

South Knox Rallies for Rountree

By Mike Steelv steelym@knoxfocus.com

Thursday evening at the Round Up Restaurant on Sevierville Pike, Amber Rountree could not have been more busy, greeting supporter after supporter pouring inside. The first-time school board candidate received each guest graciously, answering questions and listening.

And she listened a lot. She talked with an internet blogger about Charter Schools, home schooling, and teacher evaluations. Rountree talked with neighborhood residents about the school board and pointed out the superintendent is an employee of the board and

not their superior. "I consider myself a Knoxville girl after moving here to attend the University of Tennessee. I have lived all over our great city but my husband and I fell in love with South Knoxville Banjo," she said.

Rountree's husband,



Left - Right, Mayor Tim Burchett, Amber Rountree, Kelly Kimball and Kimball's daughter, Isabell, at the Rally for Rountree at the Round Up Restaurant in South Knoxville last Thursday evening.

where we live with our dog Bart, was circulating and even carrying food to a perfect example of a home in South Knoxville. through the restaurant a few disabled folks. Bart young professional couple greeting folks on his own and Amber Rountree are choosing to make their Knoxville resident made

One long-time South

the observation, "All too often our kids grow up and move away from South Knoxville; Amber and Bart moved here and love it.

"If South Knoxville is going to grow and prosper, we need more young people to move here, make their homes here, and get involved with the community."

Asked what most people don't know about her, Amber said that, as an adult, she studied ballet and pointe dancing, which she said "makes your feet really ugly," drawing a few chuckles. She also said that last year she ran the Hatfield and McCoy marathon along the West Virginia and Kentucky state line, never realizing until she got there how mountainous the region is and what a tough run it would be. But the deceptively petite exterior obviously hides a steely determination.

Amber Rountree did it anyway.

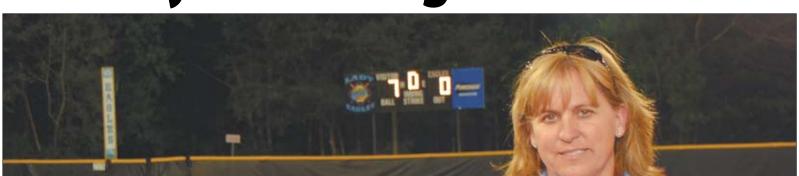
That's the attitude Continue on page 4

Carol Zachary Mitchell gets 700th win

By Steve Williams

Gibbs High School's 7-1 softball victory over Clinton Friday night ended with an asterisk, footnote and fireworks.

Just the latest special game for the softball powerhouse and its coach.



The asterisk: First post-season tournament game in Class AAA. The footnote: 700th win

for Coach Carol Mitchell.

"I just think about all the girls who've come through the program, who've added their mark each year, have put their stamp on the program each year," said Mitchell during the post-game celebration. "Without them there are no wins.

"We get out here and work hard everyday. It hasn't changed from 1994 to now. The work ethic. The tradition. Trying to uphold the tradition. And the fight and the desire in the players." Just seconds after

Veda Jones flew out to left fielder Holly Moyers to end the game, the Gibbs public address announcer asked fans to direct their attention to the infield for a special presentation. Senior players presented Coach Mitchell with a

PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Carol Mitchell, Gibbs High School's softball coach since 1994, was presented a plaque commemorating her 700th win after her Lady Eagles defeated Clinton 7-1 in the District 3-AAA tournament at Gibbs Friday night.

plaque commemorating the milestone victory. Clever press box workers used the spaces for runs and inning on the scoreboard to put up 700. That made a nice backdrop, as the numbers

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lit up brightly after the night game. Fireworks also sounded nearby. The Lady Eagles know how to celebrate. They've had a lot of practice over the years. Mitchell has coached Gibbs to four Class AA state crowns and in 2012 was selected as Coach of the Year for the Southeast Region of the United States. Gibbs' softball program started in 1981. Mitchell, then Carol Zachary, started playing for the Lady Eagles in 1983 when she was an eighth grader, and pitched Gibbs to four state titles before going on to have a great collegiate career at Carson-Newman.

She took over as Gibbs' head coach in 1994 after one season as an assistant under her high school coach, Dennis Ray. Gibbs is playing its

Continue on page 4

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PAGE A2 The Knoxville FOCUS **Focus on the Law** Human Sex Trafficking Conclusion

Human sex trafficking is the most common form of modern day slavery. It is an organized and violent business. According to the FBI's website, "women and young girls are sold to traffickers, locked up in

or months, drugged, terrorized, and raped repeatedly." Victims are so afraid and intimidated that they rarely speak out against their captors. Traffickers represent every social, ethnic, and racial group. They are not only men. Women run some established rings. "Traffickers who have more than one



Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

money from the rooms or brothels for weeks other girls, discipline them, seduce unwitting youths into trafficking, and handle the day to day business for the trafficker."

atop the hierar-

chy of prostitutes.

The bottom, a

victim herself, has

been with the traf-

ficker the longest

and has earned

his trust. Bot-

toms collect the

Locally, the TBI's 2011 human sex trafficking survey reported over 100 cases of sex trafficking in Knox County. 54% of those survey respondents from Knox County law enforcement and

victim often have social services indicated that TBI training program for law torture? Does he or she a 'bottom' who sits they knew of cases of minor sex trafficking. Captain Allen "Wolfie" May with the Knox County Sheriff's Department's Vice Unit reports that his unit works with the district attorney's office to keep up to date on the new sex trafficking statutes and that they intend to prosecute the offenders to the fullest extent of the law. Unopposed candidate for Knox County District Attorney Charme Knight, has extensive experience in prosecuting both sexual offenses and child abuse cases. She will continue to fight child abuse and sex trafficking when elected. In addition, this month the Knox County Sheriff's Training Facility will be the site of a three-day

trafficking. More training improves awareness and awareness increases effective enforcement.

The victims of human sex trafficking need help from all of us. Identifying these victims is crucial to stopping the perpetrators. Red flags to look for include poor mental health or abnormal behavior. Does this person avoid eye contact? Is he or she fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous or paranoid? Poor physical health is another sign. Does this person lack health care? Appear malnourished? Show signs of physical and/ or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or

enforcement on child sex have few personal possessions? Have no control of his or her own money? Have no financial records or bank account? Have no control over his or her identification documents? Does he or she owe a large debt and is unable to pay it? Is he or she not allowed or able to speak for themselves? Does he or she claim to be just visiting? Is this person unable to clarify where he or she is staying? Not know what city he or she is in? Does he or she have a loss of sense of time? Is he or she not free to leave or come and go as he or she wishes? Is her or she in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp or manager? Is he or she under 18 and providing

commercial sex acts?

Pay attention to what is happening in your community. An unusual situation you have encountered may have actually been human trafficking. If you suspect you have come into contact with a victim of human trafficking contact the Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-855-55-TNHTH (1-855-55-86484) or the Tennessee Dept. of Children's Services if the victim is under 18 at 1-877-237-0004. If the victim is in some immediate danger, contact 911.

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

Schools get less than requested, no new county taxes

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett's 2015 budget request to the County increase for the county school system, but not what the superintendent had requested. Superintendent James McIntyre had asked

for \$432,335,000 and Burchett is suggesting \$4,550,000 less or \$427,785,000.

"Over the past four years Commission has a budget l've brought three fiscally responsible budgets before you," Burchett told the commission Thursday, "and I hope I hope you will find that this proposal is no

different."

"We've been able to do this without a tax increase and this year will be no different," he said, adding, "We will continue to provide high quality, efficient service to our citizens under this proposed budget and we will not raise taxes."

The "no new taxes" proposal from the county mayor follows last week's proposed property tax increase by Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero.

"The \$427.8 million proposed for Knox County Schools in my budget is an \$8 million increase over the current fiscal year and amounts to \$49 million new dollars since I took said.

He said the \$ 427.8 proposal to schools does not include \$2.5 million going to the Great Schools Partnership, nearly \$ 3 million for the third year of the reading incentive and over a million dollars for kindergarten intervention programs.

"That's \$6.5 on top of the \$428 million I'm proposing for the General Purpose School Fund," he said.

Mayor Burchett said that the school system should be able to "achieve excellence for all children" under his proposal and that 2/3 of the entire county

office four years ago, a 13% budget goes to the schools. million or just over 2%. increase since 2011," he Within the school budget the board of education may find funds for a small raise for teachers but not the increase they requested.

> The mayor's budget and speech did not include the mention of funding for teacher pay raises; the superintendent and school board could, if they choose, raise teacher's pay within the allotment they receive.

> The entire budget proposal of \$729,915,278 now goes to the County Commission for discussion, public input, and a vote that must take place before June 30th. Burchett's proposal increases last year's budget by \$15.1

He is also proposing a \$2.2 million increase, or \$ 77.5 million, to public safety including buying 30 new Sheriff's Department vehicles and upgrading technology and security.

He said the county's share of healthcare is expected to increase by 2 percent. More than \$2 million is proposed for building improvements and maintenance, funding libraries, and improvements and maintenance at parks. He pledged development of the Plumb Creek Park and completion of Clayton Park.

The budget also includes Continue on page 3



The 2013 Preparation Rate was 23% for West HS and 32% for Bearden H.S. This is the percentage of high school students who met all the ACT College & Career Readiness Benchmarks for English, Math, Reading, and Science. This means that 68 to 77% of students in the 4th District may need remedial courses in college, or are not prepared for the work force. This is worse than in 2012.

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

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

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www.knoxfocus.com **Publisher's Position School Board Needs Change**



By Steve Hunley, Publisher publisher@knoxfocus.com

Tomorrow the people of Knox County will cast their ballots for virtually every office in local government. The decisions made by the voters will affect us for years to come; judges and the attorney general have eight-year terms. Yet perhaps the most important races are those for the Knox County Board of Education. Not even Mayor Tim Burchett presides over a bigger budget than that of the schools. The Board of Education is spending over half a billion dollars yearly for roughly two-thirds of every tax dollar collected in Knox County. Not only does the Board spend most of the tax money collected in our community, they are charged with effectuating the policies that daily affect our most precious resource: our children.

The races for the Board of Education have drawn more attention in this election cycle than past decades as folks are figuring out just what important posts these really are. The campaigns for the Board can be summarized as being about one thing: CONTROL. The establishment in Knox County helped to pick Jim McIntyre as our superintendent, a man who has only one year of actual teaching experience. Yet McIntyre is telling real teachers how to teach, all the while throwing every possible obstacle in their way as they attempt to teach. McIntyre has bragged about have very little to campaign

on our schools, accounting rates, but when questioned about preparation rates (those rates indicating how many of our students are prepared to further their educations or join the workforce), he mumbles, mutters, seemingly unable to grab one of his usual glittering generalities out of thin air. In fact, McIntyre ended his virtual town hall meeting last week thirty minutes early rather than address the tough questions about preparation rates.

Yearly, McIntyre announces a new slogan to impress us; "Excellence for All Our Children" or "Excellent For Every Child." We are promised that the school system will partner with "stakeholders," develop a "culture of excellence" and a host of other glittering generalities that shine like dead mackerel in the moonlight. Yet there are never any specifics.

The incumbents seeking reelection to the Board our increasing graduation on, except for their rubber

and his agenda. They can only hope the illusion of improved graduation rates impress the voters enough to leave them in charge of a system where parents are becoming increasingly dissatisfied and their employees are in open rebellion. Improved graduation rates are meaningless in the face of the shocking number of our youngsters who are NOT prepared to go on and further their education or get a job. Those numbers are not only shocking, but also frightening. What difference does it make if we graduate 100% of our students, if only 21% of them are prepared to go on to college or get a job? Just what have we accomplished? The purpose of education is educating our children so that they can become productive, taxpaying citizens, not excelling at taking tests or participating in whatever fad McIntyre wants everyone to follow

stamp devotion to McIntyre next. There's really only reelected. This is an act of the one true test and that desperation. And desperate is going on to get a college education or a good job. Anything less is failure.

> And yet McIntyre and his puppet Board have consistently asked for more and more of your money and higher and higher taxes while producing less and less.

our town has an elitist mentality, meaning they will tell us what is good for us, as well as what we should do. These elitists know what is best for the rest of us peons and we should never have the temerity to question that. The usual suspects, McIntyre, the Chamber elites and the Knoxville News Sentinel, Rountree in the 9th always come together to District, Sally Absher sing the same song to lull in the 4th District, Terry us all to sleep.

elitists trotted out former the 1st District. You'll UT President Joe Johnson be glad you did and our to plead in a recent News children deserve no Sentinel Op Ed that the less. Board incumbents be

people do desperate things. Change is in the air and the elitists are trying to do anything to stop it. They are terrified that they are going to lose control of the Board to we the people.

PAGE A3

The Board of Education is in dire need of change. You have an opportunity The establishment in to vote tomorrow and make a REAL change that will echo for the next decade. Say no to McIntyre and yes to allowing our teachers to do their jobs and elect Board members accountable to YOU, not McIntyre.

Vote the for challengers: Amber Hill in the 6th District, It's hardly surprising the and Marshall Walker in

Commission discusses safety

By Mike Steelv steelym@knoxfocus.com

The safety of Knox County residents came up twice in the County Commission's regular meeting last Monday: once concerning making the sheriff's office ability to dispatch units more efficiently and the other concerning the county's new Emergency Alert System.

The commission voted to permit the Sheriff to use \$125,000 in Federal Seizure Account monies to purchase a building from KUB at 514 Bernard Avenue. KUB no longer needs the building and its 3.7 acres there and the sheriff's department wants to station emergency units, like SWAT Team vehicles and personnel there.

Jones told *The Focus*.

Hammond brought up the new Emergency Alert System. He said the new system is "ready to go" but has hit a snag as to who will be in charge.

"We need to get this thing going," Hammond said. He asked Chairman Brad Anders to set up a meeting with the county mayor, with E911, and others. Hammond told The Focus that he had assumed that the current 911 system would operate the new system but has not taken leadership thus far.

"I just want to know that the issue is. If not them (911) than who?" he said about managing the new system.

and running."

System will be a mass notification alert and optional for residents. An incident commander in an emergency situation would notify dispatch and alerts would be sent out by email or telephone. The county has \$29,768 invested for the first year and each year the county will invest \$17,666.

"This has been going on for weeks," Hammond said, adding that maybe Rural Metro, the Health Department or someone else might take it on.

The sheriff's department also got several other items passed on the commission's "consent" agenda including a memorandum of understanding between Hugh Holt, Knox County that department and the "It's a good place for our Purchasing Director, told the U.S. Secret Service for SWAT team and emergen- commission that the "con- reimbursement of "certain cy response, plus we don't tractors are ready to go. It overtime cost and other cussed voting on Mayor Tim have to come all the way needs ½ day of testing and expenses" related to work Burchett's budget, which across county," Sheriff J.J. ½ day to train and we're off performed in assisting in he announced Thursday, Miller House at 7215 Mid- the Men's and Women's UT Commissioner Mike The new Emergency Alert Force. The department also then hold a public forum Albert Harp for \$30,000.

received approval for a contract with Black Creek Integrated Systems Corp. for jail security system upgrades at \$299,998 the first year and \$16,100 for support each year after, with the first year's funding in the current budget. In other action the com-

mission heard from Finance Director Chris Caldwell saying that the current county budget has "nothing alarming" to report and that sales tax revenue has "some improvements."

He said the good news is that hotel and motel taxes have improved as has the revenue from the wheel taxes.

About the overall current budget, Caldwell said, "I hope we can break even."

The commissioners disthe Electronic Fraud Task in their next workshop and dlebrook Pike to Dan and Basketball team.

about the budget. The vote They also voted, without on the budget is expected in the commission's Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, May 27th.

Commissioner Sam McKenzie reported on the Joint Education Committee (JEC) and it prompted several comments from Commissioners Dave Wright, Mike Brown, and Hammond. Wright said, as he had in the JEC meeting, that McKenzie should be named back to the committee if it continues to function.

Wright said the school board wants to meet with the commissioners before the commissioners vote on the budget.

Brown said he questions the school board's report on "spending per student" compared to other counties.

to sell the historic Katie from their work session for

debate, to adopt amendments to the Knox County Commission Rules on how committee chairs and members are named.

Charles Curtiss, Executive Director of the Tennessee County Commissioners Association, spoke to the body briefly, asking them to call on him for legislative updates and help. This came as a resolution introduced by Commissioner Amy Broyles to hire a lobbyist in Nashville has been postponed until a later commission meeting.

The commission also honored 115 years of service by the Salvation Army in Knoxville and presented honors for the late Rikki Hall, for Andy Black on his retirement from Helen Ross McNabb The commissioners voted Center, and finalized honors

Schools get less than requested, no new county taxes Cont. from page 2

\$8.8 million for projects years we've worked hard Works Department, \$5 that in the next fiscal year," million to start phase two of Burchett said. the Ball Camp Drive Project, and \$2.5 million to improve the commission and the dangerous intersections packed house of officials, around the county.

to expand and upgrade the budget speeches across Carter Convenience Center the county. to make it safer and more

efficient.

"In the past three fiscal and improvements in the to keep spending down Engineering and Public and we'll continue to do

Following his address to citizens, and the press, \$750,000 is budgeted Burchett set out on several

Elect raig thold TRUSTEE LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

RESULTS COUNT

- Collected over \$7 Million dollars in additional revenue above the previous Tax year
- 3 Audits conducted since his appointment in July of last year. 100% Compliance in each audit.
- Improved employee morale
- Reduced payroll by reorganizing office

EXPERIENCE

- Elected to 2 terms Knox County Commission for West Knox District and served as Vice-Chairman
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PERSONAL

- Degree from University of TN in finance with honors
- Member Concord United Methodist Church

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We need someone who will stand up and fight for us and for better and more opportunities for our children. Too many of our schools are failing. I will fight to make our schools better and see that we get our fair share.

PAGE A4 May 5, 2014 The Knoxville FOCUS South Knox Rallies for Rountree

Cont. from page 1

Amber Rountree takes in life and in her enthusiastic and energetic campaign to win the Ninth District seat on the Board of Education. Dissatisfied with the current administration, Rountree has observed conditions up close, working as a school librarian. "We're stressing testing, pushing students to the limit and we've reached the point where we're inhibiting teachers' ability to actually teach. I believe we need put our resources into people, not just data."

"Schools need to be

emphasized. students, parents, teachers, custodians, everybody makes a school."

"The incumbent school board members just parrot what the superintendent graduating from Southwants done. There seems Doyle are ready to go onto to be too little independent thinking or questioning of policies," Rountree said. "What good does it do us if every single student prepared to continue their educations or get a job?"

preparation rate, meaning

about people," Rountree those students ready to teachers, retired men and "The further their educations or join the workforce, for South Knoxville youngsters "nothing less than is appalling."

> "11% of students a college or get a job," Rountree says earnestly. "South Knoxville deserves better!'

graduates, yet only 21% are to come in as the South landmark Knoxville restaurant filled up with Rountree pointed out the all sorts of people. People I represent the people who were getting off work, of South Knoxville. It is

women, and folks like Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, Commissioner Tony Norman and his wife Janie, both retired teachers, and many state and local officials. Unlike most such functions, the crowd was mostly "ordinary" folks, who far outnumbered the politicos.

Running against an Supporters continued incumbent isn't easy but Rountree is optimistic.

"I won't be just another rubber-stamper while

members research and and articulately. make educated decisions when voting on policies that affect our students," she said.

Rountree has a degree in Early Childhood Education can effect positive change from UT and pursued a Masters Degree in Library Science. She was a librarian at Halls Elementary School and spent lots of time teaching children research skills.

of teachers and students, Rountree has addressed the school board and the

imperative that our board county commission often Like most South Knoxvillians, Rountree possesses a fierce honesty and is direct and to the point.

"I believe the best way I for South Knoxville students would be as a school board member," Rountree said simply.

From the excitement and enthusiasm of the supporters at the Round An outspoken supporter Up Restaurant, the spunky South Knoxville woman may be elected Tuesday, pulling off a major upset.

Carol Zachary Mitchell gets 700th win

Cont. from page 1

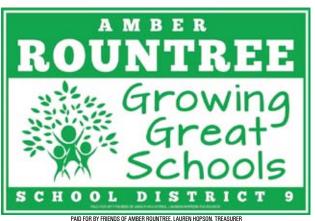
first season in Class AAA and the win over Clinton gave the Lady Eagles a 40-4 record. Three of their losses have come against county rival Halls.

Clinton Coach Alicia Phillips, who played at UT, has known of Mitchell for a long time. "When I played summer

ball when I was younger, I played with all the

Gibbs girls," recalled Phillips. "I went to Clinton and everybody else went to Gibbs High and played for Carol. She's always been a great coach. They're always fundamentally sound. "This is definitely

an awesome accomplishment. I hate it that it was against us, but she's a great coach. She's pretty well known



in the state of Tennessee for girls softball."

Gibbs senior second baseman Kaitlyn Trent gave her coach a lot of credit and praise.

"She deserves it," said Trent. "She's a good coach and she really works us hard. She really motivates us to want to win. We don't want to mess up the legacy.

"It's just great to be a part of it, such a big time in her life. And now we're a part of the 700 club with her. It just makes the season that much better, that much more worth it and that all the hard work has paid off."

Trent tripled into the right field corner to drive in Faith Lowery and spark a three-run

third inning that gave Gibbs a 4-1 lead over the Lady Dragons. Lexie Needham also had a **RBI** triple and Cheyenne Boles chipped in a RBI double in the big inning. Sophomore catcher

Sarah McFarland doubled to lead off the fourth and scored on Lowry's sacrifice fly. Karri Byrd, Gibbs' No.

3 hitter, had a RBI single in the first and a tworun single in the sixth in a 3-for-4 performance.

Sophomore Abby Hicks pitched the first five innings to get the win. She gave up a run in the first but then retired 13 straight batters before Rachel Farmer, also a sophomore, pitched the final two innings.

Inskip Center gets petunias

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Members of the Inskip Community Association (ICA) and volunteers got together last month and planted red, white and blue petunias in front of the Inskip Recreation Center. Home Depot on Schaad Road donated the flowers and Food City on Clinton Highway provided drinks and snacks.

Mahan said the petunias were planted in front of the center to add some color in the flower planting until daffodil bulbs, also included Mrs. Mahan, planted, bloom next year.

sponsors," Mahan said. "Thanks most to all the Alexander.

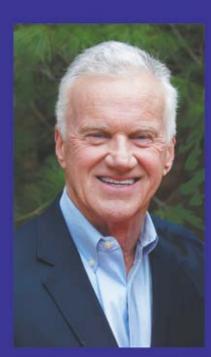
people who dug and planted to make the Inskip Recreation Center look as good to the community as its services are to the community."

The center now helps with therapeutic opportunities for special needs children and adults, on and off the site. Daniel Alexander is a new employee there and no other community center in Knox County is currently ICA president Betty Jo equipped to concentrate on adaptive services.

Members and volunteers Liliana and Kelly Burbano "Thanks to all the and their daughter Gabby, John Oglesby and Daniel

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Of the two candidates running for Commission At-Large, Seat 11, only one has made this simple pledge:

Ed Brantley has pledged:

"I will not raise your taxes while I serve on



"For these reasons, his service to his country, state and county, I respectfully ask all my friends living in Knox County to vote for, support and elect Billy Stokes as Judge, Div. 1, Knox County Circuit Court."

- Retired Four Star General, Carl Stiner





Ben & Sue Atchlev

"Ben and I are proud to support a fine lawyer and long time community servant, Billy Stokes, for Judge"

- Sue Atchley, former Senator, 6th Dist.

"We always taught our students that success can be achieved with hard work. Billy Stokes is one of many who have demonstrated that is true. I ask all my friends to vote for Billy Stokes for Judge."

- D.M. Miller, Rule High School Principal

"He is an outstanding attorney with conservative values and will make an outstanding judge."

- Dave Beck, COL, USMC (Ret)

"We have known Billy and Bay Stokes for thirty years, both professionally and as personal friends. Billy Stokes has served his nation as a U.S. Army JAGC Officer, his state as a former Commissioner, and his community as an attorney. As a patriot and native East Tennessean, he will serve Knox County well as Circuit Court Judge."



-Anne Haston, Military Child Advocate

"I am happy to ask my friends and colleagues to vote for Billy Stokes for Judge. He is known as competent and professional by other lawyers. He is peer rated as an AV Lawyer, meaning he has demonstrated preeminent skill and practices with the highest ethical standards as judged by his fellow attorneys."

> - Heidi Barcus, President, Knoxville Bar Association, 2013



Paid for by Committee to Elect Billy Stokes for 1st Circuit Court Judge- Treasurer- Howard Vogel & Kimberly Wood

Commission."

Vote for and elect the only candidate running for Seat-11, At-Large Commission who stands with Mayor Tim Burchett to keep our taxes low.

Elect Ed Brantley Commission At-Large, Seat 11

Paid for by Elect Ed Brantley - Louis F. Cosby, III - Treasurer

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Our Neighborhoods DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE By Mike Steelv

steelym@knoxfocus.com

This week we take a second look at downtown Knoxville, everyone's central core in Knox County. It's part of our continuing series about "Our Neighborhoods" and downtown is worth a second look. For those of us not living downtown there's much that is surprising and historic that we probably don't know or forgot. Living downtown is another matter and a growing number of people, especially young professionals, are choosing to do just that.

LIVING DOWNTOWN

Last week I chatted with a fellow who has lived downtown for several years. He's single and finds that there's a certain spirit there, a more active and progressive tone than other places in the city or in the county. He said that he has a car but rarely uses it, preferring his bicycle or motorcycle.

I suppose if you are a young professional and work downtown it is handier to live there than to drive in from outlying neighborhoods. There are a huge number of corporations, businesses, and federal, state and local government jobs downtown. Groceries are about a mile away, either the Three Rivers Market in Happy Holler or the Food City on Western. Restaurants, entertainment , shopping, history and culture are all within walking distance

Jennifer Holder has lived downtown since 1993 and has worked downtown since 1996. She's president of Pirate Girl PR which she started in 2011 and works with clients like Gentry Griffey Funeral Chapel, First National Bank, The Trust Company, Tupelo Honey Café, Global Intellectual Property Asset Management, Goodwill Industries, and The Shrimp Dock.



Music lovers pack Market Square to hear a free concert from the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

the majestic Tennessee Theatre, Bijou Theatre, and Regal Riviera and some of the most entertaining street fairs and festivals in the region."

"It's easily walkable although you have to be careful in crosswalks because many of our drivers don't know what a pedestrian walk sign means," she said.

"For me personally one of the biggest perks is being able to walk out my front door and go for a 3 to 6 minute run based on my mood - through World's Fair or Morningside Parks, Volunteer Landing or the campus at UT - in less than an hour, without having to drive to a park," Holder says.

MARKET **SQUARE**

You probably know Market

market house as a barracks. In the 1870s Peter Kern opened a confection store there which became Kern's Bakery. In 1868 Knoxville built its City Hall at the north end of the Square.

In the 1950s Mayor George Dempster began efforts to revitalize the city and made changes to Market Square. Dempster may be best known for his invention, the Dempster Dumpster, which is used now worldwide for the collection of trash.

The old Market House burned in 1960 and the area became an open pedestrian mall without a through traffic street.

Today unique restaurants and shops are located from one end to the other on both sides of Market Square. The square is a lunch-time favorite of downtown workers and residents. The square often hosts musical events, gatherings, and a seasonal farmer's market. The square has been a place for political speeches, drawing the likes of Walter Mondale, Ronald Reagan, and William Jennings Bryan. Upcoming events include Jazz on the Square tomorrow, May 6th from 8 until 10 p.m. On the 7th there's the Farmer's Market.

Tennessee Veterans Business Association, from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. with entertainment and music.

THE BLOUNT MANSION

Want to peek inside the historic Blount Mansion and see what's been happening since it was closed last year for repairs? On Sunday, May 31st, you'll get your chance to do that, for free. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. the mansion will celebrate Statehood Day.

Extensive work has been going on in what may be Tennessee's oldest frame house. Preservation work began last spring and included new roofs, climate control, fire suppression, security systems, mechanical and electrical system updates.

sponsorships are available for \$500 including two tickets to the party. Corporate sponsorship is available for \$1,000 and includes 4 tickets.

On the same day the mansion has a Grand Opening of a new exhibit: "Becoming the Volunteer State: The war of 1812 in Tennessee."

The Blount Mansion is located at 200 West Hill, just off Gay Street, and is operated by the Blount Mansion Association. You can get more information by contacting the historic home at 525-2375 or find them on line at 111. blountmansion.org.

ALL THINGS STERCHI

If you are new to east Tennessee or the southeast region you're probably wondering why so many things in the Knoxville area are named "Sterchi."

There's Sterchi Parkway, Sterchi Oaks, Sterchi Road, Sterchi Park, Sterchi Hills, Sterchi Village, Sterchi Elementary School, Sterchi Lofts, Sterchi Lodge, the Sterchi family and the Sterchi Mansion. Every wonder why there are so many Sterchi places?

James Sterchi and his brothers, J.C. and E. H. Sterchi, were sons of a Swiss immigrant who originally settled in the Wartburg, Tn. area among many other Swiss families. The Sterchis moved to north Knox County and established a farm. James and his brothers founded Sterchi Brothers Furniture in 1888 and by 1896 were publishing a catalog.

After a fire in 1897 destroyed their business, they relocated and built a new warehouse in the 100 block of Gay Street. Their fame grew as retailers and, by the 1920s the Sterchi brothers had 18 stores in the southeast. James bought out his brothers and, by the end of that decade, Sterchi's was the largest furniture store chain in the world, it is said, with 48 stores, manufacturing plants, and even a lumber operation in Kentucky. James Sterchi expanded his farm to more than 1,400 acres, started a large dairy farm, and built his Sterchi Mansion in 1910. The home, now owned by Buddy and Linda Malin, has 5,800

Since moving downtown Holder says she's seen a lot of changes.

"The vast majority of which are for the better," she told The Focus. "We have beautiful streetscaping in many areas of downtown, public art, public parks, so many wonderful restaurants and gathering holes, Square. Anyone who has spent anytime downtown either has walked through there or heard about it. Bet you didn't know that originally there was a large market place there for area farmers to sell their crops. The land was donated by William G. Swan and Joseph A. Mabry and since 1854 Market Square has been a beehive of activity.

Probably the most noted event there was the occupation by Union troops, who used the

Thursday music concerts return on May 8th and on the 9th Movies on the Square begins.

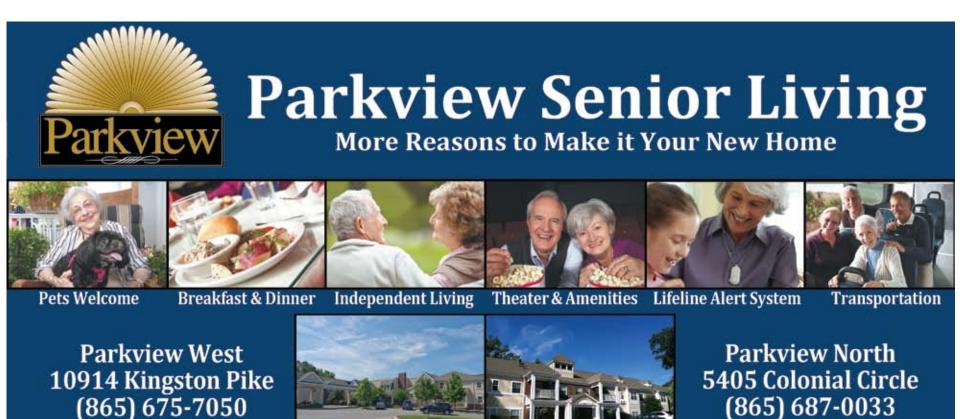
On May 10th Blank Fest returns, sponsored by the

The next step is repairs to the main part of the house, including all doors and windows.

The Statehood Day Open House will feature the home with no furniture inside. The furniture is being stored and the staff is cataloguing and cleaning the collections and promises, when complete, to share interesting stories with the public.

There'sa Statehood Celebration Dinner June 6th for anyone interested. Admission is \$100 and

Continue on page 2



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PAGE B2 The Knoxville FOCUS **Our Neighborhoods** DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE

Cont. from page 1

square feet of living space and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Sterchi family called

the home "Stratford Hall" but, today, it's the Sterchi Mansion to most local people.

The home is a land mark

at 809 Dry Gap Pike and much of the farm land is now a large subdivision of homes.

In 1921 Sterchi bought





PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The entrance to the James White Parkway at Volunteer Landing passes by a sculpture depicting the Treaty of the Holston, signed in Knoxville by the Cherokee, and opening up much of East Tennessee to settlement.

GREENWAYS

The James White

Greenway stretches along the river from the James

White Parkway bridge for

one mile to the Neyland

Greenway. Most people

enter the paved walking

path at the riverside park-

ing lot at the mouth of First

Creek below the Ruth Chris

Steak House at Volunteer

links with the Governor

Ned McWherter Riverside

Landing Park under the

James White Bridge

and connects with the

Morningside Greenway

there. The city plans to

eventually continue the

greenway across the bridge

and connect it with the Will

Shelton Greenway that runs

The World's Fair Park is

connected to the Neyland

Greenway and the water-

front by the Second Creek

Greenway, which also

links the University of

Tennessee. It is known for

WALKING

THE

SOUTHSIDE

its dramatic topography.

through Island Home.

The green way also

Landing.

Sterchi.

Chilhowee Park and sold it to the city five years later. James Sterchi's wife, Bertha, gave land for what is now Sterchi Elementary. Sterchi's son, John, formed a new furniture company with his son-in-law, John O. Fowler and the company became Fowler Furniture in 1930.

The Sterchi building, now

Sterchi Lofts, was renovated into modern loft apartments in 2002 and the building is divided into everything from a studio suite to four bedroom apartments. You can still see the Sterchi Department Store sign atop the building if you look north on Gay Street.

The downtown Sterchi store closed in 1982, moving out of the ten-store building to an office building to Merchant Drive. At that time there were three other Sterchi stores in Knoxville. At that time the Sterchi corporation was the only Knoxville company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Sterchi Lodge isn't in Knoxville but near the North Carolina-Tennessee line off I-40. It belongs to the Church Street United Methodist Church on Henley Street. The Sterchi family gave the church the funds to build the retreat, which is still in use. It's 60 miles from Knoxville and was funded by the family in memory of one of their children, John Apartments.

THE DOWNTOWN **CHURCHES**

The First Presbyterian Church was the first church building in the city, organized in 1792 and remains on the original site. Knoxville founder James White had his sonin-law Charles McClung to lay out the city and reserve White's "turnip patch" for a church and graveyard. The Rev. Samuel Carrick was the first pastor but served without a church building.

Today the church takes up a full block at 620 State Street because of later additions to the building.

The First Baptist Church began in 1843 with a meeting in the old courthouse. Baptisms took place in the waters of First Creek and the church began with 46 members. The original church was built on Gay Street in 1850.

The Church Street United Methodist Church, once located on Church Street, is now at 900 Henley Street. Founded in 1816 as "White's Chapel" on East Hill Avenue the Church Street location began in 1836. During the Civil War the church was a hospital and stable. Members split over loyalty to the North and South and later had a legal fight over ownership of the church. In 1928 the church was destroyed by fire and in 1931 the new Gothic structure opened on Henley. All Souls Church is located at 4 Market Square and meets at 6 p.m. on Sundavs. **Immaculate Conception** Catholic Church is located at 414 West Vine Avenue and weekend masses are at 6 p.m. Saturday and on Sunday at 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30. Weekday masses

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As part of the former Baptist Hospital come down many people are anxious for the new development there, just across Henley Street's bridge from downtown. They are awaiting the addition of a new South Waterfront.

Once the old hospital is renovated and additional buildings added, a hotel and retail businesses will be created. The waterfront behind the complex will be reworked with a pavilion and sidewalks stretching beneath the Henley Street Bridge and connecting to the river walk at City View

Monday are through Friday at 12:10 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

St. John's Cathedral is located at 413 W. Cumberland Avenue and is 158 years old. Sunday worship is at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The church features Knoxville's only outdoor labyrinth.

Knox Life Church holds services in the Bijou Theater at 10 a.m. each Sunday.

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Ben W. Hooper

Pages from the Political Past



rayhill865@gmail.com

For years, Ben W. Hooper was the most successful Republican politician in the state of Tennessee, if the measure was the ability to win a statewide election. A fiery and dynamic speaker, Hooper was a successful lawyer, yet he had overcome serious adversity to rise to prominence.

In fact, he came into this world with a different name entirely: Bennie Walter Wade. Born October 13, 1870, Ben W. Hooper was the child of Sarah Wade and Dr. Lemuel Washington Hooper. Hooper was the child of scandal, as his parents were not married at the time of his birth and Dr. Hooper was actually engaged to another woman. Sarah did her best to care for her child, restlessly moving from Jefferson City to New Market, and finally to Knoxville. Despite her best efforts, Sarah found she could not support herself and her child and gave the boy to the St. John's Orphanage in Knoxville, which was run by the Episcopal Church. It was an experience which profoundly affected Ben Hooper and many years later he wrote his autobiography, which was entitled, "The Unwanted Boy."

Fortunately, young Ben was retrieved by his natural father when he was nine and, oddly, legally adopted. Dr. Hooper raised Ben in Newport and provided him with the necessities of life and a strict Baptist environment. Ben struggled with the circumstances of his birth, yet it also seemed to give him the motivation to Cooper were dismissed on state law allowed employers make something out of his a technicality and Governor to pay someone else other life. Apparently, Ben Hooper forgave his father for he named one of his sons after his father.

By Ray Hill the state of Tennessee's Democratic Party was rife with infighting and political warfare. Democrats had been bitterly divided in 1908 when former U.S. senator Edward Ward Carmack had challenged Governor Malcolm Rice Patterson for renomination. The contest had been fiercely fought, largely around the issue of prohibition. Carmack championed the dry forces, claiming Governor Patterson was little more than a tool of the liquor interests. Following his loss, Carmack became the editor of the Nashville Tennessean, a perch he used to torture Governor Patterson and his friends. Carmack's poisonous editorials were such that his own friends counseled him not to go about the city without a gun. It was dubious advice and Carmack did indeed travel the streets of Nashville armed, although in the end it did him little good. Carmack had the misfortune to see Colonel Duncan B. Cooper on a Nashville street; Colonel Cooper, the victim of several of Carmack's acidulous editorials was righteously indignant. The chance meeting erupted into angry tempers and gunfire. When he encountered Colonel Duncan B. Cooper and his son Robin, Carmack apparently fired first, but proved to be less of a marksman than Robin Cooper. Carmack managed to wound the younger Cooper, but Robin fired several shots, killing Carmack, who fell into the gutter,

dead.

Patterson. The "Independent Democrats" and Republicans became a "fusion" ticket and helped propel Hooper to the GOP nomination. It would also lead to success in the general election.

With Malcolm Patterson's withdrawal, Tennessee Democrats scrambled to find a nominee who could win the general election and perhaps unite the shattered party. Ironically, they settled upon Alf Taylor's brother, former three-term governor and incumbent United States senator, Robert Love Taylor. Senator Taylor required a good deal of convincing, having spent years trying to make it to the United States Senate. Very reluctantly, Bob Taylor agreed to make yet another campaign for governor.

Hooper waged an effective campaign, lambasting the Patterson administration in specific and corruption in general. Thought to be one of the most popular individuals in Tennessee, Bob Taylor anticipated a close election, but ultimately expected to win. He and just about every other Democrat in Tennessee was stunned, when he lost to Hooper. Hooper won just over 133,000 votes, while Taylor garnered over 121,000 votes. Ben W. Hooper was the first Republican to win the governorship in Tennessee since the election of Alvin Hawkins in 1880. Senator Taylor died not long after, some speculating he died of a broken heart from being rejected by his people.

Much to the horror of Tennessee Democrats, if losing the governorship to the Republicans wasn't bad enough, they had lost control of the House of Representatives where the Fusionists held a majority. The state senate was controlled by Democratic regulars, which enhanced the possibility for conflict. Despite the division in the legislature, Governor Hooper was able to pass several of his initia-Charges against Robin tives. Prior to his election, than a female employee; the money for the woman's work could go to a relative or a husband, rather than to the woman doing the work. Governor Hooper sought to change the law, requiring employers to pay the female employee directly and the legislature agreed. Hooper also urged the legislature to pass a bill to authorize localities to be able to issue bonds to pay for the construction of much needed hospitals and buy property for schools. The governor was also successful in getting the Tennessee General Assembly to pass a law for pure food and drugs at a time when there was virtually no government regulation of the purity of either. 1911 also saw the election of a senator of the United States from Tennessee. Incumbent James Beriah Frazier of Chattanooga had himself been a former governor and wanted very much to be reelected, but he suffered from his alliance with the late Senator E. W. Carmack. It soon became clear even regular Democrats would not support him for reelection and he withdrew as a candidate. Tennessee Democrats suffered yet another significant political setback when the Fusionists elected Luke Lea, the thirty-year old owner of the Nashville Tennessean, as the new senator. When Senator Robert Love Taylor died unexpectedly in

Washington, D. C., Governor Hooper filled the vacancy by appointing his mentor and patron, Newell Sanders to the vacancy in April of 1912. The Fusionists held both Senate seats and the governorship.

Tennessee Democrats furiously attempted to reclaim the governor's office in 1912 and nominated Benton McMillin, the Old Warhorse of the Democratic Party. McMillin had served in Congress for twenty years before being elected governor and serving two terms. McMillin readily answered the call of his party and campaigned hard. The national Republican Party was seriously divided in 1912 with former President Theodore Roosevelt running against incumbent President William Howard Taft on the Progressive or "Bull Moose" ticket. Democrats hoped the national split in the GOP would affect Hooper's reelection campaign and a Progressive was nominated for governor. It did not help the Democrats as Hooper won with 124,641 votes to McMillin's 116,610 votes. The Progressive candidate, William Poston received a meager 4,483 votes.

Governor Hooper began his second term with legislation to help reform education in Tennessee. Hooper insisted children between the ages of eight and fourteen be legally required to attend school. Governor Hooper also placed the responsibility for the transportation of students on local school boards. Hooper signed legislation to provide inspections of state banks, as well as creating a system to allow convicts to receive a parole. Governor Hooper also changed the method of execution for those convicts unlucky enough to receive the death penalty; instead of hanging, they would be electrocuted in the future.

Governor Hooper authorized pensions for not only the veterans of the Civil War, but also for the widows of Tennessee Democrats campaign against McAlister veterans. Having original- wanted rid of Luke Lea they and McKellar, but both lost ly been elected to office over the tumult of prohibition, Ben W. Hooper gleefully presided over changes in Tennessee's liquor laws. Tennessee banned the interstate shipment of alcoholic beverages. Hooper also supported legislation allowing as few as ten citizens to seek the closure of gambling dens and saloons. Ben W. Hooper sought a third two-year term in 1914 and Tennessee Democrats nominated Tom C. Rye for governor. Unlike Benton McMillan and Robert L. Taylor, Rye was a fresh face. Rye was aided in his gubernatorial campaign when Democrats adopted prohibition as part of their official platform, cutting the high ground out from under Governor Hooper.



Former Governor Ben W. Hooper of Tennessee, 1922

politics and watched yet vote, the best showing of any another serious division in Tennessee's Democratic Party erupt as Senator Luke Lea had to face voters in 1916. For the first time in the state's history, Tennesseans would be popularly electing a member of the United States Senate. Senator Lea badly wished to be reelected, but his constant interference in party affairs and history as a Fusionist caused many regular Democrats to loathe him. Former Governor Malcolm Patterson thought the time right to attempt a comeback and he entered the primary contest. A third candidate emerged in the person of Memphis Congressman Kenneth D. McKellar. Both Lea and Patterson hated one another and paid little attention to Congressman McKellar, who was able to promote himself as the "harmony" candidate, as well as the Democrat best able to win the general election.

Former Governor Ben W. Hooper decided the divisions inside Tennessee's Democratic Party might once again be the key to victory in November. So many arranged for the primary election to be held in 1915, a year in advance of the general election. There was also a provision for a run-off election, meaning the two top vote getters in the primary would face each other in another election. Senator Lea ran a poor third in the Democratic contest and to the surprise of virtually everyone, Congressman McKellar won East and West Tennessee and ran first. McKellar and Patterson, who had carried Middle Tennessee, faced one another in the run off election. Once again, McKellar carried East and West Tennessee and beat Patterson to become the Democratic nominee. With the nomination of McKellar, Hooper's hopes of being elected to the United States Senate faded. Had he faced either Lea or Patterson, both of whom had serious liabilities as candidates, Hooper might have won. Still, he ran a credible race in the general election, winning 44% of the

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GOP candidate for the United States Senate until Howard Baker's race in 1964.

The election of a Republican president in 1920 led to Hooper being appointed to the national Railroad Labor Board. Later, Hooper became the chief purchasing agent in the acquisition of land for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Hooper held that lucrative post until the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932.

Hooper attempted a political comeback in 1934 and there was even an effort to revive the old Fusionist movement in Tennessee. Lewis Pope had run for governor of Tennessee multiple times and failed to win the nomination; Pope had a habit of bolting the party in the general election and was again furious at having lost to Governor Hill McAlister. Pope ran in the general election as an Independent and allied himself with Ben W. Hooper, who was the Republican nominee for U.S. senator against K. D. McKellar.

The two waged a loud

Hooper graduated from Carson Newman College and later studied law under the supervision of Judge Horace N. Cate.

Young Ben Hooper also demonstrated his personal popularity in his home community, winning a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1892 when he was only twentytwo years old. Hooper was reelected to a second term in 1894, the same year he was admitted to the Bar to commence the practice of law.

Like many another young man, Ben Hooper felt the pull of service to his country with the outbreak of the Spanish American War, the conflict which brought Theodore Roosevelt and the charge up San Juan Hill to the country's notice. Hooper served under another Tennessean who would go on to further acclaim and political success, Colonel Lawrence D. Tyson.

After returning home, Hooper secured a position as an assistant to the U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Hooper remained in that post for four years, leaving in 1910 when he made a bid for the governorship.

Success in politics has much to do with timing and

Patterson came to the rescue of his friend Colonel Cooper, by pardoning him. Colonel Cooper's pardon caused many Tennessee Democrats to reel in disbelief and outrage. The outcry was such that Malcolm Patterson, running for a third two-year term in 1910, had to withdraw as a candidate.

With the Democrats so deeply divided, it seemed like the Republican nomination might be worth something that year and Ben W. Hooper had become a candidate. He faced veteran politician and former Congressman Alf A. Taylor for the GOP nomination. Taylor was one of the most formidable figures in Tennessee politics, having contested his own brother, Robert Love Taylor, for the governorship in the famous "War of the Roses". Despite being the minority party in Tennessee, Republicans had their own divisions and two of the most powerful party leaders, Congressman Walter P. Brownlow and Chattanooga industrialist Newell Sanders, were battling for supremacy. Alf Taylor was supported by the faction headed by Congressman Brownlow, while Newell Sanders strongly backed Hooper for the GOP gubernatorial nomination. Sanders cleverly blended together a confection of Republicans and dissident Democrats opposed to the administration of Governor

Hooper narrowly lost his bid for reelection, garnering 116,667 votes to Rye's 137,656 votes.

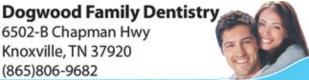
Ben Hooper returned to Newport, but he had not given up his interest in



badly. It was the end of Hooper's political career. He did serve as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1953, which included both former governors Prentice Cooper and Jim Nance McCord. Cooper presided as Chairman, while Hooper was accorded the post of Vice Chairman.

Hooper spent his latter years practicing law, spending time with his wife Anna Belle and their six children and numerous grandchildren. Ben W. Hooper succumbed to pneumonia and died on April 18, 1957; he was eighty-six vears old.

The story of Ben W. Hooper is a classic American rise from shame and poverty to success. Ben Hooper was one of the most popular politicians in the state for sometime and remained a highly respected statesman in his later years. Despite being a member of the minority party and oftentimes facing a contentious legislature, Governor Hooper left behind a progressive legacy in many respects.



Dogwoodfamilydentalcare.com James Hazenfield, DDS Gina Pittenger, DDS

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Taylor Oglesby, Valedictorian



Suzannah Parker, Valedictorian



Lauren Beeler, Salutatorian

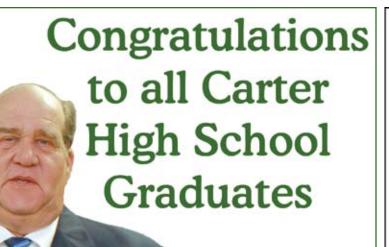
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Your schooling may be over, but remember that your education still continues. Author Unknown



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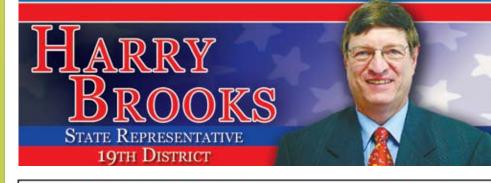
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Powell names Barnes boys basketball coach

By Ken Lay

The chance to return to the Powell community proved too much to pass up for Gary Barnes.

Barnes, who was once a student teacher under legendary Panthers Ogan, will now replace the Knox County coaching icon.

move but the opportunity tradition."

to coach at Powell was too good to pass up," said Barnes, who was named to succeed Ogan last week. "I respect what coach Ogan and coach [Jeff] Hunter County or East Tennessee. have done.

basketball coach Mike tradition and we're going to use that to our advantage. I want to be the third coach at Powell in 80 years and "We weren't looking to I want to carry on that

Barnes, a native of Memphis, has spent the last few seasons coaching in Georgia. But he's no stranger to Powell, Knox

"Powell has a great teacher, Barnes attended Lincoln Memorial University. It was there that he was mentored by Ogan, who retired after leading the Panthers to a Region 2-AAA Championship.

Barnes coached at Oneida (1998-2002) and South-Doyle (2007-09) and his wife, Jeanette, is from Powell.

"We have so much family A physical education in Powell," Barnes said. "My wife's family is from there. Her parents live there and I just couldn't pass this up."

Powell supports its high school teams and the new coach is excited about his new job.

"Powell has a great home- four.

court advantage and I'm

excited," he said. "We want

to continue to give them

the brand of basketball. I

in [District 3-AAA] and it will

Ryan is 18. Rylee is 16.

Reid is 13 and Reese is

be a challenge.

and coach Hunter."

Powell's new coach is looking forward to becoming part of the community.

"You'll see me at the know some of the coaches Panther football games and you'll see me at the PHS baseball games. We "I have a lot to live up to have a great coaching staff in replacing coach Ogan and I'm looking forward to supporting them and being Barnes has four children. a part of it," Barnes said.

Fulton seeks to add 4x100 relay title to state haul

By Steve Williams

Fulton High captured a state championship in football last fall and four members of that team are aiming for a track title this spring.

"The goal is to win state," said Daryl Rollins-Davis after running the anchor leg on the Falcons' victorious 4x100 relay team in the Knoxville Interscholastic League meet last Wednesday night at Hardin Valley Academy. "We've actually made it two years in a row but lost both times and came in third."

Penny Smith is the relay team's only new member.

"He just stepped up and took the role of the third leg," said Rollins-Davis. Xavier Hawkins leads off and Lennox Roper takes the baton on the first exchange. The Falcons turned in a season-best time of 43.50 seconds in winning the KIL.

"We actually got better with our handoffs," said Rollins-Davis "We've been getting everybody together and time was 42.72. working on our handoffs, we've had all season."



Hardin Valley Academy prep All-American Aaron Templeton runs on the inside lane early in the KIL 1600-meter race, Templeton won the event with a time of 4:17.04. Bearden's Chase Hilton, who would go on to win the KIL 800, runs in the middle of the early frontrunners. Photo by Luther Simmons

ran 43.11, and the winning Stinson in 10.98.

meet, Fulton still has work photo finish. Rollins-Davis the 3200-meter run. He also 43-2, third in 300 hurdles to do. Last year, the Falcons was clocked in 10.97 and won the 1600 with a 4:17.04 and sixth in long jump.

The KIL meet marked the Rollins-Davis, an Arkan- last home appearance for scored big too for the Hawks., vault (14-0), Hardin Valley last year's Class A-AA state tral's Jajuan Stinson in a coasted to the finish line in teammate Weldon Wright's ____**Continue on page 4**

effort.

HVA junior Ben McCay was Senior Chris Thomas a surprise winner in the pole Q&A with Jeff Pearlman: Author of "Showtime"

By Alex Norman

From time to time we like to catch up with the proverbial movers and shakers in the world of sports. Recently we had the chance to trade emails with Jeff Pearlman, one of the best authors in the country. Pearlman's latest work is "Showtime: Magic, Kareem, Riley, and the Los Angeles Lakers Dynasty of the 1980s." (\$30.00/Gotham Books)

Alex Norman: Reading the story of Jack McKinney, the Lakers coach that was seriously injured in a biking accident early in the 1979-1980 season, is heartbreaking, and it changed the Lakers franchise forever... yet few know his story. Is he one of the great "What if's?" in American sports history?

Jeff Pearlman: Absolutely. He's such a "what if" that very few people know he's a "what if." Which is quite a "what if." Truth is, had he not gotten on the bicvcle that day, I believe McKinney goes down as an all-time great NBA coach, and is Continue on page 2

and this is the best one sas State football signee, Hardin Valley prep All-Amer- In addition to winning the 110 also got 10 first-place points also took first place in the ican Aaron Templeton, who Based on times posted at KIL 100 dash, nipping Cen- flashed a "No. 1 sign" as he second in triple jump behind (8:32.61), which consisted

hurdles in 15:32, he placed from its 4x800 relay team

Promises Made Promises Kept

Jimmy "JJ" Jones **KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF**

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May 5, 2014 PAGE C2 The Knoxville FOCUS Central claims Black Oak Ridge soccer bragging rights 5-1

By Ken Lay

Central High School's boys soccer team is in the midst of its best season in recent memory and the Bobcats recently closed out the District 3-AAA portion of its schedule with a 5-1 road victory over Black Oak Ridge rival Halls.

The Bobcats (9-3-1 overall, 2-1 in the district) notched their third consecutive win in the rivalry and spoiled Senior Night for the Red Devils (4-9, 0-3) on Monday, April 28.

Central, which finished second in its division of the split district, will return to action tonight (May 5) when it hosts a district tournament match at Dan Y. Boring Stadium (opponent and kickoff time were unknown at press time).

The Bobcats closed out the regular-season portion of their district schedule by jumping on their rivals early.

game's first goal in the 18th minute and Michael Duarte made it 2-0 with another marker eight minutes later.

Halls, one of Knox County's youngest teams, didn't help its cause later in the opening half when it surrendered its own goal to the Bobcats. That tally finished off the scoring in the opening half.

"We played well," Central coach Russ Wise said. "We finished when we needed to and we made the plays that we had to make.

"We've won this game three years in a row now and in my first three years, this wasn't the case."

The Bobcats continued to dominate the match after halftime. Central, which outshot the Red Devils 11-2 in the match, took a 4-0 lead in the match on a set

play in the 53rd minute. Trevor Kolulu Bambu scored the Freeman's corner kick was sent to senior M.J. Sheriff, who promptly banged it past Halls goalkeeper Christian Glenn and into the back of the net.

> The Red Devils got their lone goal in the 72nd minute when Mateo Sanchez scored.

> Central's Zach Haaland answered with the game's final goal about 15 second later.

While the Bobcats saw their success continue, it was another tough chapter in a difficult season for the Red Devils. But Halls coach Mike Horner kept things in their proper perspective.

"We have a really young team. We start five freshmen," Horner said. "They are good soccer players but they're young and small.

"But hey, they still love the game and they're still playing."



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Halls High's Skylar Dreier (19) withstands a challenge from Central's Jose Duarte in the Bobcats' 5-1 victory over the Red Devils in the 2014 chapter of the Black Oak Ridge Rivalry. It was Central's third consecutive win in the series.

Hodge's sac fly nets 1-0 tourney win for Halls

By Ken Lay

He's only a freshman but Bryce Hodge knocked in the biggest run of the season for the Halls High School baseball team Thursday night.

Hodge, the Red Devils' second baseman, drove in the game-winning run with a sacrifice fly in the top of the 12th inning of Halls High's 1-0 victory over Gibbs in the first round of the District 3-AAA Tournament at Powell's Danny T. Maples Field.

"That was the biggest play of our season and he got it when it really counted," Red Devils' pitcher Andrew Sylvester said of Hodge. "He's a freshman but he plays like a senior."

After Hodge's sacrifice fly to deep center field that broke the scoreless tie, the pressure shifted to Sylvester, who convinced Halls coach Doug Polston that he had enough in the gas tank to finish the game.

"He talked me in to letting him go out there in the 12th and it probably wasn't the smartest thing I've ever done," Polston said.

Smart or not, the senior right hander responded by striking out Pierce Elliott and Tyler Mullins to open the inning. Sailing, however, wasn't quite as smooth as Polston or Sylvester would've liked. After the two punchouts, Sylvester walked Zack Beeler,

who represented the tying run. That brought Eagles' leadoff hitter Taylor McMurray to the plate with the potential game-winner. "I was scared," Sylvester said. As it turned out, Sylvester had nothing to fear as he induced McMurray to fly to center and end the game. "He [Sylvester] struck the first two guys out and then he walked the next guy and let the winning run come to the plate," Polston said. "But he got out of it. "I told [Gibbs] coach [Geff] Davis that this was probably the most wellplayed game that I've ever been in. I'm not sure either team deserved to lose."

From the outset, the contest was a classic pitchers' duel between Gibbs ace Andrew Willis and Sylvester.

Willis pitched 9 2/3 innings and had seven strikeouts. Halls (16-14 and seeded fifth in the tournament) chased him from the game with two down in the 10th. He walked the last hitter he faced before Austin Breeden entered the game and struck out Jonah Cook to retire the side,

Gibbs (20-13 and the tournament's fourth seed) blew some chances to win and squandered a golden opportunity end things in the bottom of the 10th when Beeler led off the frame with a double. He was picked off to end the threat.

The Eagles had their chances but Sylvester, with help from his defense, managed to wiggle off the hook several times.

"We had some missed opportunities," Davis said. "We hit the ball hard but when we did, they made plays.

"We had our chances but they made some great plays. This was a great game but you can't dwell on it. You have to come back and get ready to go tomorrow. It's that time of the year."

The Red Devils missed their share of chances as well but they finally converted in the 12th.

Right fielder Dylan Gresham led off the frame with a double and took third on a wild pitch before scoring the lone run of the contest when Hodge flied out. "I was just trying to get it up enough so Dylan could score and I was able to do that," said Hodge, who nearly hit the ball out of the park.

Powell avenges league loss to Dragons 11-1 Powell's lead to 2-0. Powell uncorked a wild pitch.

By Ken Lay

Powell High School's baseball team didn't want a repeat performance of its trip to Clinton last month and the Panthers didn't have one.

Powell cruised to an 11-1 five-inning victory over the Dragons Thursday in the first round of the District 3-AAA Tournament at Danny T. Maples Field.

The win avenged a 2-0 regular-season district road loss to Clinton on April 16 where Dragons left-hander Austin Goad baffled the Panthers.

Goad took the mound again Thursday and his day wasn't nearly as pleasant against the top-seeded Panthers. He surrensided loss.

"We changed our control of the at-bat." approach a little bit and we He was in control on this were more patient," Powell coach Jay Scarbro said. "He baffled us last time. But in this game we attacked pitches in the zone and we didn't chase pitches out of the zone." The Panthers (26-8) got on the board early. They tallied three runs in the bottom of the first. Sam Braden led off with a double. He scored one out later when pitcher Dalton Long singled. Catcher Tanner Latham added an RBI double to extend He scored when Goad

picked up another run on a Clinton error.

first run but he made his biggest impact on the mound. The right hander opened the game with six strikeouts over the first three innings. He struck out the side in the first inning. He fanned two more Dragons in the second and caught Levi Martin looking in the top of the third inning.

"Dalton attacks the strike zone and he keeps our defense on its heels," Scarbro said.

Long, who finished with 10 strikeouts, said he likes working ahead of opposing hitters.

dered nine runs in a lop- and Strike two," he said. "It gives me a chance to take

In the fourth, Powell scored five runs on just one Long drove in the game's hit to expand its lead to 9-0. Goad hit a pair of Panthers and walked three more. Powell also took advantage of another Clinton miscue. Latham picked up an RBI on a fielder's choice before Dean Kidd drew a basesloaded walk to chase Goad from the game.

> Lance Hamilton entered to pitch and was greeted rudely by Klay Leeper, who singled in a run. A defensive miscue by the Dragons help Powell score two more runs and take a 9-0 lead.

Clinton finally got on the board in the fifth. In the inning, the Dragons got "I love throwing Strike one back-to-back singles from Hamilton and Payton Vandergriff. Vandergriff's hit plated Riley Miller, who was hit by a pitch earlier in the day as he tossed a two-hit- inning. Hamilton's hit was ter and surrendered a run the first allowed by Long in 14 2/3 innings. Long had a no-hitter against rival Halls on April thers made life miserable 21 to clinch the tournament's for the Panthers. Powell took a 3-0 lead He also threw three hitless innings in a weekend tournev. Powell ended the game in the bottom of the fifth when designated hitter Hagen Owenby blasted a two-run homer.

Tournament play continues through early this week.

In other first round games: Powell routed Clinton 11-1 in five innings; Karns beat Oak Ridge 12-2 and Anderson County notched a 16-2 victory over Central, which is making its first tournament appearance in six years.

in the top of the fifth.

While Long stifled the Dragons (10-24), the Panfor Goad.

in the bottom of the third. Marcus Weaver, who started the frame with a oneout infield single, was able to advance all the way to third as Clinton committed a two-base throwing error.

Q&A with Jeff Pearlman: Author of "Showtime"

Cont. from page 1

recognized universally as the godfather and brainchild of Showtime. And Pat Riley stays in the broadcast booth.

AN: Did Kareem Abdul-Jabbar s surly nature take away from how history has remembered him?

JP: Probably. It's weird, how when people think of the all-timers, they always include Jordan, Kobe, Bird, Magic, Shaq, Wiltbut rarely Kareem. And he may well be the greatest all-time player, especially if you incorporate his time at Power Memorial HS and UCLA. But he treated people like #&%\$. That stuff sticks.

AN: A.C. Green is a very religious man. How did he deal with life in the NBA and especially life on the 1980's Lakers, which had their share of "extracurricular" activities?

JP: Well, he started off being openly dogmatic, but when guys tuned him out and became irked by it, he dialed back the Jesus talk-wisely. The thing is, not everyone was having sex on the road. Most? Probably. But not everyone. So A.C. just stuck to his convictions. Something he'd done his whole life. He's an admirable cat.

AN: When I read your books (1986 Mets, 1990's Cowboys, 1980's Lakers) I

always wonder about how those teams/athletes would have been thought of in the social media age ... there's no way the Lakers would have been able to keep their wild moments under wraps today, would they?

JP: They wouldn't exist. Factually. Couldn't be done. Twitter. iPhone. Instagram. No chance.

AN: For people that weren't around in 1991, is there any way to describe the press conference when Magic Johnson announced that he had HIV?

JP: I suppose the thing that comes to my mind is darkness. Just darkness. HIV back then was a death sentence-a long, ugly,

shrivel-up-and-get-lesionsall-over-your-body death sentence. If you'd asked people back then whether they'd rather get HIV or die in a car accident, I'm guessing 10 of 10 take the car. It was THAT certainyou'd die, you'd die awfully. So that's where we were, and that's what America thought it was staring down.

AN: Today many NBA players grow up together playing AAU ball... they are very friendly. The 1980s Lakers/Celtics rivalry wasn't a friendly one. How much did that mutual dislike and the competitive battles in 3 NBA finals help grow the sport?

JP: Oh, it was huge,

because it was insanely captivating and made for great TV. My mom and dad know absolutely nothing about sports. When I say nothing, I mean if you lined up Lawrence Taylor and Reggie Jackson and asked, "Who's who?" they'd probably flunk. However, they knew Bird-Magic, Magic-Bird, Celtics-Lakers. Everyone did. It was tense and close and heated and raw and awesome.

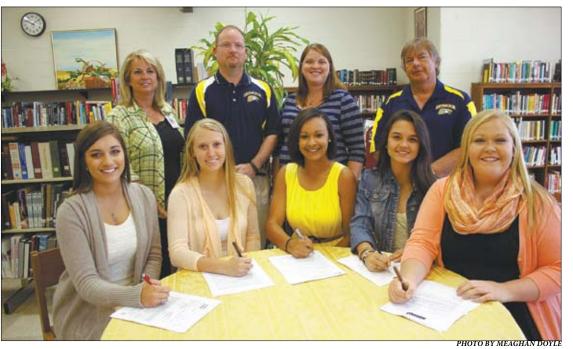
AN: Out of those 5 NBA championship teams, who is the most underrated of the Lakers players?

JP: Probably Jamaal Wilkes, even though he was inducted last year into the Basketball Hall of Fame. He was an insanely talented player who did everything well and possessed the most beautiful shot most folks have ever seen. But, even after having spent 2 1/2 years on the Lakers, I still forget about him from time to time. Which is shamefulbecause he was dazzling.

AN: Who was the most interesting person you interviewed for this book and why?

JP: Maybe Jeanie Buss. Really smart, no airs, no ego, lived the era, great storyteller.

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Bottom L-R: Jessica Donaldson, Lilian Lesniewski, Brittany Gray, Nina Rogers, Shelby Moon. Top L-R: Kristy Wallen, Principal; Patrick Doyle, Coach; Ashley Hutton, Coach; Gary Householder, Athletic Director. Not Pictured: Kelsey Pack.

Six Lady Eagles sign lacrosse scholarships

By Ken Lay

SEYMOUR---Patrick Doyle couldn't be prouder of his Seymour High School girls lacrosse team.

"Seymour players have become very attractive to coaches in this region," Doyle said after six of his athletes signed National Letters of Intent to continue playing the sport in college. "Coaches have seen the girls play during the season [and in the] summer and are thoroughly impressed by their work ethic and heart.

"They are also amazed by their rapid rise in their talent level. This is due to the fact that these girls work non-stop to improve themselves." Three Lady Eagles are

headed to Tusculum College.

Jessica Donaldson, Lilian Lesniewski and Shelby Moon will play for the Lady Pioneers, who will begin competition in 2015.

Lesniewski, who is Seymour's leading scorer, will pursue a degree in physical therapy. Moon will study nursing and Donaldson will enter college as an undeclared major.

Gray, who will major in veterinary science, will play at the University of Virginia-Wise. She'll be a key defensive presence for the Lady Cavaliers, who will also begin competing at the NCAA Division II level next season.

Pack will attend Lincoln Memorial University. The Lady Railsplitters will also begin playing in 2015. She will also be a nursing major.

Seymour's Nina Rogers will also play college lacrosse, although she didn't receive an athletic scholarship.

She accepted an appointment to the Air Force Academy. She is the fifth Seymour student (and first female) to receive an appointment from a service academy.

As a coach, Doyle is extremely proud of his athletes.

"To me, it's not so much about wins and losses," he said. "I want to see that they can succeed at the next level.

"With lacrosse as new as it is here, [college coaches] are not necessarily looking for the best lacrosse players. They're looking for players who have guts, heart and, quite frankly, a little bit of meanness."

A-E's Hall beats young challengers to repeat in **KIL 100**

By Steve Williams

When Lexus Hall got in the starting blocks for the girls' 100-meter dash finals, the Austin-East senior and defending Knoxville Interscholastic League champion was surrounded by underclassmen. Four freshmen and three sophomores joined her in the title field of eight.

In fact, one 9th grader, West's Alexis Partin, owned the season's top time in the event - a wind-aided 12.34 seconds.

But the veteran Lady Roadrunner claimed the 100 crown again, with a time of 12.67 last Wednesday night. Partin was second in 12.81. Hardin Valley Academy sophomore Reagan Goins came in third at 12.92.

"It feels mighty good," said Hall. "I liked it (winning), I just wasn't too satisfied with my time, because I normally run like a 12.5, and 12.6 is on the edge."

Her strategy for the race?

"Just to get out, push hard and run," she said.

Conditions at Hardin Valley were not ideal for this year's KIL event, which annually brings together Knox County's best high school track and field athletes for competition.

"It's damp," said Hall, "but it's something I can run in. I'm used to it. It didn't really make a difference in the condition of the track. It's just when you get down in your start, you have to be careful you don't slip. You got to push more to get a better start."

Hall also anchored A-E's 2x400 relay team to victory (1:47.74). Kiana Chandler, Iyana Armstrong and Tyra Allmon ran the first three legs. West's girls were favored coming in but were disqualified for making a baton exchange out of

Farragut sophomore Katie McBride kept it from being a perfect night for Hall by winning the 200 in 25.96, nipping Hall by three one-hundredths of a second.

Hall says the 200 is her best event. At the TSSAA Class A-AA state meet last season, Hall finished third in the 100 (12.45) and second in the 200 (25.53). McKenzie Ethridge of Signal Mountain won both of those races as a freshman.

In other KIL girls highlights, Rebecca Story, an 8th grader at Christian Academy of Knoxville, couldn't quite catch HVA senior Emma Mashburn at the finish line in the 1600, but did overtake Halls sophomore Kaitlyn Lay in the 800.

Mashburn doubled in the 1600 (5:06.10) and 3200 (11:17.59). Story took the 800 in 2:21.75.

Tamia Crockett also was a double winner for Hardin Valley, ruling the shot put (39-11/4) and discus (128-11) events. The junior is defending Class AAA state champ in both.

Katie Beuerlein earned 29 points without winning a single event. The Farragut senior was second in the long jump, triple jump and 100 hurdles and fourth in the 300 hurdles.

Catholic senior Camille Baker won the high jump with a 5-2 effort and was second in the 300 hurdles and third in the 100 hurdles.

Gibbs pole vaulter Kelsey DeLapp, who has signed with Louisville, cleared the bar at 11 feet to win her specialty. She was second at the state last year but will be the favorite this season.

Shelby Reynolds won the long Continue on page 4





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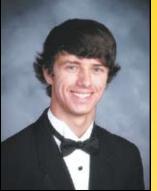
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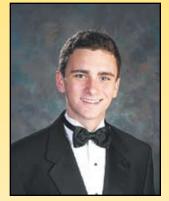


Caleb Jones, Valedictorian



Austin Danna, Salutatorian

Webb High



Elliot Baerman, Valedictorian



Gabriel Dagotto, Salutatorian

West High



Raina Fitzpatrick,

Valedictorian

Carolyn Craig, Salutatorian

Rachel Ryan, Salutatorian

Fulton seeks to add 4x100 relay title to state haul

Cont. from page 1

of Dartanian Oakley, Tanner Witsell, Alex Laggis and Jose Parrilla.

Karns' 4x200 relay team of Jamerial Parks, Blake Wells,

Academy of Knoxville posted a 22.70 in winning the 200, edging South-Doyle's Jocquez Bruce.

Morgenstern of Christian "and I didn't want to ruin my shot at state as a junior, so I just decided to walk it and get some points for my team."

CAK ended the meet with Chase Hilton, Bearden a 3:30.46 winning time in the Derrick Parks and Zack senior, won the 800 in 4x400 relay. The Warriors' Rivera also notched a win 1:56.41 after running sev- foursome of Michael Howard, John Broyles, Morgenstern and Sam Cagle currently ranks third in the state.

A-E's Hall beats young challengers to repeat in KIL 100

Cont. from page 3

jump at 15-101/2, but Carter coach Nick Walsh said his sophomore barely scratched on a leap well over 17 feet.

West sophomore Precious Johnson continues to get faster in the 400 as she was clocked in 58.72. Camille Mancini, Catholic sophomore, was a surprise winner in the 100 hurdles (15.82). West's Maya Barroso won the 300 hurdles in 46.78. HVA junior Brenna Kusch skipped 33-2 to prevail in the triple jump.

Hardin Valley's 4x100 relay team of Abbie Ervin, Elaina Letellier, Gabrielle Fewell and Reagan Goins combined for a winning time of 50.32. West breezed in the 4x400 relay (4:06.39) with Johnson, Barroso, Nicole Adams and Zaria Walker carrying the baton. HVA's 4x800 unit of Molly Griffin, Lona Williams, Karlie Yinger and Zoe Antonas won easily in 10:08.31.

Hardin Valley's girls piled up 161 1/2



Austin-East senior Lexus Hall (second from left) defends her KIL 100-meter dash title. West freshman Alexis Partin (left) came in second and Hardin Valley sophomore Reagan Goins (second from right) placed third. Bearden freshman Taylor Frizen (right) finished sixth.

points to capture the team championship for the third straight year. The top 10 also included West 99, Farragut 87, Catholic 59, Bearden 541/2, A-E 54, CAK 50, Webb 26, Karns 21 and South-Doyle 201/2.

Congratulations to Valedictorian Elliot Baerman, Salutatorian Gabriel Dagotto and the entire Webb School Class of 2014!



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Congratulations to all Gibbs High School Graduates

in the KIL, posting a time of 1:31.22.

"It's the best 4x200 we've had at Karns," said Rick Cathey, who is in his 35th year as coach. The Beavers showed "potential" by running a 1:33 in their first meet, then set a school record (1:30) in winning at the Tennessee Sea Ray Relays in midseason.

four that will run on it, and that's what were going to try to ride to the state," added Cathey.

Bearden junior Zach Lembersky stood out in the field events, winning the discus (142-6) and taking second in the shot put behind Fulton's DJ Campbell (44-81/4).

Hank Black, Carter senior, won the 400 in 50.66 and was third in the 100.

Senior sprinter Jake

enth in the 1600. Bulldog teammate Ty Chandler, a sophomore, took first place in the 300 hurdles (41.81) and placed third in the 110 hurdles.

Houston took top honors in the high jump (6-0). Charles Mitchell, Carter senior, went $21-8\frac{1}{2}$ to win the long jump. Matthew Melton, Webb "We finally settled on the School senior, didn't taste victory but stood out in the sprints by placing third in the 200 and fourth in the 100 and 400. Catholic senior Connor Fair also deserves

honorable mention for finishing runner-up in both the 110 and 300 hurdles and placing fifth in the high jump.

Farragut's Chase Biefeldt School in Chattanooga. "walked" the 200 finals to avoid a potential injury. "I was feeling a little tension in my hamstring," he explained,

Hardin Valley's boys totaled 147 points to easily claim its second straight KIL team Austin-East senior Michael title. The top 10 also included Bearden 811/2, Catholic 60, South-Doyle 46, Fulton 45, Farragut 42, West 42, CAK 41, Karns 36 and Webb School 36.

> State qualifying begins with Sub Sectional for Class A-AA athletes Thursday (May 8) at CAK and with Sectional for Class AAA athletes Saturday (May 10) at Science Hill High in Johnson City. The East Region meets will be May 15, with Class A-AA at CAK and **Division II at Girls Preparatory**

> The TSSAA state meets for boys and girls will be May 21-23 at MTSU in Murfreesboro.

MIKE McMILL School Board, 8th District

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

19th District

Your schooling may be over, but remember that your education still continues. Author Unknown

Best wishes to the **Class of 2014!**

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Pests

Summer will soon be here and you may think it's strange, but I have been thinking about ticks. Perhaps it's because I found one on my pant leg this week and, serendipitously(?), an article on these pests appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine. However, as I started this essay, "it hit the fan." I hesitate to use this crass metaphor, but cut me some slack because it describes the current state of affairs in America.

Despite all the problems that exist in the world and our country, all we hear on the news these days is the drama associated with Donald Sterling, the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers. I don't particularly care for basketball – even UT – and I don't remember ever watching a professional basketball game. Therefore, I don't see why this guy Sterling's

private racist remarks to his gold-digger girlfriend should be dominating the "news." The most cogent remark of this whole sordid affair was from the television commentator, Bernie Goldberg. Goldberg asked how can America be racist when everyone is expressing their outrage at Mr. Sterling's remarks. Incidentally, Mr. Sterling's apparently taped rants were only recently released by his girlfriend who is embroiled in a lawsuit with Mr. Sterling's estranged wife. All of this is more than I care to hear, but it speaks to human problem.

Racism is a form of bigotry. Treating any one differently because of their race, religion or their sex is the definition of bigotry and is repugnant to me and most people. Unfortunately, prejudice towards others because of their tribe or skin color has been

around for all of recorded history. What is even more disturbing to me is that this form of class warfare is still used by some of our leaders to label certain groups as racist or homophobic for political gain. My grandmother grew up in West Tennessee and held antiquated views on race relations which are different than mine. Fortunately, my children see even less "difference" than I do. Hopefully, some day we will all see beyond the surface as did the Master. Until then we should strive for equal treatment for everyone. Perhaps the Mississippi Democrat Congressman Bennie Thompson should be fined and censored for calling Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas an Uncle Tom. Perhaps the editors of GQ (Gentleman's Quarterly) should be boycotted for the blanket statement that Republicans are racists. And perhaps Senate Democrat Harry Reid should be pilloried for jumping on the race bandwagon and insisting that the Washington Redskins football team should change their "hurtful" name.

The First Amendment supposedly affords us freedom of speech. This includes speech that is stupid or speech that may hurt the feelings of others. There are of course some

limits to this basic American right. We are not free to yell "Fire!" in a crowded movie theater because this might cause panic and physical harm to others. I have to admit that when I hear "Oh my God!" I cringe, because this common phrase violates the Ten Commandments which I believe is of an even higher order. However, I don't call the thought police or go on CNN and whine about how I have been offended by someone's "OMG!" It is obvious to me that political correctness has run amok in the world. We now have "hate speech" defined as speech considered racist or prejudicial to someone on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Recently, a British politician was arrested for quoting Winston Churchill's remarks regarding Muslims. Apparently someone was offended.

Okay, I feel better now. Well, not really, but it is probably healthy to get some of this stuff off my chest before I get back to medicine. Perhaps it's worth the effort and the risk for a watchman to make a plea for common sense. Actually, there is so much good in the world; it just gets overshadowed by the incessant barrage of the bad with news coverage that manipulates the uninformed in sound bites.

Speaking of good, as I write this essay, Oakley, the brightest star in the known universe, turns two years old and will be christened this weekend!

Now back to my original topic and some practical medical pointers. Ticks are loathsome creatures in my opinion. I once believed that they served no purpose. I've recently learned that ticks are food for Guinea hens - you know those goofy looking birds with a tiny head and smaller brain. A farmer told me that if you want to eliminate ticks, establish a flock of Guinea hens on your property. I believe I 'd have trouble eating a Guinea hen after learning this.

Ticks begin to be a problem after freezing weather leaves, and remain a problem until the first fall frost. In our area Rocky Mountain spotted fever is a serious infection spread by ticks. However, ticks in our area can also transmit another microorganism called Ehrlichia which produces Rocky Mountain spotless fever. As the name implies, there is no rash with ehrlichiosis. I advise people to inspect their skin carefully after being out in the woods and to remove ticks carefully as soon as they're discovered. I advise gently grasping the tick with tweezers, and pulling

backwards away from the embedded head. Interestingly, ticks may take several hours to attach before feeding and transmitting infectious microorganisms. Headache and fever are the presenting signs of Rocky Mountain spotted fever and only later does a rash appear. Unfortunately, serious consequences arise if the condition is not recognized and treated before the rash appears.

Ticks can also transmit an organism called Babesia, and certain tick species transmit Lyme disease. Fortunately, the tiny "seed ticks" associated with Lyme disease are most prevalent in New England and the mid-Atlantic states, and to a lesser extent in the upper Midwest, and in the Pacific Northwest. Lyme disease is associated with a particular type of rash called erythema migrans. Interestingly, a similar condition called southern tickassociated rash illness can occur from the bite of our Lone Star tick. This is not Lyme disease.

One final comment, pests are unfortunately everywhere. Don't let them get you down!

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

Police Advisory Group reports on complaints

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Ola Blackmon McBride, Chairperson of the Knoxville Police Advisory and improve relations between Councilman Dan Brown. citizens and the police.

calendar year of 2013 and replied. showed 89 cases com-Review Committee (PARC), pared to 109 in 2012. said many of the rudeness PARC office to assist them presented the group's McBride said of the closed complaints are "an inter- in resolving complaints and cases 66 were resolved by the Executive Director, one by the PARC Executive Assistant, 4 through mediation by PARC and the Police Department (KPD), 11 were referred to the appropriate agency, and 6 resolved by the KPD.

"That's always one of the The report covers the top concerns," McBride

only one percent from Hispanics.

"The numbers continue to suggest that the Police Chief David Rausch community is utilizing the the relationship between community and KPD continues to improve," McBride's report says.

Foster Care Awareness Month brings opportunities

May is Foster Care Awareness Month, and Youth Villages, a private nonprofit organization, is offering several opportunities for the Knoxville community to help children in need of homes.

A statewide Day of dren on Sunday, May 18 will highlight Foster Care Awareness Month. Youth Villages is asking churches in the Knoxville-area to join other churches across Tennessee in praying for children in the community who are waiting for loving foster homes.

Care Awareness Month. Flyers, prayer cards and other resources are

official color of Foster

available. For more information about your organization can get involved, contact Mariah Parton at (865)560-2558 or Praver for foster chil- alvson.parton@vouthvillages.org.

annual report to City Council Tuesday night, saying that the total number of cases brought to PARC last year were down from the previous year.

PARC was created in 1998 by executive order and authorized by city ordinance in 2001. The indepower to review or investigate allegations of misconduct by police filed by the public. The idea is to

Of the complaints filed, pendent agency has the the largest number, 32, were reports by citizens about rudeness and courtesy violations by police, which drew a question from

pretation" and that officers are trained to be polite.

Other reported issues involved complaints against other agencies or referrals, failure to perform duties, wrongful arrest, harassment, racial profiling, and illegal citations, among others.

complaints came from white men and women, 35 from African American P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, males and females, and TN 37901.

A complaint may be filed by telephone, consultation, and/or by scheduling an meeting with the PARC Executive Director at 865-215-3869. Another method Fifty-five percent of the is to write to: Police Advisory & Review Committee, Attn: Executive Director,

Churches, businesses and other local organizations are also encourgaed to select a day in May to wear blue, the

Adults in the Knoxville-area who are interested in becoming foster parents are invited to attend free foster parent training classes on Saturdays at 9 a.m., beginning May 10, at the Youth Villages office, located at 9111 Cross Park Drive, Suite E475, Knoxville, TN 37923.

"Children who have experienced trauma Continue on page 2

Waging a War Against Wrinkles.



Featured Speaker Clyde Mathison, M.D. As the skin ages, it changes. Skin loses some of its fat content and appears thinner. It also becomes less elastic and shows the effects of the pull of gravity. However, you do have some control. Join Clyde Mathison, M.D., fellowship-trained facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon, as he shares great ways to prevent wrinkles and gives tips on wrinkle correction.

Tuesday, May 20 Noon **Turkey Creek Medical Center**

Johnson Conference Center

Space is limited. Lunch provided. Complimentary valet parking.

Call 1-855-Tennova (836-6682) to register, or visit Tennova.com by May 19.



Independent Member of the Medical Staff

PAGE D2 Faith

Family Ties

You will worship something or someone. The longer I live, the more I believe this to be true. There is a Godshaped void in all of our lives that is meant to only be filled by God's love. Yet we try to

fill this void with anything but God. We might even try to fit a little bit of God in the void with other things, but

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

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

By Mark

Brackney, **Minister of the Arlington Church** of Christ

that spot must be filled with the right piece, otherwise complete.

easily because it is natural to love your spouse and children. In fact, God But like many good gifts and blessings from God, you can begin to worship

the throne of our hearts is "family."

wants us to love our family.

the allegiance for

This can happen

the gift instead of the giver.

Cont. from page 1 benefit greatly from the love and support of a family," Mariah Parton, Youth Villages foster parent recruiter, said. "Fostering can also be a rewarding experience for adults as they watch a child grow

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Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

just like a puzzle, The love we have for God you find that the behavior that God is being replaced should flow out to love for family and others.

The Barna Group conthe picture is not ducted a study in 2007 where they asked more One of the areas than one thousand people that compete for to choose their most important relationship. Seventy percent chose their earthly family over God (spouse, children, parents, or friend). Only nineteen percent named God, Jesus Christ, the Trinity, or Allah as their top relationship.

> How do you know if you are putting family above God? Here are a few symptoms for you to consider. If

of your child or spouse dictates your mood (both good or bad), they have too much control and power over your life. If your family has the power to fill you with disappointment or joy, there is a problem. A false god works this way: "People are slaves to whatever has mastered them" (2 Peter 2:19). It should be the love of God that influences us, not the decisions and moods of others. The expression, "When Momma's not happy, ain't nobody happy," may be truthful, but it is also an indication

Foster Care Awareness Month brings opportunities

and succeed."

Foster parents should be over the age of 25 and living in the Knox County-area. Foster parents should have viable income, reliable transportation and be able to pass

a background check and home study.

Youth Villages provides foster parents with 24-hour access to counselors, support groups and a monthly stipend to offset the cost of adding a child to the home. Foster parents also often have the first right to adopt if the child becomes available for adoption.

For more information about becoming a foster parent or how you can help support children in need during Foster Care Awareness Month, contact Mariah Parton at (865)560-2558 or alyson. parton@youthvillages.org.

by Momma.

It is not even fair to ask someone to be God for you. The phrase, "He worships the ground she walks on" is a scary place to be. When a person becomes your entire world, that person will never be able to live up to your expectations. When she can't meet his needs, he will move from idolatry to adultery. No human being is designed to meet all your needs. Only God can do this.

Another way that indicates that family is first is the pressure some parents

put on their children to live up to unrealistic expectations. If a parent is living vicariously through their child, this is not fair to the child. The child will attempt to succeed and excel in life simply to try to gain the approval and love of their parent. Unfortunately, so many people, in their adult years, are still trying to make a parent proud.

As wonderful as parenting and children can be, they cannot and will not replace God as the source of true love and satisfaction in our lives.

Church Happenings

Dante Church of God

Dante church of god will be distributing boxes of blessings (food) on Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. To 11:00 a.m. or until boxes are gone. Anyone who would like to come and receive a box of blessings is invited. You must be present to receive a box of food. One box per household.

First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran Church senior group, 55 Alive, will meet on Thursday, May 8 in the Meeting Room in the church. Laura Halm, news reporter from WATE-TV Channel 6, will speak on "My Life as a Journalist." The group meets at noon when a hot lunch

will be served. The cost is \$7.00. The public is invited and reservations are requested. Call the church office at 524-0344 before noon. The church is located at 1297 N. Broadway, Knoxville.

St Paul UMC

Movie on the lawn -Friday, June 13 at St Paul United Methodist Church, 4014 Garden Drive. The church will provide hot dogs, chips, popcorn, and lemonade. Children may play on the playground before the movie at dusk (around 8:45). Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and watch DESPICABLE ME 2. In case of rain, the movie will be shown in the fellow-





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May 5, 2014

I'm back in the

workforce for a

week now. Admit-

tedly, adjusting to

working as many

as 10 hours a

day is tough, but

getting up isn't

nearly as bad as

www.knoxfocus.com

Changes at Transit Center

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Beginning today, if you catch a city bus at the downtown KAT Transit Center you can no longer board the bus on the street. To load and unload you'll now have to go upstairs for a ride.

The Transit Center is very busy during rush hour and around the first of each month and the KAT

board made the changes simply out of caution for safety along Church Street. Trolleys and buses exit and enter the center, either on the street or on the upper platform, every 15 minutes. The Megabus unloads just up the street but is not part of the city services.

Passengers had become accustomed to cross Church Street to

leave or catch their rides, often without using the crosswalks.

PAGE D3

City Trolleys will continue to stop along the street but city buses will only stop on the second level.

KAT's regular fares are \$1.50 for adults and discounted rates are available for seniors, disabled persons and students.

The Sixth Starter (Part III)

Butler has been a prominent name in the Gibbs Community for many years.

Their name was associated with a landmark of the community.

sixth starter's father, Bill Butler, owned a neighborhood grocery store at the corner of Tazewell Pike and Barker Road. Beside it was Leroy Hutchison's barber shop. It was June after 44 years of service. They are members of Graveston Baptist Church in Corryton. The Butlers have a son, Jordan, one daughter, Niki Davis whose husband is Vernon, and three grandchildren: Steel, Roman, and Sasha.

The sixth starter has as much praise for former Gibbs Eagles Coach Bob Dagley as Dagley did for him. "Coach Dagley was one of the best coaches I had. He was very patient with his players," Butler said. He punctuated his comment with three words that sum it all up---"a good coach." I think the sixth starter nailed it! (This is No. 29 in the Gibbs Eagles series.)



The Butler family



I thought it would be. In fact, having

something I like...sort of.

This job is a perfect fit for me because I don't have to think; instead, my duties are to drive a vehicle from Point A to Point B. My skill set includes the ability to do that. Some of the time is spent riding in a van with other coworkers as we travel to pick up cars or return to our home base. It's in that van that I've realized and learned many things. First of all, this is an elite group of shuttle drivers, and certain characteristics are common in us all. I'm the newest worker, a rookie, and I'm also the youngest of the bunch. Someone said one employee was in his 80's, although I can't confirm that. I've heard the guys talking about high school during the early 1960's, and that puts them at least several years ahead of me. Every individual, male and female, that I've met so far either has completely gray or white hair or is follicly challenged.

One man informed me that our crew has been dubbed the "OI Farts." It's an appropriate moniker for several reasons. All of us wear glasses; we all have at least a bit of a hitch in our giddy-ups; and



By Joe Rector joerector@comcast.net

a schedule by which to go is Some sit in the front seats of the van, and others file in according to seniority. That, of course, means I'm stuck in the back of a 12-passenger van and take the full brunt of the potholes and dips of the road to my back.

> The guys talk in friendly conversations throughout job. the day. In fact, two or more of them can occur at one time, and to someone not involved, it sounds a great deal like a bunch of racket. Still, the guys can carry on conversations about any topic. I heard comments on such things as UT women's basketball, healthcare, local politicians, the president, and the economy. However, most intense conversation concerned today's youth.

The guys talked about how their children texted all the time and wanted them to do the same. Some of the men said their phones didn't have that capability, and others commented that the buttons were too small to push. Others lamented the fact that children would rather text than talk, something over which they shook their heads and sighed. Some marveled at how savvy their young grandchildren mastered the

we sometimes use of smart phones without any fear of breaking one or irreversibly damaging it.

My co-workers have come from many different places and professions. A couple of things stand out about them. First, they are not afraid of work. The men come in at The guys are big 8:00 a.m. and are ready to work. They take on assignments, complete them, and move on to the next ones. A driver told me that young people were hired at some point in the past, but they were all gone now. He indicated that they left because they didn't want to work or they didn't want a part-time

These guys also say exactly what they think. I suppose age does that to all of us, or maybe it's the result of a lifetime's worth of experiences. Whatever the cause, guys like us don't have filters through which we send our thoughts. They just come out. Sometimes our words sound harsh, but that's rarely our intent; it's just that we say what we think and leave the nuances for others to add or subtract to our comments. No offense is intended...unless we make it clear that we are in offending moods.

I'm thankful to have been hired for this new job. The income from it helps us. As much as anything, I'm thankful to meet new people who are interesting, intelligent, and funny. My part-time job has few dull moments, and the new job training continues

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central City Democrats meeting

Central City Democrats will have their monthly meeting Monday, May 5th at the Burlington library located at 4614 Asheville Highway. The meeting will begin at 6:30. Candidates Fansler, Vallone and Deathridge will be present.

CHS Red and Black Game The Central High School

football team will have their annual Red and Black game on Saturday, May 10 at 1:00 p.m. at Dan Y

Boring stadium. The team invites the community to come out and watch the game in support of their upcoming 2014 season. There will be a "Meet and Greet" with our new coaching staff and new head coach, Bryson Rosser, immediately following the game outside of the field house.

DAR meeting

The Samuel Frazier Meeting Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution will be meeting on Saturday, May

17, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Sam Wyrosdick. The program will be "The Sinking of the Sultana during the Civil War," presented by guest speaker Norman Shaw. For anyone that is interested in attending as a guest, please contact Martha Kroll at (865) 603-4655 for location information.

Democratic Women's

month at 6 p.m. at Shoney's on Western Avenue in Knoxville. New members are always welcome! Call 742-8234 for more information.

Heiskell Seniors meeting

The Heiskell Community Center, located at 9420 Heiskell Road in Heiskell, will hold its monthly Seniors Meeting on Thursday, May 8 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The speaker Knox County Demo- this month will be Connie Miller. Lunch served at Cont. on page 4



The

By Ralphine Major ralphine3@yahoo.

com

the perfect place for folks to stop in and catch up on neighborhood news. There were no cell phones or computers in those days. I can only imagine the times talk turned to basketball, especially with Butler's son playing for Dagley's '64-65 Eagles. The community was proud of its Eagles and their amazing 31-2 record back then. They are just as proud of them today-fifty years later.

Butler served in the United States Navy. He has been married to the former Shirley Blankenship for 42 years. Stanley is retired from the construction business, and Shirley is retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs in

struggle to get out of the lower-sitting

cars. We drink plenty of coffee and carry snacks in our shirt pockets in case pangs of hunger hit.

on pecking order.

cratic Women meet the second Tuesday of each



The Dance Academy South



SUMMER SESSION 2014

Our summer session begins Tuesday, June 17, 2014! Classes will meet each Tuesday for six weeks ending on July 22, 2014.

We will focus on ballet and jazz skills/ technique. Ages 3 to 103 are accepted and dancers will be grouped by age.

The summer session fee is only \$90 for ages 3-12 and \$100 for ages 12 and up, so call to reserve your spot today!! 865-573-0550

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cont. from page 3 noon, bingo at 1 p.m. Free, donations appreciated. Bring a dessert and a friend. For more information call Janice White at 548-0326.

Karns Republican Club

The Karns Republican Club will not meet Tuesday, May 6. Instead, they would like everyone to take the opportunity to go and vote.

NARFE meeting

Buddy Brown, Lt. Col. USAF (ret), Knoxville resident and one of only 12 pilots in the world to have flown both of the greatest spy planes ever built, the U-2 and stealth SR-71 Blackbird, will talk about his history-making flights at the meeting of the Oak Ridge NARFE Chapter 1476 on May 20. The meeting, beginning at noon, will be held at the Double Tree Hotel on Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge. A hot luncheon is served at 12:30 and Brown will begin at 1:00. The luncheon costs \$14 and reservations are required. Calll 938-4532 or 482-4625

Parkinson Support Group meeting

PK Hope Is Alive Parkinson Support Group of East TN will have the next Meeting at Kern United Methodist Church in Oak Ridge on Tuesday, May 20 at 11:30 a.m. The topic for May will be "Show and Tell - Devices that can be Used by Parkinson's Patients," presented by Louise McKown. Louise McKown is Senior Assistant writer

Little goodies from Cillian's BEAN POT

Cooking Tips:

- Kiwi is never cooked. Heating kiwi causes it to turn to acid.
- Never eat rhubarb alone, it must be sweetened.
- Cooking in an iron skillet provides your body with a good source of iron.
- A ¹/₂ cup serving of vegetables, fruit, or meat will look about the size of a tennis ball.
- To clean "stuck on" or baked on food from casserole dishes, or cooking pans, dissolve 2 effervescent, dental cleansing tablets in water, and place inside the container. Let it soak over night. May need to dissolve more tablets and soak longer, but THIS REALLY WORKS.
- Never eat beef two days in a row, It is hard on digestion, and is more likely to cause weight gain.
- Casseroles are usually cooked in round dishes. Casserole is from a French word meaning round.
- Au lait means "with milk."
- Do NOT use metal bowls when mixing salads. Use wooden, glass, or china.
- When boiling corn, add sugar to the water instead of salt. Salt will toughen the corn.
- "Sometimes with our poor listening skills, it is a MIRACLE that we have any friends at all" Richard Carlson, Ph.D.

for the Senior Living insert in the Oak Ridger Newspaper. She is also the Public Awareness Coordinator for East TN Technology Access Center. A light lunch will be provided by East Tennessee Personal Care Service. For more information please contact Karen Sampsell at (865)482-4867 or pk_hopeisalive@

bellsouth.net. Town Hall East

Town Hall East will meet on Monday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Eastminster Presbyterian Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker will be Lori Goerlich, Certified Landscape Architect and Parks and Greenways Coordinator for the City of Knoxville.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization - Technical Committee Meeting, May 13, 2014.

The Knoxville Regional **Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical** Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 13, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Topics to be considered: Proposed Amendment to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program, Updates on the **Functional Classification for** Queener Road, PlanET Playbook, Air Quality Conformity, Multimodal **Committee and 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.

PUBLIC AUCTION ON SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014 AT 10AM

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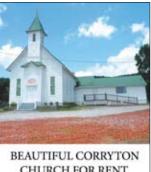
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