, verbally committed to UT and was expected to sign scholarship papers over the weekend.

McKnight has some baggage. His FGC coach had told him he would not be allowed back on the team for his final season due to an undisclosed

Continue on page 3

The Non-Sports Era

By Alex Norman

"Daddy, what was it like when they just played games and we didn't pay attention to things off the field/court?"

"No one knows Timmy... no one knows..."

This is where we are now as a sports culture. Blame the internet and the leagues and the greed and the owners and the players and the Jock Jams CD's and Nick Saban. Blame anyone or anything you want.

And we need to blame ourselves as well.

Over the past two weeks what have been the biggest sports stories in North America... the tremendous NBA and NHL playoffs? The anticipation of soccer's World Cup?

Nope... the biggest sports stories have been the release of racist statements that an idiotic NBA team owner made to his... ahem... "assistant..." and the St. Louis Rams making Missouri's Michael Sam the first openly homosexual man to be selected in the NFL Draft.

You might throw in the Cleveland Browns drafting former Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel into this mix, but my point will be made by that as well. Manziel is known almost as much for his stellar play on the field as he is for his extra-curricular activities.

When people heard the comments that NBA owner Donald Sterling made (and I'm not going to rehash them here) they were shocked, dismayed and aghast... but really shouldn't have been. Anyone that followed the NBA knew that Sterling was a jerk. But the story got picked up by every media outlet you can think off, and set off a firestorm.

This completely overshadowed what should have been a time to showcase the league. Normally the first round of the playoffs is fairly boring, with the favored teams winning easily. This season however the top seeded Spurs and Pacers were each pushed to 7 games, the up and coming Trailblazers upset Houston, Oklahoma City edged Memphis in an entertaining seven game affair...

But all anyone was talking about was Sterling. And that's a shame.

When it comes to the National Football League (which is infallible and will eventually destroy all of mankind), the

NFL Draft is the ultimate "Keep Hope Alive" moment for a football fan. So what if the Detroit Lions have never been to a Super Bowl? Picking that kid out of East Wichita Tech is going to make all the difference!!!

The first two days of the draft gave us some compelling moments, including the roller coaster ride for Manziel in which the Dallas Cowboys could have put America's most well-known college athlete on America's Team but chose against it... and the Tennessee Titans apparently never googling the players they draft. (Seriously, look up the past of their top choice, Michigan tackle Taylor Lewan.)

Instead, all anyone has talked about was the selection of Sam by the Rams with the 249th pick and the video of him kissing his boyfriend.

Why was he selected so late? Is it because he is gay? Was he only selected because he is gay? What will this mean to the Rams locker room? WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN???????

You couldn't turn on a television set without seeing that story play out on sports programs and non-sports programs alike. Sam has inked a deal with Oprah Winfrey's OWN network as well. YOU GET A REALITY SHOW! AND YOU GET A REALITY SHOW!

Here in Knoxville we aren't immune to this either. Honestly, how rare have actual "football" discussions become in the post-Fulmer era? Between Lane Kiffin and Derek Dooley the only game I really recall is the one where the Vols had 44 guys on the field against LSU. Everything in those years was about taunting Urban Meyer or students setting a mattress on fire or orange slacks or Rommel or immovable hair or "Opportunity is Nowhere."

It finally appears with Butch Jones that Tennessee is getting back to being a football program and not a soap opera.

For better or worse this is what we have to accept. Can't put the genie back in the bottle... It is a 24/7 sports cycle and there have to be things to talk about 24/7.

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The CAK Lady Warriors celebrate their Region 2-AA Championship Wednesday. CAK claimed the title with a 3-0 victory over rival Alcoa.

CAK to install turf at Warrior Stadium

By Ken Lay

Christian Academy of Knoxville's football team will have a new field for the 2014 season.

The school will install field turf at Warrior Stadium. The Warriors, who won back-to-back Class 3A State Titles in 2011 and 2012 and reached the state quarterfinals last season, will be the fifth area team to have turf facilities.

CAK joins Catholic, Maryville and Grace Christian Academy as schools that have synthetic playing surfaces. Farragut High School has an artificial turf on its practice field.

"This is very exciting news," CAK athletic director John East said. "With the installation of synthetic turf, CAK will move to the position of always being able to practice or play in the stadium without the threat of tearing up the playing field."

Warriors' head coach Rusty Bradley is also excited about the new turf field and said that the football team won't be the only ones to benefit from its new home field.

"I'm excited about what turf can do for the CAK community," Bradley said. "It will also benefit our feeder programs, other CAK teams, our PE classes and our elementary school recesses and field days."

"I am grateful to all who have made the investment not only into the turf, but into the lives of the kids who will have the opportunity to use it."

Hollifield to coach Lady Warriors basketball team: Former Powell High School girls basketball coach Caitlin Hollifield was recently named to the same position at Christian Academy of Knoxville.

Hollifield led the Lady Panthers to the Region 2-AAA Tournament in each of her two seasons as coach.

She has a lifetime coaching record of 43-15.

During her playing days at Powell, she helped lead the Lady Panthers to a pair of Class AAA State Tournament berths.

After high school, Hollifield played one season at the University of Alabama.

Following a medical redshirt, she transferred to Western Carolina, where she completed her college career and earned a degree in science education.

She previously taught science and ecology at Karns High School.

At CAK, she will teach science and serve as an assistant athletic director.

CAK downs Lady Tornadoes to claim region title

By Ken Lay

Hannah DeVault finally hit her pitch Wednesday night and when she did it went over the fence.

Her solo home run in the bottom of the fifth inning proved to be the only run that the Christian Academy of Knoxville needed in a 3-0 victory over rival Alcoa to win the Region 2-AA Championship at CAK.

"It was an inside pitch and it was the kind of pitch that I love to hit," said DeVault, the Lady Warriors' sophomore shortstop. "I've sat back and I haven't been hitting my pitch."

And she was far from finished. She also drove in CAK's third run with an RBI single in the bottom of the sixth.

Her second hit scored Jenica Brown to culminate a two-run frame.

The Lady Warriors (33-5) got their second run of the game when pitcher Allison Zimmerman doubled in lead-off hitter and center fielder Shannon Plesy.

Zimmerman (21-3) was dominant in the circle. She had two strikeouts and surrendered one walk. She also hit a batter en route to a three-hit shutout.

"I felt great," said Zimmerman, a freshman pitcher for the Lady Warriors. "It was awesome to be out there."

"Alcoa is great competition and playing them. It will help us get ready for state."

At press time, CAK had one more hurdle to clear to get to Murfreesboro. The Lady Warriors hosted a Section 1-AA game Friday with winner advancing to the state's biggest stage. Results were

unavailable at press time.

CAK had a chance to dart ahead early but squandered that opportunity in the bottom of the first against the Lady Tornadoes (28-6).

The Lady Warriors mounted a one-out rally as Zimmerman, DeVault and Lauren Gentry drew consecutive free passes. Alcoa pitcher Maggie Roark escaped damage by striking out Delaney Brown and getting Emma Webb to fly to right field.

CAK got back-to-back singles from Plesy and Zimmerman to open the third but Roark again turned the Lady Warriors away by retiring the next three CAK hitters in order.

The Lady Warriors stranded two runners in the fourth before DeVault's solo homer broke the scoreless tie in the next inning.

"This was a great game," CAK co-head coach Harry Backhurst said. "The good thing is that this wasn't an elimination game but it's good to stay home [for the sectionals]."

"You never know what's going to happen when you go to Greenville or Unicoi County."

"Allison threw a great game and they had been walking Hannah all through the tournament. Tonight, she got her pitch and she parked it."

The Lady Tornadoes, who also advanced to the sectional round (on the road), threatened in the fourth but left a runner on third when Gentry, the CAK catcher caught Morgan Brewer trying to steal second.

Eckern's hat trick propels Farragut to region title

Cont. from page 1

Admirals (21-2) took control of the match. That was no surprise to longtime Farragut coach Wallie Culbreth.

"We're a strong second-half team, he said after watching his team prevail in the third match of the season between the two West Knox County rivals. "If you don't get us in the first half ten you're not going to beat us."

"We were excited to get this third game because it was on our field. We played the first two games on their field. Our guys were fired up and they [the Hawks] were excited. Our kids have grooved this field and they were patient because we've stayed off of it. Our kids were patient. And look at our field. Our landscaping crew did a wonderful job."

The Admirals and the Hawks split their first two meetings. Hardin Valley claimed a 4-3 victory in the regular-season showdown on April 29 and that win netted the Hawks the top seed in the District 4-AAA Tournament.

Farragut avenged that loss with a 2-1 win to claim the district tournament championship. That win meant the rubber match would be in Farragut and the Admirals claimed the region championship in front of their fans.

Eckern broke the 1-1 tie when he scored in the 64th minute when he took a pass from Marvin Mendy and promptly banged it

past Meek.

The Admirals extended its advantage to 3-1 when Dami Omिताomu scored with 6 minutes, 14 seconds left in the game.

Eckern closed out the scoring in the 78th minute when he converted a penalty kick after the Hawks were whistled for a handball infraction in the goal box.

After the match, Culbreth commended HVA.

"They're a good team and I'm not going to take anything away from them," he said. "They're well-coached and their disciplined."

"That's how we usually

try to break teams down but they are disciplined."

Hardin Valley coach Mike McLean saw things a bit differently partly because one of his top forwards, Ivan Torres, missed the game due to a red card against Oak Ridge in the semifinals Tuesday night.

"We've got to keep our cool when things happen and tonight, we didn't do that," he said.

McLean said he was also disappointed with the officiating against the Admirals.

"After we tied the game, we had a couple of calls go against us and they went on the counter attack and

went up 2-1," he said. "I didn't understand a couple of the calls but that's the way it goes, I guess."

"I thought we played well but the wheels just fell off in the end."

Both teams still had a chance to make the State Tournament. Farragut hosted Morristown West in a Section 1-AAA match Saturday while the Hawks traveled to Science Hill but results were unavailable at press times. The winners of Saturday's games advance to Murfreesboro.

Tyndall's whirlwind recruiting haul creates excitement

team violation. McKnight also served a 12-game suspension to start the 2013-14 season and was suspended once the season before.

Hopefully, McKnight will make the best of a fresh start.

Tyndall, who himself had NCAA issues at Morehead State, which led to that school being put on a two-year probation, should handle McKnight with a short leash. After all, the NCAA no doubt will be keeping a close eye on Tyndall's actions early on at UT.

Tyndall's recruiting targets and how close he'll toe the NCAA line already have some fans concerned. On this subject, Tyndall probably falls somewhere in between where UT's past two coaches stood. Cuonzo is respected for high standards. There was never a worry regarding his players' academics or

off-court behavior. However, unethical conduct resulted in a 3-year NCAA show cause for Bruce Pearl.

"Our guys will handle themselves in the community in a first-class manner," Tyndall said April 22 in his introductory press conference. "We're not going to have thugs. We're not going to have renegades as part of our program. It won't happen on my watch."

"Will we have perfect angels? I doubt it, but I'm not a perfect angel. But we're going to have people that are prideful to wear a Tennessee uniform and want to represent our university the right way."

For the record, I still believe it's necessary to have high-character ball players to win big. Hopefully, Tennessee will have a roster full of them.

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A Message from Sheriff Jimmy "J.J." Jones
and the Knox County Sheriff's Office



The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
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Clowns

I admire the prose of Rick Bragg, the southern writer and author of several books and a monthly column in Southern Living. Perhaps if I had followed a different timeline I might have had a writing vocation rather than a mid-life avocation. But who knows, if my destiny had been different my writing may have been for an assignment or under the control of others rather than following my own muse.

I managed to make it to the Knoxville Pops concert last week despite my recent GIs. Our entire family has been beset with this affliction – aka gastrointestinal upset – currently ravaging the Knoxville community. Our version encompassed diarrhea with abdominal cramps, as well as the ever popular nausea and vomiting. I told my symphony group

not to shake my hand or stand too close to me as I had just been released from quarantine. I garnered considerable empathy from them because most had experienced the “bug prep” which had sufficiently prepped me for a colonoscopy, though my doctor had not scheduled one.

I think it's good to occasionally move outside your comfort zone and expand your horizons. Last year I attended a Knoxville Pops Concert featuring the group ABBA, whose music I do not care for. Nonetheless, I went and received more than I bargained for as I learned about music and speech patterns that translated into a story for *The Focus*. Similarly, you should never miss an issue of *The Focus* because you never know what you'll learn!

Last week's concert featuring the Cirque de la Symphonie again challenged me because I don't particularly like circus acts or clowns. Seinfeld's TV character, Kramer, is afraid of clowns and my grandson, Oakley, views the “tickle monster” with a similar mixture of delight and dread. The Cirque de la Symphonie is unusual in that it is the only Cirque company that performs with symphony orchestras. There is a certain schtick associated with the Cirque du Soleil brand that I best describe as edgy artistic athleticism..

Europeans, and especially the French, view the world differently than most Americans – except perhaps John Kerry. I was beguiled by the Cirque's unique interpretation of movement and dance, counterpoised with strength and balance, set to magnificent classical music selections played by our outstanding Knoxville Symphony. I have Generally I prefer opera to the symphony because there is just more eye candy with opera. In opera there are costumes, dance and of course operatic drama accompanied by beautiful music with sublime vocalizations. Mozart felt that the human voice was the

acme of music. He never experienced Cirque du Soleil, but if the movie Amadeus provides any insight into the prodigy's temperament, he would have loved it.

No, this column does not emphasize a medical theme unless you identify with the GIs or have had the pleasure of a colonoscopy prep. I've considered abandoning medical themes all together, but there's probably still too much doctor in me to do an about face at sixty-three. I've already been through several course corrections. I began my writing career at fifty, though I never knew this was my destiny. My writing began as a challenge from a friend who advised me to begin daily spiritual journaling. It's interesting that Mr. Webster doesn't recognize this word. Apparently, he doesn't keep up with “sniglets,” a camp term for words that are not in the dictionary, but should be.

The definition of the word beguile is interesting. It connotes a mixture of interest and deception like the illusions of Cirque's harlequin. I consider the daily news beguiling. I find it hard to resist checking headlines and the news blogs, though I'm seldom made happier

by the discipline. There is an element of stewardship involved. I tell myself it is my duty to be informed so that I can make the best possible decisions. And yet experience teaches me that the real story has become subverted by the narrative. Perhaps its always been this way and I was just too naive to understand this truth. Now my worldliness and experience leads me to doubt the intentions of our leaders and the words of the journalist caste. They tell me that their vision is what I must embrace. I'm told that my fundamental principles are antiquated and that I may need reeducation or an attitude adjustment by the politically-correct thought police.

Freedom of conscience is actually the only freedom an individual possesses. And tyranny abhors freedom of conscience as much as nature abhors a vacuum. Therefore, I conclude that I cannot surrender my principles and remain free. Socrates and Jesus understood this, and now I do so as well. I can't compromise with what I know from experience and conscience is wrong.

About a year ago I read a book entitled “How Should We Then Live” by Francis Schaeffer. The title was

not a question, but a quote by the prophet Ezekiel. The book was an overview of western culture as shaped by Christianity, a philosophy now under assault all over the world as well as America. Schaeffer advised believers how to comport themselves in a fallen world which sees no practical value in a spiritual perspective. He said that believers should seek truth in the Bible. They should speak this truth in love as part of the Great Commission. They are to have compassion for the lost and the confused. And daily we must push back the darkness by reaffirming that God is with us.

Sometimes it's tough for a feisty Ferguson to turn the other cheek when he knows the miscreant in front of him would benefit from the school yard lesson of a busted lip. My nature is to take responsibility for myself and to help others, but I'm also told to dust off my shoes and walk away if a person won't listen. I've had to do a lot of that lately since the clowns seem to be in charge of this country and the world.

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

Parents reminded of state required immunizations

As families plan for summer break, Knox County Schools and the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) would like to remind parents that it's not too early to get their child's state-required immunizations. In Tennessee, students entering seventh grade are required to have the Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) vaccine and two doses of the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. Parents must provide their school with an immunization certificate, proving their child has received the required vaccinations, before the first day of school Monday, August 11, 2014. “Protection from diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccinations given in early

childhood can fade with time, which is why the Tdap booster is required for pre-teens,” said KCHD Director Dr. Martha Buchanan. “It's especially important for families with infants or those who care for them to be up to date with this vaccination because pertussis can be very serious and even fatal for infants.”

Tennessee's vaccine requirements follow recommendations from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Both immunizations and the immunization certificates are available at pediatrician offices or at any KCHD location. Parents may contact their child's pediatrician or the KCHD Immunization

Program, 865-215-5150, to determine if their child has received the required vaccinations.

- KCHD locations:
- * Main Offices and Clinic, 140 Dameron Avenue, 865-215-5071
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - * Teague Clinic, 405 Dante School Road, 865-215-5500
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - * West Clinic, 1028 Old Cedar Bluff, 865-215-5950
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Note: All KCHD locations open at 12:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

Knox Health Department Official to Lead UT Master of Public Health Program

A Knox County Health Department senior health official who for years has been an adjunct faculty member at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, will be moving into a permanent role at the university.

Kathy Brown, currently director of community assessment and health promotion at the Knox County Health Department, has been appointed clinical associate professor and director of the Master of Public Health program in the UT Department of Public Health. She will replace Charles Hamilton, who is retiring this summer after 39 years at UT.

She was selected through a national search and begins Aug. 1.

“Dr. Brown has the academic qualifications that give her appropriate credibility with fellow faculty and students, and she also has critically important experience in public health

Continue on page 2



Kathy Brown

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Independent members of the medical staff

Sheree's Mother

She does not live in our community anymore, but I see her more often than some who do. Labor Day Weekend, I saw her at the neighborhood IGA grocery store. I know she recycles, because



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

I saw her last summer at the solid waste center. Just last month, I saw her at the mall. Sheree Jo Hill is someone I have known since childhood. We were part of a class that spent all twelve years of school together under one roof. As remote as it now seems, Gibbs Elementary, Gibbs Junior High (today's

middle school), and Gibbs High School were all in the same building on campus.

Sheree was a popular cheerleader all through school. At the Gibbs High School 100th Anniversary last year, I learned that Sheree and her mother, Betty Hill, share a special bond. Sheree's mother was a cheerleader at Gibbs, too. In fact, her family's association with Gibbs even goes back another generation. Sheree's maternal grandmother, Bonnie Sharp, graduated from Gibbs and played on the girls'

basketball team. Bonnie worked with our mother at the former East Tennessee Chest Disease Hospital on Tazewell Pike. She must have been so proud to see her four grandchildren all graduate from Gibbs.

Sheree's older brother, Benjie, played on Ken Sparks' first football team at Gibbs. Benjie and Sheree both graduated from Tennessee Tech University. Sheree's brother, Stacey, was in my brother's class at Gibbs. He graduated from Carson-Newman University where he ran track for Ken Sparks. During that time, Coach Sparks received Southern Collegiate Track Coach of the Year honors. Lynn, the youngest sibling, is a

former principal of Gibbs High School. He started his college studies at Tennessee Tech but transferred and graduated from The University of Tennessee.

Today, Sheree lives in neighboring North Carolina with her husband, Tom Gordon. They have a daughter and son-in-law, a son and daughter-in-law, and a 15-month-old granddaughter! It will be no surprise if that granddaughter someday becomes a cheerleader or basketball player! Even with her own growing family, Sheree still finds her way "home" often. It is a special mother who keeps her coming back to Corryton, and we are glad she does.



Sheree, Tom, and Sheree's Mother pictured at the Gibbs High School 100th Anniversary. Photo by Ralphine Major.

Knox Health Department Official to Lead UT Master of Public Health Program

Cont. from page 1

practice," said Paul Erwin, head of the UT Department of Public Health. "This gives her immediate credibility with the practice community—here and across the state and nation—which is fundamental to building a strong public health program that is relevant to the public health

workforce."

As a UT Master of Public Health student in the early 1990s, Brown was a graduate assistant to Hamilton. After completing her doctorate at UT and working as an instructor under Hamilton, she took a position with the Knox County Health Department, where she now oversees several public health programs.

"Her potential was demonstrated during her own successful graduate studies with the UT program, leading to her first position in academic public health," Hamilton said. "She is returning full-time to UT after completing seven years in public health practice with the Knox County Health Department in a position of major responsibility. This powerful combination of academic and practice experience will significantly benefit MPH students as they prepare for their

public health careers."

The Master of Public Health program and the Department of Public Health are housed within UT's College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences.

Brown called her new appointment "an exciting opportunity to contribute to the development of the public health workforce."

"I look forward to working with the faculty and students, as well as collaborating with public health practice on the local, state and national level," she said. "I leave behind an amazing staff at the Knox County Health Department. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with each and every one of them."

To learn about the UT Department of Public Health and its programs, visit <http://publichealth.utk.edu>.

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Chapman Highway neighborhood already gearing up for Dogwood Festival

The dogwood blooms are fading away, but already plans are being made for 2015. Chapman Highway Dogwood Trail will be the Featured Trail next spring and the neighborhoods are excitedly brainstorming the best ways to showcase one of the City's oldest Trails.

Lake Forest Neighborhood Association is kicking off its second annual "Plant Pink" Landscape Improvement Contest. From May to October, residents are encouraged to submit a "before" and "after" photo demonstrating their efforts.

Molly Gilbert, Lake Forest Neighborhood Association President and Co-Chair for the Chapman Highway Dogwood Trail, said this contest is an effort to enhance the year-round beauty of this Trail, which is the prominence of Tennessee Pink Marble.

"It's like a scavenger hunt," said Gilbert. "Once you know what it looks like, you start to notice it everywhere. It's not just the houses, but also



Pictured preparing a flower bed are Molly Gilbert, Skylar Massingill, Devin Massingill and Audrey Gilbert.

foundations, chimneys, retaining walls and outdoor patio BBQ grills."

Tennessee Pink Marble was a booming industry for Knoxville with over 35 quarries in the area. The first major quarry operations date back to 1838. Many beautiful buildings in Knoxville proudly wear Tennessee Pink Marble on their exteriors and interiors such as the Knoxville Museum of Art, Ramsey House, the Knoxville

Botanical Garden and Arboretum, and the Historic U.S. Post Office Downtown. Pink Marble has been used in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and New York's Grand Central Station and the iconic New York Public Library's lion statues at the entrance.

The skill level it took to do this type of masonry work simply isn't done anymore. True craftsmen who can work with the

rough-cut and smooth-cut blocks are nearly impossible to find these days, but in the 1940s and 50s, there were a couple of builders who had good relationships with the remaining quarries and would haul off the debris to construct new homes stone by stone.

This construction style has been described as a picturesque, Neo-Tudor structure in the popular 'Cotswold' cottage

idiom of the 1920s. (The Cotswolds are a range of hills in southwestern and

west-central England, an area 25 miles across and 90 miles long. This beautiful gentle hilly countryside area has been designated as the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.) Many of these stone houses can be found along the older Dogwood Trails such as the Chapman Highway Trail.

"I just fell in love with the arched doorway and the beauty of the neighborhood, but I had no idea it was Tennessee Pink Marble when we bought it," Gilbert said. "My insurance company did a homeowner's analysis of my coverage

Continued on page 4

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Melton Hill Dam has a surprise. Much of the power to the TVA site is from wind turbines and solar panels.

TVA Camping is a surprise

Let's take a mini-vacation locally this year. Take a long weekend or a week's vacation, get the kids excited, and let's go camping.

There are so many commercial and public campgrounds in our area from which to choose, not even counting the Smokey Mountains.

There are Tennessee State Parks here and there within an easy drive from Knoxville. There's also the often overlooked TVA Campgrounds. The campgrounds in and around the National Park can get so congested and noisy that you may want to opt for the lesser known TVA sites.

Plus, the TVA sites are usually much cheaper, at about \$ 22 per night with water and electric service at many sites. Veterans get the sites at one-half price but all sites are rented on a first-come basis. Camping mid-week is probably more available.

Camping at TVA sites can be in a tent, popup, trailer, motor home, etc. but be prepared because you may not get the ideal site you want. That's why, if you can, it's better set up during the week rather than the weekend.

My wife and I recently discovered Melton Hill Dam's TVA campsite and it is close to Knoxville, just past the I-75 exit west on I-40 at the first exit. South at the exit takes you to Lenoir City and north takes you quickly to the Melton Hill Dam.

The campsites are at the first turn and you'll see the dam on the left and

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

the campground on a hill to the right. Some sites are on the water and some are on a couple paved roads overlooking the lake.

The unique thing about Melton Hill Dam is that most of the immediate local electric is supplied by solar panels and wind turbines. There's an observation building above the campground

where you can see much of the lake and read about the alternative energy sources.

Other TVA campgrounds in our area include those at Watauga Dam near Elizabethton, Cherokee Lake near Jefferson City, and Douglas Dam at the Headwaters and Tailwaters. Further west there's a TVA campground at Pickwick Dam near Savannah, Tn.

Camping at these TVA site opened March 17th and closes November 17th. Tents with no hook ups is only \$ 10 or \$12 with electric per day. RV sites with no hook ups are \$ 17 or \$ 22 with electric and water. Some sites also have RV sites with electric, water, and sewer and those are \$ 26. Veterans with ID cards can get an RV site with electric and water for \$ 11 per day.

Long term rates are available. An RV can stay with no hook ups for \$ 285 a month or \$ 330 with electric and water.

So, compared with commercial campgrounds and national campgrounds staying on or near a lake at a TVA site is much cheaper.

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Rosie's World

Little Known Facts

Did you know: Elephants sleep only two hours a day?
Animals that lay eggs don't have belly buttons.
A duck can't walk without bobbing its head.
"Twinkle, twinkle, little star" was composed by Mozart when he was five years old.
Mosquitoes are attracted to people who have recently eaten bananas.
A bee has five eyes.
At birth, a Dalmatian is always pure white.
The first vacuum was so large it was brought to a house with horses.
The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly backwards. Also, it weighs less than a penny.
Frogs never drink.
If you keep a goldfish in a dark room, it will

eventually turn white.
You share your birthday with at least a million other people.
Pigs get sunburnt.
Well, that's enough of that. These facts were compiled in a little two-inch square book by Snapple Beverage Corporation which is owned by Dr. Pepper. It is a brand of tea and juice drinks founded in 1972 by Leonard March, Hyman Golden, his brother-in-law, and Arnold Greenburg. An early apple juice product led to the company's name derived from the words "snappy" and "apple."
I also checked with Google to get their little known facts, although I'm not quite sure what to believe in that category,

some of them certainly sound farfetched:
A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.
The original name for butterfly was flutterby.
Bats always turn left when exiting a cave. I have to wonder, is someone sitting at that cave noticing when a bat exits??
I hope I gave you all something to think about today.
Thought for the day: A day without laughter is a day wasted.
Charlie Chaplin
Send comments to: rosemerrie@att.net or call (865)748-4717. Thank you.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

PUBLIC NOTICE: Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization - Executive Board Meeting, May 28, 2014.

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, May 28, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Topics to be considered: Resolution to Amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution to Approve a Change to the Functional Classification for Queener Road, Updates on the PlanET Playbook and Air Quality Conformity, Greenway Study Recommendations; and other business.

If you would like a complete agenda, please contact MPC at 215-2500 or see the TPO web site at www.knoxtrans.org. If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability, please contact MPC at 215-2500 and we will be glad to work with you in obliging any reasonable request.

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2 to 3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
1 teaspoon pepper
½ teaspoon dried basil
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½ teaspoon dried marjoram

Cut 15-20 slits in the roast; insert garlic. Combine salt, pepper, basil, parsley, and marjoram; rub over roast. Place fat side up on a rack in a roasting pan. Bake, uncovered, at 325 degrees for 2 to 2 ½ hours or until meat reaches the desired doneness (for medium-rare, a meat thermometer should read 145 degrees; medium, 160 degrees; well done 170 degrees). Yield 8-10 servings.

Chapman Highway neighborhood
Cont. from page 3

and their program said if anything were to ever happen, they simply could not rebuild it exactly the way it is because it is irreplaceable." Located just three miles from Downtown, the Chapman Highway Dogwood Trail in South Knoxville includes two neighborhoods wooded with wild Dogwoods and Red Buds. Colonial Village and Lake Forest have always been quiet neighborhoods featuring modest, well-constructed homes, each with its own unique sense of charm. The cottage and bungalow style houses were built in the 1940s and 50s around the old McCall Farm pond, today known as Butterfly Lake.

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