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## BUDGET BREAKDOWN

# City budget passes with tax increase

By Mike Steely  
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As predicted last week by *The Focus*, the budget proposed by Mayor Madeline Rogero, some \$384,611,930, passed City Council but not after a last ditch effort to cut it back and shelve the tax increase.

Councilman Nick Della Volpe led an attempt to cut the overall budget in the city council meeting Tuesday evening by cutting increases in funding to organizations, stretching

funding of some groups to 2 or 3 years instead of one, and doing away with an upcoming issuance of \$31.4 obligation bond.

The city's new budget for 2014/2015 increases the tax rate to \$2.7257 per \$100,000 of assessed property value. The budget is about \$2.2 million less than the current operating budget. It includes a mandatory 2.5% pay increase to all city employees and enough money to cover the growing

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# No County Tax increase, no pay raises

By Mike Steely  
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Despite a last minute attempt to add \$21 million to the Knox County budget for 2014-2015, the county commission voted the motion down and went on to approve Mayor Tim Burchett's proposed budget that has no tax increase and no pay raises.

Commissioners Amy Broyles and Sam McKenzie began the regular commission meeting Tuesday afternoon with the motion to add the money that would have involved an additional 21 cent property tax on each \$100,000 of assessed property value.

Broyles said that about 100 county employees qualify for food stamps and more than 400 employees are at risk.

"In East Tennessee we're so proud of taking care of our own, but in Knox County we are not," she said.

Broyles and McKenzie are two of the four commissioners who have also served on the Joint Education Committee. Both also reside in Knoxville.

She said that a 3% property tax increase would equal about \$50 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

"I ask you not to think about the next election," she said, "Do the right thing."

McKenzie said the 21 cent increase would be a

"bold move."

"It's time to treat our employees fairly," he said.

The Board of Education had asked for a similar increase, proposed by Superintendent James McIntyre, but Mayor Burchett turned that away, noting a decrease in revenue. The school system had spun their budget request as a pay increase for teachers.

Most of the commissioners agreed that County employees need a pay raise but disagreed as to when.

Several of the commissioners addressed the motion:

Richard Briggs said that if the 21 cent increase were adopted that city homeowners, who also pay county taxes, would be facing a 55 cent increase given the city mayor's request for a bump in their tax rate. He added that increasing property taxes turn away potential new businesses.

Chairman Brad Anders said that the county budget has been "living on growth" over the past several years.

"We're coming to a point where the growth in Knox County will catch up with us," Anders said. He then added, "We're there."

Speaking of a pay raise for teachers and county

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## Honoring Fountain City



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Fountain City Town Hall hosted its annual Honor Fountain City Day on Memorial Day, May 26. Hundreds attended the day-long event to celebrate the community and to honor veterans. **INSIDE:** See Mike Steely's *Our Neighborhoods* profile of Fountain City on B1.

# Fizz, Boom, Read Come to the Library

## Knox County Public Library encourages summer reading with a panoply of programs

Knox County Public Library's Summer Library Club is now in full swing, and there's a program for every age - pre-readers, readers, teens and adults. Reading over the summer not only prevents a decline in academic skills, but it is the time when students can explore their favorite subjects and fall in love with reading.

While reading is reward enough, the Library is offering a prize pack worth more than \$200 of eats and treats donated by community businesses and organizations for children and teens. But that's not all! Thanks to Friends of the Library, pre-readers can earn a book-toting rubber ducky; children reading on their own can earn a wind-up robot, and teens can earn a draw string tote bag. Adults can also read four books and earn a Library tote bag. Registration for all three programs is open at [www.knoxlib.org/slc](http://www.knoxlib.org/slc). This year's theme of Fizz, Boom, Read! highlights science.

To help kids keep turning the page, the Library is offering more than 150 programs in June and July. From Awesome Science Shows to Fun with Shakespeare, with some magic thrown in to boot, the Summer Library Club is fizzier than ever. Most programs are made possible through a generous grant from the Friends of the Knox County Public Library

This year's programs include:  
**Dr. Al Hazari's Awesome Science Show:** Most days, he's a serious chemist doing serious



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

A statue of a boy sitting atop the world greets people at the Fountain City Library.

research at the University of Tennessee, but if you catch him at the right time with his colorful lab coat and goofy goggles, he might just make a scientist out of the most reluctant lab assistant or audience member. Join Dr. Al Hazari for some fun and fascinating science experiments.

**Fun with Shakespeare:** Make merry with the Tennessee Stage Company in their interactive workshop on *Much Ado About Nothing*, designed specifically for elementary school age kids. Careful Mom and Dad, the kids might fancy themselves

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## Focus on the Law

# Planned Unit Developments

A planned unit development (usually referred to as a PUD) is an area of land to be developed under unified control or under a unified plan of development for a number of dwelling units, commercial, educational, recreational or industrial uses, or any combination of these, the plan for which does not correspond in lot size, bulk or type of use, density, lot coverage, open space or other restrictions to the existing land use regulations. The master plan for the PUD must be



By Sharon Frankenberg,  
Attorney at Law

approved by the state and local authorities. The master plan will reference a plat map of the development and outlines restrictive covenants in place.

PUDs are governed through homeowners' associations which are, in turn, governed by written bylaws. Various unit dues and authorized fees may be assessed and collected by authority of the homeowners' associations. Some PUD homeowners' associations are responsible for

exterior maintenance and clean up so these costs will be passed on to unit owners. Also, exterior design and decorating decisions (mailboxes, skylights, colors, doors, windows, etc.) may be controlled by the homeowners' association. Costs for trash pick up and lawn care are also commonly authorized to be charged to unit owners. Unpaid assessments may be filed as liens against the delinquent owner's real property in the local office of the register of deeds.

A PUD differs from a condominium in that the purchaser of a PUD unit actually owns a lot

within the PUD and the structure or improvements thereon. You receive rights and easements to use the common areas owned by another. These common areas are often owned by the homeowners' association itself. In a condominium development, everything is owned in common with the other property owners. Each individual property owner owns the airspace within his or her own walls. The building structures, land and amenities are owned in common with other members of the homeowners' association. You only own a fraction of the whole property

development. So, if there are 99 condominium units in the development, you will own a 1/99th undivided interest in the land and improvements.

Prior to entering into a contract to sell a unit in a PUD, state law requires that the seller must disclose in writing that the property is in a PUD and make available to the buyer a copy of the development's restrictive covenants, homeowner bylaws and master deed upon request. This PUD disclosure may be included in the contract itself but, either way, it should be acknowledged by the buyer.

This requirement

is in addition to the statutory property condition disclosure requirements for transfers of residential property.

Sharon Frankenberg is an experienced attorney licensed in Tennessee since 1988. She is a sole practitioner who handles real estate, foreclosures, landlord-tenant, probate, collections and general civil matters. She represents Social Security disability claimants and she represents creditors in bankruptcy proceedings. Her office is in Knoxville and she may be reached at (865)539-2100.

# City budget passes with tax increase

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pension fund contributions made by the city.

Della Volpe's presentation would have cut \$6.2 million from the general operating fund of the city of \$200,502,920. His idea failed for the lack of a second.

If you live inside the city and have a home assessed at \$200,000, your tax bill will increase by about \$170 next year.

Councilman George Wallace said his main concern is the \$34 million bond issue. Although he had voted for it initially, he

advised that the city should postpone issuing it. He said he'd also like to postpone the budget vote for two weeks.

Rogero responded that the bond fund would find various projects including Prosser Road improvements and the Lakeshore Park improvements.

"We're not going to issue that until we need to," she said.

"I can agree with the 34 cent tax increase but not the bond issue," Wallace said.

Councilman Marshall Stair said that while he agrees with the "path the

city is on" he sees the pension funding as the biggest problem.

"We're paying for the water damage and haven't fixed the plumbing," Stair said of the pension funding. He went on to say he was unable to support the budget until something is done to resolve the pension issues. Retirees and formerly elected officials have been permitted to name someone other than themselves as beneficiaries of their pensions. In some cases they have named an adult child, who legally could draw the retirement. It's put the city in a financial quagmire.

But for now, the city is legally obligated to fund the pensions, just as the city is legally obligated to give each employee a 2.5% pay increase each year.

The council voted 7-2 to fund the budget, with only Della Volpe and Stair opposing the tax increase. Della Volpe said that while the tax rate had



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Councilmen Della Volpe and Stair opposed the city budget increase in last week's meeting.

not increased in recent years the assessments on property value has gone up, which he called "33% increase."

Proponents of the budget and tax increase spoke on the issue.

"It's been 10 years since a tax increase," said Councilman Nick Pavlis, who said he supports maintaining city services. He said the city has progressed with fewer employees than 10 years ago.

Councilwoman Brenda Palmer said there's never a good time for a tax increase but added, "We need to maintain the momentum."

Councilman Dan Brown said, "We have a good budget; if we choose to delay (proposed expenditures) it's going to cost more."

Councilman Finbarr

Saunders spoke of the investment and momentum and said he wants to "promote and continue that."

Councilman Mark Campen also said he supports the budget and increase.

In other action the council voted to approve a 246 apartment development at Northshore Town Center. Some opponents of the large development had accused Councilman Duane Grieve of being connected to the development, which he denied in a prepared statement.

He said that remarks were "inappropriate and untrue" and moved the question to a vote. Speaking against the development and rezoning were Eric Harrison, who called it "illegal spot zoning" and an intrusion on the Scenic

Highway designation of Northshore.

Frank Slagle said rezoning for the apartments, if approved, would lead to "all sorts of changes" there. Margo Cline said the apartments were "not appropriate."

The council also voted 7-2 to rezone the property of the Emerald Youth Foundation on North Central from residential and commercial for creation of a parking lot. Some discussion took place about the commercial zoning in another designation might be better and would prohibit other things, like a building on the site.

Campen, who represents the area, said that a 12-foot landscape buffer will be created to separate the site from the neighborhood.

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# Draft 2020 Strategic Plan Presented at BOE Working Session

The Knox County School Board met for a Work Session on May 27 to discuss the Draft Strategic Plan. Board members Gloria Deatheridge, Tom Deakins, Kim Severance, and Mike McMillan were absent.



By Sally Absher  
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beyond as a district for our teachers and our kids all the time, and we expect nothing less from the state department, and yet we are getting less."

She added another thing that is upsetting is the "mysterious change in BEP," and suggested

the board "also consider writing a letter from our board to our delegation and our Governor and our Commissioner," adding, "the biggest challenge of this is the late notice."

Karen Carson suggested that the letters not just express their disappointment (with regard to TCAP changes), but to ask for "an explanation of why it happened written in terms that every parent can understand... That lends to the credibility of whatever they did with those numbers." She added she wants to know "how they are going to prevent this in the future."

When asked about the waivers, Dr. McIntyre stated that the

Commissioner can "waive a variety of laws pertaining to public education at his discretion based on specific need and specific request."

The issue of teaching to Common Core standards, but using TCAP testing (which is not aligned to Common Core) for another year due to the delay of PARCC testing was discussed. McIntyre said that individual districts could explore PARCC testing in addition to, but not in lieu of TCAP testing. TCAP will be the assessment of record for accountability for next year.

Dr. McIntyre then presented the Draft 2020 Strategic Plan, with BOE small group discussions. The strategic plan consists of four main goals: Focus on Every Student; Invest in Our People; Partner with Our Stakeholders; and Embrace a Culture of Excellence. Each of these is further broken down into 3 to 4 objectives, for a total of 14 objectives.

BOE members generally agreed with the goals and objectives of the plan. Doug Harris thought there were too many objectives,

and wanted to see the budget requirements for each. He said "Knox County is 51st of 95 counties in (per student) education funding."

Unfortunately, he failed to add that Knox County is 4th of 95 counties when looking at local per student funding. Knox County has a BEP problem, not a local funding problem.

A balanced calendar (year round school) is a key component of Goal 1. There was no discussion of this at the meeting.

Carson had concerns about the role of central office, rather than principals, hiring or screening teacher applicants (Goal 2), as did many of the teachers in the audience. Kincannon raised the issue of teacher morale, turnover and burn-out. She added that she would like to see some kind of performance target to assess if teacher morale is getting better, since "a happy teacher is an effective teacher."

On Partnering with Stakeholders, Lynne Fugate asked "How do we find the people we want to hear

from?" She said "we need outside help from people who put focus groups together."

Check out the 2020 Strategic Plan at [knoxschools2020.org](http://knoxschools2020.org). On the Strategic Plan tab, a drop down menu lists each of the four goals, with links to the video, general information, and an online survey for each goal. The plan will be tweaked based on "stakeholder input" and voted on in July. Read the draft plan information, watch the videos, and complete the surveys.

Joe Sullivan, columnist and former owner of MetroPulse, was the only Public Forum speaker. He urged the Board to seek full recovery of the approximately \$10M that the Trustee's office has been "wrongfully collecting" from the sales tax over the past 15 years. He said this fee should go to the schools, and this recovery would "come close to covering the one-time cost of a system wide roll out of the instructional technology initiative."

# Teacher's Resignation Letter Touches Many

By Sally Absher  
sallyabsher@gmail.com

Social Media blew up a little last month when a 20-year veteran Knox County teacher and former Teacher of the Year posted her resignation letter on her Facebook page.

I contacted the author of the letter to ask if I could print the letter as part of this article. She replied that she wished to "fade back to anonymity" but that I could use the letter without her name. I have removed a few key phrases to protect her privacy, but I am certain that she speaks for many of the teachers in the Knox County School system. Her story needs to be told.

"It is with a strange mix of sadness and joy that I tender my resignation with Knox County Schools effective May 23, 2014.

This decision was reached over time and with great difficulty. I entered kindergarten at Adrian Burnett Elementary School the year the school opened, and soon after decided that I wanted to be a teacher. My dream was to return to "my school" and teach third grade. I have now given twenty years to the students and families of Adrian Burnett, nineteen of those in third grade.

To some, this dream may seem small, but it was my dream, and it came true. I am ever so thankful for the opportunity to teach the grade I love, in a school

I love, with teammates and staff members who have been as close as family. My calling, my mission in life, was to work with children; to teach not only academics, but also the importance of having good character, to show love and respect, to be kind and expect kindness in return.

I have tried to instill in my students my belief that we must respect and take care of one another. I have aimed to be a positive role model in the lives of my students—smiling, laughing, encouraging, giving hugs, keeping my word, believing in them so they would learn to believe in themselves.

Over the years, I have watched my students' ballgames, frequented birthday parties, sat among families for baptisms. I have received countless high school and college graduation invitations, attended weddings... These are sweet memories that I will always treasure, and I have been changed for the better because of these relationships.

I am saddened beyond measure to leave this chosen work that I hold dear, to leave my precious Adrian Burnett family and friends. I cannot, however, remain in a profession where children are treated as data measurements rather than tiny humans with real needs, and where teachers are treated with blatant disregard and disrespect.

As a former Teacher of

the Year, a respected school leader and colleague, it has been shocking to find myself in a position of having to fight for my professional life and reputation as a "Conference of Concern" teacher. More upsetting still is the lack of support offered in light of this situation. My confidence has been shaken as I wonder why I wasn't worth saving, why promises were made and not kept.

The constant threat of losing one's job creates a wearisome work environment. The joy of teaching is gone. It has been replaced by discouragement, anxiety, and fear. There is little to no encouragement; this job can be thankless. I certainly did not enter this profession thinking it would be easy or filled with glory. Teaching receives little respect from the public in general, but more upsetting still, is the fact that teachers receive such a lack of respect from our very own educational leaders. Teachers are viewed as expendable rather than valuable, incompetent rather than intelligent, and scorned rather than honored.

While I am committed to the continuation of my desire to help children, especially those in need of extra support, encouragement, and love, it will not be as an employee of Knox County Schools. Even in light of all that is flawed within our system, I continue to believe in the high calling of teaching

as a profession, and I wish those who remain true to their calling the very best."

The comments posted in response to her letter are equally emotional. Judy Tharpe posted "...She is one of the best, brightest, caring and gifted teachers I have known. This sort of 'bullying' of our teachers has got to stop." Jill Wright adds, "This is a huge loss for KCS, and it's obvious that those in charge didn't try to save her..."

Retired Farragut Primary teacher Mary Taylor commented, "Why can't KCS realize what a disservice they are doing when teachers like this are leaving because of the lack of respect and appreciation shown to them for their years of dedication to students?"

Just how many teachers are leaving KCS, and why are they leaving? WBIR noted in a May 15 news story that "the 2013-2014 school year in Knox County marked a turning point for many teachers. Many expressed, for the first time in public, their opposition to changes in education, testing, and administrators in the district."

Channel 10News requested the number of certified teacher retirements and resignations in Knox County for 2013-2014, and in previous years. Based on those who had submitted paperwork by the end of April, KCS expected 124 teachers to retire and 135 to resign by the end of June, 2014. The numbers

for 2012-2013 were 186 and 269, respectively. Of course, it is still early. Many retirements and resignations come in over the summer months.

Patti Bounds, recently elected BOE member for District 7, said, "The numbers just don't seem to match what we hear on a daily basis. I know when I went to sign my retirement papers I heard differently. I am going to be checking with the president of the Retired Teachers Association. I'm going to keep looking into this." At Brickey Elementary, where Bounds taught until last week, six teachers and 1 staff member are leaving, a total of 200 years of experience.

Lauren Hopson said "I also think the numbers don't reflect the number of people who would resign if they had another option... In other professions, you can change to another company and be in a totally different environment. Circumstances for teaching (in public schools) are bad everywhere, and many can't

afford to teach private school due to lack of benefits.."

WBIR also reached out to the district for comment. Superintendent Dr. McIntyre sent the following statement by email:

"Thus far, the Knox County Schools retirement and resignation numbers appear to be fairly typical and in line with recent years. We do expect a certain amount of turnover given that the Knox County Schools employs about 4,500 certified personnel.

Regardless, I strongly believe that improving support structures for teachers and enhancing compensation must remain key priorities in order to retain and recruit the very best talent for our school system.

Our retirees have given a lifetime educating and serving our children. I greatly appreciate their service to the children of the Knox County Schools and their important role in preparing our students to succeed in college, career and life."

The Shopper News

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## No County Tax increase, no pay raises

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employees Anders said, "It's wrong to have a tax increase to take care of one thing."

Tony Norman said that the school's bureaucracy is "out of control" and has "no willingness to cut any program so objectionable to teachers."

Mike Brown said that he opposes the 21 cent increase but "We're coming to a point (of raising taxes) but not today." Brown suggested the commission begin next month in planning for next year and that any increase must "be sold to the public."

Speaking of a Broyle's argument about low paid county employees, R. Larry Smith said that incoming employees know what they will earn and suggested that if they don't agree they can look other places for employment.

"We're living within our means," Smith said.

The pay increase idea was criticized for being introduced "at the last minute" and failed with only Broyles and McKenzie voting for it.

The commission then immediately took up Mayor Burchett's proposal for an overall budget of \$ 727.8 million or an increase of about 2.11 percent above last year, with no tax increases and no pay raises.



## Rosie's World

What are some of your favorite things? Here are some of mine. I'll bet a lot of people like the same things I do, such as:

Listening to the rain pitter-patter on the window pane.

Playing with a new kitty.

An ice cold drink on a really hot day.

Watching a sunset holding hands with a loved one.

Finding a sweater you want on sale--half price.

A long conversation with an old friend.

Hot chocolate when it's snowing.

Walking in the park.

A surprise.

Getting out of bed each morning and thanking God for another day.

Now here are some things I don't like:

People cursing on TV.

Lukewarm tea.

# A few of my favorite things

Losing a twenty dollar bill.

Having my PC crash when I need it most.

A driver cutting in front of me, nearly hitting me.

Hot water turning cold in the shower.

A plant dying because I forgot to water it.

Soggy cereal.

Gaining five pounds.

Losing my page in a good book.

And my worst peeve: Memorial Day not being

celebrated on Memorial Day.

Well, that about evens things up. It's hard to learn to take the good with the bad, but it can be done.

Thought for the day: He who laughs--lasts.

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

# Fizz, Boom, Read

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Elizabethan by the time it's all over! The whole family will be ready for Shakespeare on the Square this August.

**Magician Michael Messing:** As a bona fide inductee in the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Michael blends magic, humor and help from the audience into a spellbinding show. Can you say abracadabra?

**Knoxville Zoo's Zoomobile:** Can you squawk like a parrot or prickle like a porcupine? The Zoomobile is visiting the Library this summer for an up-close and personal visit with some of their favorite residents. Come see who you might meet.

**Sparky and Rhonda Rucker:** Join the Ruckers as they share stories of songs of American history while accompanying themselves with

finger-picking and bottleneck blues guitar, blues harmonica, old-time banjo, spoons and bones.

**Saturday Stories and Songs:** From storytelling to baby charming, clowning to signing and singing along, Saturdays at the Library offer parents and guardians who work during the week a chance to enjoy the best of library programs. Sponsored by the Margaret Dickson Fund through the Knox County Public Library Foundation.

**Weekly Storytimes:** Baby bookworms, Reading Round-up, Pre-K Read and Play, Toddler Tales, and Pajama story times happen every week at most library locations over the summer and throughout the year.

Please see [www.knoxlib.org](http://www.knoxlib.org) for a times, dates, and locations or drop by any library to pick up

Off the Shelf event calendar.

"We encourage every child in Knox County to make reading a priority this summer by registering for Summer Library Clubs at the Knox County Public Library," said Mayor Tim Burchett. "The best way to prepare your child for their next school year is by continuing to read with your child over the summer."

Register your child online at [www.knoxlib.org/slc](http://www.knoxlib.org/slc) or stop by your nearest Knox County Public Library branch to receive a reading log to record your reading progress. To complete the program, children who are readers should read for 20 hours or children who are non-readers should be read 40 books over the summer.

## Teacher's Resignation Letter Touches Many

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reported last week that 10 teachers and 6 staff are leaving Bearden High. A BHS chemistry teacher said, "to say this is typical and that KCS wants to focus on keeping and recruiting the best is amazing. We counted about 300 years of experience leaving Bearden this year."

Sherry Morgan, former KCEA President, said "I want them to do a report on the retirement meetings where there is standing room only." Jill Wright added "I know someone who called HR to resign. This person was told to call back next week because they are so behind in processing all the new retirements and resignations."

This comment on the teacher's letter expresses the frustration felt by many: "How many more teachers have this happened to that we know nothing about? When this experienced teacher is replaced by a new teacher Dr. McIntyre will boast about how he saved money. The institutional knowledge of our school system is fading before our eyes as this bureaucrat Superintendent keeps experimenting with education. And our BOE? Where are they? Cheer-leading as our school system loses its greatest resource. Our skilled teachers. Somewhere today Doug Harris is telling people if we only raise another \$30 million dollars we can change everything, that more money is the answer to all problems. There is no leadership at the BOE. They refuse to stop this Superintendent. Had Dr. McIntyre taught for more than nine months, maybe he might understand the value of experienced teachers. He sees teachers as gears in a machine. Not as the inspiration and mentors to students. Where is the letter of concern to Dr. McIntyre?"

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# Our Neighborhoods

## FOUNTAIN CITY

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Bet you didn't know that Fountain City started as a military supply depot for North Carolina and Tennessee Territorial militia. Bet you didn't know that Fountain City was once an incorporated city.

There are lots of things you probably don't know about our neighborhoods in Knoxville and Knox County. We've been surprised at the response to this ongoing feature. Here's our look at Fountain City and its special place in our local history and the unique things that make it special today.

If you've noticed Adair Drive or Adair Park, you may be wondering why the names. Back during settlement days, when the Knoxville area was the last stop before travelers and settlers moved into Cherokee territory, which started at the Cumberland Mountains to the west, the Knoxville area was the last stop. It was a dangerous trip, and the Chickamauga Cherokee were still at war with settlers and travelers.

Captain John Adair built Adair Station, or Fort, in the late 1780s, as a supply depot for the militia that escorted travelers and defended the region. The fort was probably atop the hill where the cemetery along Adair Drive is now located. In fact Adair and his wife are buried there, beneath a large tree, each with a simple marker. The area became, at first, known as Grassy Valley.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

*This large tree in the Lynnhurst Cemetery marks the grave of John Adair, one of the earliest settlers in what was then Grassy Valley. Adair ran a military supply station there.*



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

*Members of Troop 55 of the Fountain City United Methodist Church presented the colors last week during Fountain City Honors Day.*

The clear, fresh water that bubbled out of the hillside just north of Adair Station was a natural fountain and, with the establishment of Adair Station and the end of the Cherokee hostilities, a settlement developed around the spring. At first it was called Fountain Head but, because another Tennessee town already had that name, Fountain City was chosen. The waters flow from the spring head to the pond and then continue as First Creek.

By the 1920s, Rev. E. F. Sevier founded the Fountain Head Methodist Church, which predates the United Methodist Church. The spring area became a popular church campsite and many meetings were held there.

A three-story hotel, the Fountain Head Hotel, was built on the hill overlooking what is now Fountain City Park, and a small train hauled visitors from Knoxville to the retreat. Later the train was replaced by a trolley.

Businesses and homes developed along the highway and around the lake that was created from the spring waters. By 1906, Central High School was established near the spring, and Hassie K. Gresham

became the first female high school principal in the state. When the high school moved to its current location the old high school became Gresham Middle School. Many people don't know that Gresham was featured in the high school scenes in the movie "October Sky."

During the era of popularity of the resort a "Dummy Line" railroad ran from downtown to the springs.

Knoxville attempted to annex Fountain City in the 1950s, but the citizens turned the idea down. Finally, in 1962 the larger city took in the smaller city. Some claim that, until the annexation, Fountain City was the largest unincorporated town in the nation, with some 30,000 residents.

The Fountain City Park is about 12 acres with walking paths, playgrounds, and the Fountain City Lions Club Meeting House. The former library at the park is now the Fountain City Art Center.

Some of Fountain City has the look of a small southern town. Along Hotel Road near Broadway are a number of small retail businesses in historic buildings.

A wide variety of business area stretches along Broadway

from I-640 to the top of Black Oak Ridge north of Fountain City, where Broadway becomes Maynardville Highway. It is pretty hard to say where Fountain City and the Inskip neighborhood meet but the invisible line is probably along Inskip Road and Bruhin Road from Cedar Lane to Dutch Valley Road. The Heritage Committee of the Fountain City Town Hall association produced



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

*Daniel Dunn, President of the Fountain City Town Hall, spoke at the Memorial Day festivities last week at the Fountain City Park.*

a map that shows that the non-existent boundary.

### HONOR FOUNTAIN CITY DAY

Memorial Day was special in Fountain City as the community assembled at Fountain City Park to honor outstanding citizens. The event, held annually since 1972, is sponsored by the Fountain City Town Hall association.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero spoke at the event about the importance of strong neighborhoods and promised \$250,000 in her new budget to restore the Fountain City Lake. She also said there are plans to rework Old Broadway at I-640 and expand the Office of Neighborhoods with a full-time assistant. A Memorial Day Ceremony began at 4 p.m. and featured WBIR Anchor John Becker and the East Tennessee Honor Guard.

Daniel Dunn, Chair of the Fountain City Town Hall association, hosted the celebration and honors presentation. He announced that Tyler Pavlis was chosen Friend of Fountain City and the Chairman's Award to Ken Cloninger. The Residential Beautification Award went to Alfred and Melanie McCoy for their efforts at the home at 318 Lynnwood Drive.

Liz Brown was honored as Fountain City Woman of the year and Jeff Patton was honored as Man of the Year.

Honor Fountain City Day draws hundreds of people, elected officials, political candidates, and visitors. It's a day full of music, food, speeches, and recognition of military veterans.

The "Neighborhoods of Fountain City" was the theme this year, and tee shirts bearing this slogan were sold.

Entertainment began at 10:30 with the band Nostalgia playing at the covered pavilion. The New Beverly Twirlers performed. Other entertainment included David Correll's Band, the East Tennessee Concert Band, Tricky Nicky the Magician, the Zoomobile, and activities for children.

**Continue on page 2**



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# Our Neighborhoods

# FOUNTAIN CITY

Cont. from page 1

## FOUNTAIN CITY TOWN HALL

Founded in 1972 by involved citizens the Fountain City Town Hall is a volunteer community organization that sponsors the Honor Fountain City Day events. The idea is to serve, protect, and assist the development of the various neighborhoods that make up Fountain City. The group supports the residential community, advocates controlled commercial growth, follows city government activities involving their community and keeps residents informed on issues.

As needed, the group occasionally addresses City Council, the planning commission and the board of zoning appeals.

The Fountain City Town Hall is self-funded and uses the Honor Day to raise funds. The Town Hall has expenses in the renting of the Lions Club Building, rental of sound equipment, and other expenses for the celebration.

The Town Hall association meets the second Monday of each month at Church of the Good Shepherd, 5337 Jacksboro Pike, in Knoxville, TN 37918 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. You can also find them online at fountaincitytownhall.org.

You can donate to the effort by sending cash or checks payable to the Fountain City Town Hall, P.O. Box 18001, Knoxville, Tn. 37928-8001.

## FOUNTAIN CITY LANDMARKS

Anyone familiar with Fountain City is familiar with these iconic landmarks, but new residents are still discovering how unique the neighborhood can be.

The "Duck Pond," or Fountain City Lake, seems to be the center of the community. When the fountain is running, and the ducks and geese are there, it's cool and nice

around the pond. The pond is fed by springs that create the beginning of First Creek. The creek mostly disappears beneath much of the community before it emerges from below the road near the shopping center south of Highland.

Any given weekend day, with the fountain running and the water clear, you'll find people lounging around Fountain City Lake. The pond is in need of cleaning and several of those attending the Memorial Day "Honors" at the park mentioned the condition of the waters there.

Litton's is a hamburger lover's delight and is known nationwide for its specialty. Other things are on the menu, including some prize winning deserts, but everyone knows about their burgers.

Founded in 1946 by Eldridge Litton in nearby Inskip as a service station and market, his sons Barry and Eric continued the legacy. In 1981, the Littons began cooking hamburgers. In 1983, Litton's Market and Restaurant was born. Eric Litton now represents the 4th generation of the family at the noted restaurant, often voted "Best Of" not only for hamburgers but for other dishes as well.

The restaurant is located at 2803 Essary Road just off Broadway and opposite Fountain City Lake behind the iconic Exxon Station.

The Fountain City Exxon Station, located on the corner of Essary Road and Broadway, has been featured in magazines, newspapers, and television shows. There are a couple of reasons:

"No Lottery, No Beer." That's what the portable sign in front of the station reads and, despite being a regular portable sign the slogan has been photographed and published many times. But "58 Years of Service" at the bottom of the sign gives you an indication of the staying power of a dedicated professional.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

*The George Dempster House in Fountain City remains today from of the mansions that once were in the historic community.*

Alvin Frye, the owner and manager, runs the service station and celebrated his 90th birthday in January. He's a hearty and spry man who's a World War II veteran and has been pumping gas for decades.

Hundreds of people showed up at the Lion's Club Building at Fountain City Park to honor Frye six months ago, including local officials and Congressman Jimmy Duncan. Frye's volunteer work in the community, his realism and charity to others made him a local hero.

The Lions Club Building at the park faces Broadway. Frye and others have maintained the building, made it available to local organizations, and preserved the structure. Being the closest business owner to the building, Frye often opens and closes it for functions there. Members of the club help maintain it.

The Lions Club meets there on the first and third Monday each month at 6 p.m. The club members maintain the Fountain City Park, which is owned by the City of Knoxville. The park has a large playground, gazebo, picnic tables and a basketball court. The park also offers access to the First Creek Greenway.

The Fountain City Art Center resides in the former library building at the south end of the City Park on Hotel Road. The Gallery is a venue for

area artists, art groups, performing artists and a place for students to exhibit their work. There are also art classes and workshops and classes are held every day but Sunday.

The Art Center also offers professional exhibits and in June local artists are invited to enter judged contests during the Art Center Open Show. You can contact the Art Center by calling 357-2787.

The Parkside Open Door Gallery is an artist's market offering gifts like painting, handmade books, pottery, photographs, jewelry, cards and much more.

The Skate Park is a 7,200 square foot skateboard park at the corner of Knox Road and Maple Drive in Fountain City, across Knox Road from the Kroger Supermarket. It's a busy place after school, weekends, and during the summer. The city of Knoxville requires all skateboarders and in-line skaters to wear helmets.

The Fountain City Library is located at 5300 Stanton Road and Essary and has various programs open to the public like Pre-School Story Time, Reading Round Up for children 5-7 years old, and a meeting room available. One of the groups to meet there is the Knoxville Songwriters.

## THE DEMPSTER-FRANCIS HOUSE

Built in the early 1920s, the iconic house stands at the intersection of Broadway and Gibbs, the first house you see in the historic neighborhood. George R. Dempster was an amazing and inventive man, the son of immigrants. The home, which he was forced to sell in the height of the Depression,

is neo-classical in style with massive chimneys, original French doors, five bedrooms, a music room and large entry hall.

Dempster was a mayor of Knoxville at one time, a council member, and was active not only in Fountain City but was instrumental in the planning of the Henley Street Bridge, the purchase of Chilhowee and Tyson Park, and the creation of what is now the Bill Meyers Stadium.

Dempster held some 75 patents and is best remember for the invention and manufacture of the Dempster Dumpster, which revolutionized solid waste collection. He also invented the Dempster Baluster that crushed entire automobiles into a small block.



*Ever wonder about the Oriental Gardens along Garden Drive in Fountain City?*

Along with his brothers, Dempster formed Dempster Brothers, Inc., the Dempster Construction Company, and Dempster Manufacturing. He was an early promoter of civil rights and also at least 10 percent of his workers were handicapped individuals.

When Dempster died in 1964, more than 1,000 people attended his funeral including many national and state elected officials.

## SAVAGE GARDENS

If you are curious and have seen the Oriental Gardens along Garden Drive in Fountain City here's the story: Arthur Savage built the gardens, along with other gardens in East Tennessee including the one at Lake City. Arthur and his wife moved to Fountain City in the late 1920s and began work on the gardens. Japanese culture was popular then, and that's the path the garden followed.

A tornado destroyed some of the garden when Savage was elderly, and the unique place never fully recovered until Bill Dohm and Patty Cooper began operating the Montessori School next door and restoring the gardens. The gardens were incorporated as part of the school and, recently, the gardens received a face lift and cleaning.

The Montessori School is an institution that accepts children age 2 through middle school and offers individual and small group instruction.

You can contact the school and gardens by calling 688-6778 or find them online.

## FAMOUS FOLKS

There are many noted people who were born in Fountain City, grew up there, or attended Central High School. Among those are: Roy Acuff, George Dempster, Red Eubank, Hassie Gresham, Hugh L. McClung, George H. Morgan, Sgt. Thomas York, Harvey Bloome, John Adair, and James Agee.

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# Governor Buford Ellington

## Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Buford Ellington is perhaps best remembered today for being one of Tennessee's "leap-frog" governors, alternating terms with Frank Clement. For almost twenty years, Clement and Ellington ruled Tennessee from the governor's office.

Ellington was not a native Tennessean, being born in Holmes County, Mississippi June 27, 1907. Buford Ellington attempted to go to college, studying religion, before he was forced to abbreviate his education due to lack of money. Ellington settled in to become editor of a small newspaper in Durant, Mississippi and found the time to marry Catherine Ann Cheek, who was later to make an especially gracious and lovely First Lady for Tennessee. Ellington's move to Tennessee apparently came about because his wife Catherine was a native of Marshall County. Mr. and Mrs. Ellington moved back to Marshall County, where Buford became a storekeeper in the tiny hamlet of Verona. Ellington later became a salesman for the American Harvester Company during the difficult decade of the 1930s. Eventually Ellington worked for the Tennessee Farm Bureau as a salesperson, working his way up to a supervisory position.

Buford Ellington's first taste of politics came in 1944 when he worked for Jim Nance McCord in the latter's successful gubernatorial campaign. McCord was something of an institution in Marshall County, both as a businessman and politician. McCord had held various local offices for decades and had been elected to Congress in 1942. McCord ran for governor in 1944 with the support of Tennessee's senior United States senator, Kenneth D. McKellar, as well as E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political organization. McCord was so strong a candidate, he faced little or no opposition in either the Democratic primary or general elections. Ellington surely became well acquainted with Jim Nance McCord from their common Marshall County residency.

Ellington picked another winner in 1946 when he agreed to serve as campaign manager in Marshall County for Congressional candidate Joe L. Evins. Evins was challenging one-term incumbent Harold Earthman in the Democratic primary and won a convincing victory. Evins was to remain in Congress for thirty years.

In 1948 Ellington himself became a candidate, winning a seat in the Tennessee General Assembly from Marshall County. Ellington

returned to his duties as campaign manager in 1952 when thirty-two year old Frank Clement ran against Governor Gordon Browning. Browning was a veteran of Tennessee's political wars and was seeking a third two-year term. A long-time opponent of the Crump machine, Browning had been around for decades, while Clement was fresh, young and a remarkably able speaker on the campaign circuit. 1952 was the end of an era in Tennessee politics; not only did Clement beat Browning, but Congressman Albert Gore defeated K. D. McKellar, who remains to this day Tennessee's longest serving United States senator.

With the election of Frank Clement as governor, Ellington was rewarded for his service by being appointed as Tennessee's Commissioner of Agriculture. Tennessee's Constitution had been altered and in 1954 Frank Clement was the first governor eligible for a four-year term. Clement easily turned back a challenge from Gordon Browning, who was seeking to vindicate his loss in 1952. Buford Ellington would serve throughout most of Clement's tenure as governor and became one of the most important members of Clement's campaign organization. Having been Clement's campaign manager, Ellington was well poised to take advantage of that organization when he declared his own candidacy for governor in 1958. With Clement unable to succeed himself, numerous Democrats sought to win the nomination that year. Former governor Prentice Cooper announced he, too, was a candidate and might have been a formidable candidate, but allowed himself to be talked into dropping out to run against Senator Gore. Ellington still faced viable opposition from Edmund Orgill, Mayor of Memphis after the death of E. H. Crump. Orgill was more liberal and had the informal support of many of Senator Estes Kefauver's friends and allies throughout Tennessee. A more conservative candidate, Judge Andrew "Tip" Taylor of Jackson, also ran. Buford Ellington was profoundly more conservative in his views than Frank Clement. With the conservative vote divided between Ellington and Judge Taylor, who was an avowed segregationist, there was every reason to believe it would be a close election. Senator Gore handily beat former governor Prentice Cooper to win renomination, although in losing, Cooper won more votes than Ellington did in winning the gubernatorial nomination. It is interesting to speculate what would have happened had Prentice Cooper insisted upon running for governor



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Governor Buford Ellington with his friend, President Lyndon B. Johnson

yet again. Ellington barely edged Orgill and Taylor to become the Democratic nominee for governor in 1958. The election was indeed close; Ellington won with 213,415 votes to Orgill's 204,629. "Tip" Taylor was a close third with 204,382 votes.

The Republican Party was not able to mount a serious change to Ellington in the fall, although that would soon change. Yet Ellington did have opposition in the general election from former governor and his old mentor Jim Nance McCord, who ran as an Independent. McCord was seventy-nine years old and while he lost badly, he tallied a respectable vote. Buford Ellington succeeded Frank Clement as governor and it is not surprising he continued many of the same policies initiated by his predecessor. Ellington was also the beneficiary of the times, as Tennessee survived a brief recession in 1958 and the economy was good for the most of Ellington's governorship. The economy allowed Governor Ellington to give both teachers and administrators a raise without angering taxpayers by raising taxes.

Although many have assumed that relations between Frank Clement and Buford Ellington were close, especially with the leap-frog government, but there were serious and fundamental political differences between the two. Clement pondered a bid against Senator Estes Kefauver in the 1960 Democratic primary, but quickly decided against it. Ellington had little liking for Kefauver and when his former opponent Andrew "Tip" Taylor began mounting a challenge to Senator Kefauver, Governor Ellington promised him the full support of his administration. One primary difference between Frank Clement and Buford Ellington was presidential politics. Ellington was strongly in favor of Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, while former

governor Frank Clement backed Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy. Clement proved to be the more prescient of the two and when LBJ was selected as Kennedy's running mate, the powerful Majority Leader, much to Ellington's dismay, helped to reelect Estes Kefauver. Ellington was forced to abandon his pledge to a furious "Tip" Taylor of lending the full weight of his administration to Taylor's senatorial campaign. Kefauver beat Taylor handily.

Ellington could not run again in 1962 and Frank Clement won the Democratic primary to return to the governor's mansion. Clement's third term in office was not as successful as his previous administrations and Tennessee politics was turned on its head with the unexpected death of Estes Kefauver. Much of Clement's last term in office was concerned with his desire to be elected to the United States Senate. Clement lost the 1964 senatorial primary to Congressman Ross Bass, who only narrowly defeated Howard Baker in the general election. Baker was leading a revitalized Republican Party from the ashes and it was abundantly clear that the GOP was competitive in statewide elections.

Governor Clement managed to reverse the verdict in the 1966, narrowly beating Senator Ross Bass, but was stunned when he lost the general election to Howard Baker. Buford Ellington, consigned to the sidelines for four years, was making his comeback that same year. After leaving the governor's office, Ellington had briefly worked for the L & N Railroad before accepting an appointment from President Lyndon Johnson as the Director of the Office of Emergency Planning in 1965. Ellington had toyed with the idea of running against Senator Gore in the 1964 primary, but finally decided against it.

Ellington's appointment was only a momentary

stop before he launched his reelection campaign in 1966. Buford Ellington's comeback was complicated by the candidacy of Nashville attorney John Jay Hooker, Jr. Hooker was young, handsome, a flashy-dresser and a candidate who especially appealed to young and liberal Democrats. Hooker was a sharp contrast to the conservative and balding Ellington, who looked far more like an accountant. Ellington got an endorsement from Governor Clement, who was engaged in his own bitter primary campaign with Senator Ross Bass. Ellington also had the support of President Johnson. Hooker had the enthusiastic support of the Nashville Tennessean, while Ellington had the editorial backing of James Stahlman's Nashville Banner.

Despite having won Governor Clement's endorsement in his primary campaign, Buford Ellington did not return the favor. Ellington conspicuously refused to endorse Clement in his own campaign. Ellington's campaign slogan that year was "The Man of His Word" and one wonders what "Tip" Taylor thought of that.

Ellington finally managed to turn back Hooker's challenge, winning 413,950 votes to Hooker's 360,105.

Buford Ellington, once a segregationist himself, sent a signal that he had changed his beliefs, appointing a black to serve as an administrative assistant. H. T. Lockard would later go on to be elected judge of the Shelby County Criminal Court. Governor Ellington was forced to mobilize the

National Guard when civil rights leader Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis to prevent rioting and looting.

Once again unable to succeed himself, Governor Ellington did little to help the Democratic ticket in 1970. When his nemesis John Jay Hooker won the gubernatorial nomination, Ellington refused to endorse him and many believe he secretly supported Republican nominee Winfield Dunn. Ellington's former press secretary, Hudley Crockett, had run against Senator Albert Gore in the primary and won an impressive vote. The bitter primary campaign certainly helped GOP Congressman William E. "Bill" Brock, III beat Gore in the general election.

As Buford Ellington left office in 1971, Republicans had won two vital statewide elections.

Ellington assumed the status of an elder statesman, although he was relatively young and it is entirely possible he might well have run for governor yet again in 1974 had not death claimed him earlier. Buford Ellington was playing golf with friends in Florida when he suffered a fatal heart attack that swiftly took him away on April 3, 1972. Ellington was only sixty-four years old at the time.

Buford Ellington was one of the last of his kind to serve as governor of Tennessee. An old-fashioned conservative small town Democrat, Ellington's passing marked the end of an era in Tennessee politics and history.

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# 'What is your hardship?'

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

"What is your hardship?" is the one question that anyone appearing before the Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will always be asked. Every decision is based on the answer. The BZA's Wednesday meeting was no exception.

What the BZA is asking is why they should overturn a decision by the Metropolitan Planning Commission. The planning group is made up of 8 members named by the county commission and 8 members named by the Knoxville city council. While the commission meets and hears zoning requests from developers and property owners in both jurisdictions, the BZA has one group that meets for county and another for city appeals.

The county's BZA is comprised of John Schoonmaker, Chairman; Markus Chady, Vice-Chairman; Cynthia Stancil, Frank Rimshaw, Scott Smith, Cindy Buttry, Bill Sewell, Kevin Murphy, and Carson Dailey. Each member represents a different county district.

In most cases developers are looking to reduce set-back requirements or, as in the case of Ted Russell Ford/Kia, looking to be permitted to downsize the parking spaces at their Parkside Drive dealership so they can display more cars. Kia's are smaller than Fords and, as long as the dealership keeps the required footage for customers and employees, the BZA approved the change.

Their hardship was downsizing some of the slots while keeping the existing parking lot size, maintaining the existing gutting and curbs.

But sometimes the hardship is different.

John Hickman, the homeowner at 2522 Drennon Road, came before the Appeals board with a different and unusual hardship.

Back in 1981 Hickman said he bought property behind his grandfather's home and built his house. Today there's one piece of property on record with two houses on it. Because of the unusual aspect of the property Hickman requested

that he be allowed to separate the older house, a rental, into a separate piece of property. He said he has no plans to sell the older house now, but wants a separate deed for it so he may do so at some time in the future.

The difficulty is that the Agricultural Zone (A) requires that any lot be at least one acre in size and, if separated, the older house would only be a little over one-half acre.

Hickman said that in 1981 there was no problem and that recently he had it surveyed, went to the health department and zoning commission and "they had no problem with it." He said there or six or more houses in the area on less than an acre of land.

The planning commission confirmed that currently there are two dwellings on the two acres and said that usually each house requires one acre. The commission usually frowns on a home containing less than an acre in an "A" zoning, but the Hickman request was unusual.

"It's not the property owners fault, the hardship was created was not his intent," Carson Dailey commented.

Hickman said he bought his grandfather's property to create a buffer between his home and other neighbors.

"I was 25 when I built the home, if they had told me then," Hickman began to explain.

Kevin Murphy asked if there was another way to resolve the hardship, possibly by rezoning the Hickman property. Cynthia Stancil said that she didn't like lowering the density requirement and that maybe other options were available.

The property owner said that none of his neighbors have any objection to the creation of two lots and he isn't asking to build or change anything there.

"I just want a lot of record," he said.

Dailey then moved to allow the variance, creating two lots instead of one. The motion passed in favor of Hickman's request with Rimshaw, Smith, Buttry, Sewell, and Daily voting "Yes," and Murphy, Stancil, and Markus Chady voting "No."



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7/8	Courtyards Senior Living	Creating Well Being
8/12	Lambert's Healthcare and Uniforms	Making Your Home Accessible with Assistive Technology
9/9	Smoky Mountain Hospice	Advanced Directives/ Hospice Indicators
10/14	Mac's Pharmacy	Dementia and Medications
11/11	NHC Home Care	Overview of Home Care Services
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# THE BEST OF TIMES

The Knoxville Focus today begins a five-week series recognizing the Female and Male Athletes of the Year for 2013-14 from the high schools in The Focus' coverage area.

For starters, the honorees from Bearden (Lane Thomas), Farragut (Katie Beuerlein and Fletcher Ekern), Hardin Valley Academy (Emma Mashburn and Aaron Templeton) and Karns (Morgan Sandifer and Devin Sibley) are featured.

Athletic directors at each high school submitted their school's Athletes of the Year, at *The Focus'* request.

Next week top athletes from Central, Gibbs, Halls and Powell will be in the spotlight.

## Sibley put on a show for Karns basketball fans

By Steve Williams

Devin Sibley, Karns High's Male Athlete of the Year, finished as the school's all-time leading scorer in basketball with 2,239 points.

He was nominated for McDonald's All-America honors his senior season.

Sibley also was a two-time TBCA All-State, PrepXtra and All-Knoxville Interscholastic League honoree and PrepXtra

Player of the Year in 2013-14.

The talented and entertaining Karns player signed with Furman.

At Hardin Valley Academy, senior Emma Mashburn completed an outstanding career as a distance runner and is the school's Female Athlete of the Year, said athletic director George Ashe.

Mashburn, who posted **Continue on page 2**



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Hardin Valley Academy's Emma Mashburn and Aaron Templeton began their senior years last October by repeating as Knoxville Interscholastic League cross country champions. They ended their prep careers in May by winning state championships in the 3200-meter run at the TSSAA meet in Murfreesboro.

## And Then There Were Three: Riley Ferguson to Leave Vols

By Alex Norman

For a while it appeared that the unlikely was going to happen... All four of Tennessee's quarterbacks in 2013 were going to return to the Vols in 2014.

Reality set in last week, when it became known that redshirt freshman Riley Ferguson was likely to continue his college career at another school.

Tennessee head coach Butch Jones told a group of reporters at the SEC spring meetings in Destin, Florida that "Riley's no longer with the program."

If anyone was going to depart you'd have thought it would be redshirt sophomore Nathan Peterman. He struggled mightily in his only career start, which occurred last September against the Florida Gators in Gainesville. He also suffered a broken hand in that game and became an after-thought as senior to be Justin Worley and sophomore to be Joshua Dobbs split the remaining playing time the rest of the season.

Instead, it is Ferguson leaving the team.

It is one of those fun facts about the sport of football. The most popular player is always the backup quarterback. For many Vols fans, Ferguson was the guy they wanted at quarterback simply because of the unknown. They had never seen him take a snap, but of course he has to be good...

Ferguson had the resume... he was a two time state champion from Butler HS in Matthews, North Carolina, rated by ESPN as a four-star recruit. But a leg injury prevented Ferguson from playing in 2013 (he likely would have started instead of Dobbs had he been healthy).

Tennessee fans got a glimpse of Ferguson in the annual Orange & White game, in which he threw for 83 yards and a touchdown. His two turnovers did little to squash the

**Continue on page 4**

# GCA's Turner named Co-Coach of the Year

By Ken Lay

Mitchell Turner wasted little time making an impact on Grace Christian Academy baseball team.

In his first year as coach of the Rams, Turner guided the Rams to a District 3-A Tournament Championship, a Region 2-A Title and a sectional win which sent Grace to the Class A State Tournament Championship game.

The season was one of the best for GCA's baseball program and Turner was recently rewarded by being named District 3-A Co-Coach of the year by the league's coaches.

Turner shared top

coaching honors with Meigs County's Justin Jennings. Turner said the honor wasn't all his.

"I told the kids 'Thank you,' after was named Co-Coach of the Year. I told them that I was nothing without them and that I couldn't have done this without them," Turner said. "These kids worked hard and the bought in."

"We started on the earliest day that we possibly could and I ran things like a college program. I told them that I was going to work their tails off and told them 'if you quit, then it's not meant for you to be here.' They worked hard and I told them that if they worked hard,

we would accomplish what we wanted to."

The Rams went 27-13 and accomplished almost everything the set out to. But GCA lost 8-2 in the State Championship Game to Jackson Christian. It was Grace's only loss in Murfreesboro.

But things didn't start well for GCA, which lost seven of their first nine games to open the season. But the Rams hung tough.

"These kids worked really hard and I'm extremely proud of them," Turner said. "They believed in themselves and they were a family. One of our goals was to keep God at the center of our team."

"We are a family and for any family that works has God at the center of it. When I say that we're a family, I don't mean that we're only a family in grades 9-12. We have kids in grades K-12 and I reached out to all of them. I reached out to the kids in kindergarten and told them to come to our camps and I told them to come to the games and get involved."

The family aspect was especially big this year and the Rams and Grace's softball team both had stellar postseasons. Both teams ended their 2014 campaigns with losses in their respective State Championship tilts.

The Rams and Lady Rams went on those thrilling rides together, Turner had plenty of company on the all-district team.

Kaleb Savage, Justin Shaw, Josh Liford, Luke Shepherd, Tanner Fee and Micah Wheeler were all named to the team by the league's coaches.

Chandler Adkins was named Co-Player of the Year along with Dannon Grub of Rockwood.

Grace's Taylor Lawson was named Co-Freshman of the Year along with Tellico Plains High's J.T. Dalton.

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# Soccer standout Sandifer set the pace for Lady Beavers

By Steve Williams

With soccer in the fall and track in the spring, Morgan Sandifer stayed on the go in her athletic career at Karns High School. She went from being Karns' Rookie of the Year in soccer as a freshman in 2010 to District 3-AAA Offensive Player of the Year as a senior forward in 2013. Sandifer, Karns' 2013-14 Female Athlete of the Year, according to athletic director Charlie Sheets, was a three-time All-District first-team honoree plus made All-Region 2 first-team as a senior. She also was the Lady Beavers' team captain for three seasons. In track, Sandifer got off to a fast start as she helped set a freshman school record on the 4x400 relay team and was a member of the school's 4x400 state qualifying relay team that season. She helped the 4x200 relay team set a varsity school record her sophomore year. Sandifer also received the Student-Athlete Award of Merit in track and field in 2012. Morgan continued

to participate in track as a junior but decided not to compete in track her senior year. Instead, she played "competitive soccer" for FC Alliance, while also having a job in addition to school. Sandifer, who has played competitive soccer since she was eight years old, will continue her soccer career on the college level, as she received a soccer scholarship from Lee University in Cleveland. Sandifer will always have "two favorite memories" from high school soccer. "I remember playing against Halls. The father of a close former KHS teammate, Jason Edwards, passed away from battling with brain cancer that day," stated Morgan. "In honor of his memory - he was a Karns Middle School coach as well - me and my teammates wrapped athletic tape around our wrists and wrote "Team Edwards" on it. "That night we played in honor of his memory. I remember having chill bumps throughout the entire game and victoriously winning for him."



Morgan Sandifer, Karns High's Female Athlete of the Year, will continue her soccer career at Lee University.

Then there was that district tournament and playing "rival" Powell. "That was a night I will never forget," recalled Morgan. "I remember being down a goal and knowing that if we did not score, my high school soccer career would be over, and knowing that I went out and scored. "I remember being overcome with emotions as I yelled at my team, 'Do not give up on me, I need you! We are in this until the end!' My teammates did not give up on me. We tied the game and went on to play another game."

# Thomas, 'best ever' Bearden baseball player, is Athlete of the Year

By Steve Williams

Lane Thomas belted a school record 18 home runs for Bearden High's baseball team as a senior this spring, giving him a career record 41 homers. But he's more than just a slugger. "He's the best player we've ever had," said veteran assistant coach Jack Tate, who has been with the Bearden baseball program for 33 years. "He started from Day 1 of his freshman season." Thomas also is Bearden's Athlete of the Year for 2013-14, according to athletic director Morgan Shively. The 6-foot-1, 185-pounder, who played center field and pitched for Coach John Rice's Bulldogs, is a University of Tennessee signee. He received a "full scholarship" from UT, which is "very rare" in college baseball, said Tate, as a limited number of scholarships usually have to be divided up. But Thomas' baseball career may follow a different path. He's almost certain to be selected in this week's major league draft and could turn pro. "All 30 major league teams sent scouts to see him play this past season and they came to practices quite often," said Tate. "Scouts call him a 5-tool player. He hits for average

and power, has speed, can play defense and has a big-time arm. "He'll start at UT in August, if he doesn't sign (professionally). He has two great options." Tate was Bearden's head coach in 2011 and 2012 - Thomas' freshman and sophomore seasons. "He's a very hard worker and a great kid," said Tate. "He's earned everything he's got. He's very modest." "He batted leadoff for us his sophomore year all 46 games, including the state championship game." Tate will have his eye on this week's draft, too. "If he goes pro, I will go and watch him get started, no matter where that is." Thomas also set new career marks at Bearden for games played, hits, doubles and RBI. He was a three-time All-District 4-AAA and Region 2-AAA honoree and his district's Most Valuable Player this past season. Thomas also was a 2013 member of the USA Baseball 18-under Gold Medal team, a 2014 Louisville Slugger Preseason All-American and earned All-State honors in 2013, with the 2014 All-State team yet to be announced. Lane was noticed early in his prep career, as he was a 2012 MaxPreps Underclassman All-American.

# Hawkins leads Walters State to National Championship

By Ken Lay

The Walters State Community College golf team recently completed its 2014 season by winning the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Championship. It was the first golf title for the Senators, who were runners-up last season. Walters State claimed its National Championship on Friday, May 23 with an 11-shot victory over Mesa College in Arizona. The Senators finished the four-day event with a team score of 1189 at the Black Couse at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, Indiana. Walters State was 20-over par on the last day of the tournament. The final-round score of 308 was good enough to net the championship for the Senators, who never trailed in the event. Four area golfers had stellar efforts at the championship. Central High School graduate Brad Hawkins finished sixth with a 6-over 294 and was named to the all-tournament team. He also received All-American Honors for the second consecutive season. Hawkins' effort made Bobcats' coach Tony Patterson proud. "Brad is the hardest worker that I ever coached

Continue on page 4

# Sibley put on a show for Karns basketball fans

Cont. from page 1

a time of 10:52.35 in winning the 3200-meter run at the state, earned All-State honors three times in track and twice in cross country. Aaron Templeton, HVA's Male Athlete of the Year and one of the most decorated distance runners in KIL prep history as well as the state, was a two-time TSSAA cross country champion, noted Ashe. The Furman signee also earned prep All-America honors his junior and senior seasons as he advanced to compete in the national high school cross country meet. Templeton ran a 8:59.81 in winning the 3200-meter run at this

season's TSSAA state outdoor meet. Farragut athletic director Seth Smith said Fletcher Ekern ( boys soccer) was the Admirals' Male Athlete of the Year. Farragut's Female Athlete of the Year is Katie Beuerlein, who competed in soccer and track. She was fifth in the state high jump event and also placed seventh in the Class AAA state pentathlon. In announcing Farragut's honorees, Smith said, "Both athletes have excelled athletically and academically. They have represented FHS with class and we are proud of all their accomplishments."



Lane Thomas, who played on the USA's 18-under Gold Medal team in 2013, is Bearden High's Athlete of the Year.



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# Central, Bearden to co-host KFL Jamboree

By Ken Lay

The match-ups for the 2014 KFL football jamboree were recently announced.

The event, which unofficially kicks off the football season, has a pair of new homes. It is normally hosted by the University of Tennessee at Neyland Stadium but concerns over field conditions prompted Tennessee to stop hosting the event --- at least for

2014.

This season's event will be hosted by Central and Bearden High Schools.

Dan Y. Boring Stadium, home to the Bobcats, co-hosted the event with Farragut a few years back.

"We had it here a few years ago when [current Gibbs athletic director] Jeff Thomas was the AD," Central athletic director J.D. Lambert said. "This is an honor. "We're honored to have it and

that speaks to the fact that we're in a good location and that we have the parking. It's always an honor when people want to come to your house.

The two-day event will be held Aug. 14-15.

Central will host games on Aug. 14 before the tournament shifts to West Knoxville the next night. Action begins at 7 p.m. at both venues. Games slated for Central include:

Austin-East vs. Halls; Carter vs. Campbell County; Gibbs vs. West; Webb vs. Central and Fulton vs. Hardin Valley Academy.

That night will mark coaching debuts for Carter's Jeff McMillan and Central's Bryson Rosser.

Games scheduled for Aug 15 at Bearden include: The King's Academy vs. Tennessee School for the Deaf; South-Doyle vs. Catholic; Lenoir City vs. Karns; Bearden vs. Powell and Farragut

vs. Anderson County.

That night features two matchups pitting teams with new coaches. The host Bulldogs will see their first action under Morgan Shinlever. They'll play Powell, which also has a new coach in John Allen.

Tobi Kilgore will make his debut against Loudon County's Panthers. Jeff Cortez is the new head coach at Lenoir City.

# Gresham beats West Valley to nab soccer title

By Ken Lay

Gresham Middle School's boys soccer team ended its 2014 season recently with a Smoky Mountain Middle Soccer Championship.

The Gladiators notched a 1-0 win over West Valley to claim the title. Gresham finished the season with a 10-1-1 record.

Evan Downen scored the lone goal of the championship match against the Wolves on Sunday, May 18.

Gresham opened the championship tournament with a 0-0 draw against Christian Academy of Knoxville.

In that game, Spencer Smith played goalkeeper. He shut out the Warriors. He's normally a field player but held CAK scoreless despite playing only half of a game during the regular season.

"This is just amazing," Gresham coach Robert Buckler. "For Gresham to take a team of 18 kids and do what we did is unheard of.

"I had 18 players and only four have played club soccer. But these kids made a commitment to



Pictured are: Ian Cummins, Robert Buckler (coach), Logan Easterday, Nick Knoefel, Matthew Cox, Chase Payne, Wesley Eppers, Noah Petit, Evan Downen, Bryson Boles, Griffin Smith, Spencer Smith, Adrian Cauldron, Abby Gibson (assistant coach), Eric Richardson, Francisco Martinez, Alejandro Cruz, Emrakh Kamilov and Josh Gibson.

play for their school. These kids are middle school kids and they had other commitments but when we went to the tournament, they played like they've never been off the soccer field."

After salvaging a draw with the Warriors, the Gladiators outlasted Maryville

1-0.

Emrakh Kamilov tallied the lone marker of that match.

Goalkeeper Logan Easterday, who missed the tournament opener to attend his brother's graduation, was victorious in the shut-out wins over Maryville

and West Valley. He also received plenty of help from a stingy Gladiators' defense, which was led by Noah Petit and Matthew

Cox. Both are forwards who were playing out of position.

"In my six years, this is the first time that we've

been able to really compete with these teams and I can't say enough about our defense," Buckler said. "I had two kids in Noah and Matthew who normally play forward positions and they just took control.

"These were hard-fought games against good teams. The two wins were not cheap wins."

Buckler also said that he appreciated the parental support on the team.

"I'm really proud of my parents," he said. "We couldn't have done what we did without their support."

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# Tennessee Football is No Life of Riley

Off-season bad news has stung the University of Tennessee football program once again.

Riley Ferguson, red-shirt freshman quarterback who many thought might become the starter in 2014, took his football and went home.

Maybe he had a good reason.

Maybe he felt he had a better chance of playing sooner elsewhere.

Maybe we will hear the reason from him someday.

Best wishes to Riley and now let's embrace the quarterbacks who are still here and competing to wear the Orange.

Coach Butch Jones



By Steve Williams

confirmed the news on Ferguson last week at the SEC's spring meetings in Destin, Fla. This year's off-season football drama arrived early.

Butch's first summer in Knoxville last year was nice and quiet.

Summer '13 stories included UT web site pieces on "Meet Your Seats" at Neyland Stadium, the 47th annual All-Sports picnic, Vols participating in KPD Training Day, UT players completing 1,322 community service hours and a report on 39,000 fans who supported the team in an open practice.

Before you knew it, Tennessee beat Austin Peay 45-0 to open the

Butch Jones Era on Sept. 1.

Summer of 2012 saw a Tennessee quarterback get involved with KPD in a different way. Tyler Bray and an older man were slinging beer bottles on parked cars from an apartment balcony. Derek Dooley, then the coach, said Bray just needed to work on his accuracy.

I always said Dooley could be a stand-up comedian, if coaching didn't work out.

Dooley's first summer in Knoxville, in 2010, saw him have to return from a vacation trip to deal with several players who had been involved in a brawl at Bar Knoxville on the strip. Two men were injured, including an off-duty police officer, who

allegedly was kicked as he laid defenseless on the ground after attempting to help stop the brawl.

In the summer of 2009, UT fans were still trying to get use to Lane Kiffin's ways. He had committed four secondary violations and gotten under the skin of about that many opposing SEC coaches, including Steve Spurrier, Urban Meyer and Nick Saban.

And now Kiffin is working for Saban. How things change.

The Vols are probably going to struggle in 2014. But not returning any starters on the offensive and defensive lines of scrimmage will hurt Tennessee a lot more than the loss of Ferguson. When they say games are

won and lost on the line of scrimmage, they aren't kidding.

Tennessee still has scholarship quarterbacks Justin Worley and Joshua Dobbs and even Nathan Peterman, who continues to work at getting better after his woeful start in The Swamp last season. I like his determination.

Preferred walk-on freshman Devin Smith out of Grace Christian Academy has moved up to No. 4 on the QB depth chart, too.

I wonder if quarterback Charlie High, the Christian Academy of Knoxville product who gave up his preferred walk-on status last summer and transferred to Tennessee Tech, has any regrets now of making that move?

Actually, I was told recently, by a good source at CAK, that High had left the Tennessee Tech football program. Rusty Bradley, Charlie's high school coach, confirmed that news Friday.

"He's just going to go to UT and be a student," said Bradley. "He's just at a point where football is no longer fun and he doesn't want to play anymore."

"Charlie had a great high school career and is now ready to start a new chapter in his life."

So, best wishes to Charlie, too.

And let's hope Worley, Dobbs and Peterman have a safe and productive summer, as well as all of the Vols.

## Hawkins leads Walters State to National Championship

**Continued from page 2**

[while at Central]," Patterson said of Hawkins, who has signed to play at Tusculum next season. "He's a great golfer but he's a better young man."

"Brad will always push himself to be the best he can be."

Hawkins wasn't the only area golfer to play well.

Halls graduate Cody Johnson (297) finished eighth and was also named to the all-

tournament team. He was also an All-American.

Johnson was one of three former Red Devils who scored for the Senators. That trio was part of Halls High's dominant District 3-AAA program coached by Bill Warren.

Andrew Hall (302) finished 20<sup>th</sup> and Will Wright completed his stay tied for 28<sup>th</sup> in the individual standings. He shot an 80 on Friday and finished with a four-day total of 305.

Walters State Coach Gardner was named NJCAA Coach of the Year after guiding the Senators to their first title.

It was the second team National Championship in the

history of Walters State Athletics. The Senators won a baseball title in 2006.

Gardner coached a National Championship Golf Medalist in 1998 as Ryan Cabbage won

the individual championship nearly two decades ago.

The 2014 low medalist was Levi Fink from North Iowa Area College.



Walters State golfer Brad Hawkins recently finished sixth in the NJCAA Division II National Championship Tournament in Indiana. He, along with teammate and Halls alum Cody Johnson, was named All-American. The duo led the Senators to their first-ever golf National Championship.

## And Then There Were Three: Riley Ferguson to Leave Vols

**Cont. from page 1**

optimism from Big Orange Country.

But word started to leak off the UT campus about Ferguson's work ethic. While Worley and Dobbs have spent some of the off season in California at quarterback guru George Whitfield's Quarterback camp, Ferguson was reportedly unwilling to spend the time needed in the film room.

Erik Ainge, former Vols quarterback and current host on Tennessee Sports Radio, reported that "it was a laundry list of entitlement issues and classic immaturity" that led to this point.

If those words bring up a bunch of red flags, they should. They were the same kinds of things you heard about former Vols quarterback Tyler Bray.

At one time Bray was looked at as a no doubt about it future NFL first round draft pick. But in three seasons at Tennessee Bray's childish ways were part of the reason the Vols reached new lows.

The biggest reason of course was head coach Derek Dooley.

And Bray would have been better served had he had a coach that didn't let him off the hook time and time again. The throat slashing taunts, the beer bottle throwing, the reckless jet-ski incident, the on field pouting... Bray needed discipline, and Dooley gave none.

Bray ended up leaving Tennessee after his junior season for the NFL, went undrafted, and signed with the Kansas City Chiefs. This year he'll be fighting former Georgia stand-out Aaron Murray for a roster spot.

Like Bray, Ferguson has the potential to become a very good quarterback. Like Bray, he also has the potential to flame out. Ferguson will get another chance somewhere... perhaps at UNC Charlotte where his brother Zach will be a redshirt sophomore next season.

As for Tennessee, they will move forward with Worley, Dobbs and Peterman. Like in 2013, there is a decent chance all three QB's get necessary playing time.

Will there be another quarterback controversy at Tennessee?

If so, Ferguson will once again be on the outside looking in...



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## The Doctor is in

a weekly column by  
**Dr. Jim Ferguson**

### Veterans' Ventilation

I'm getting tired of writing, "Here we go again." However, another scandal has surfaced in the Obama Administration, this time in the Veterans Administration (VA). I know something about medical care in the VA system, because I once worked as a doctor in a VA hospital. It was my observation that the doctors, nurses and the staff did their best with limited resources amidst a top heavy bureaucracy. My VA observations were made more than three decades ago; apparently things haven't changed.

President Obama knew of the VA's problems because as a Senator he served on VA oversight committees. Furthermore, as a presidential candidate in 2007 he promised to focus on the military's medical needs. And he was warned by the George W. Bush transition

team that additional problems were expected in the VA system as our warriors survived the battlefield and returned home for medical care. Obama's spokesman (parrot), Jay Carney, says a lot of money has been added to the VA budget ostensibly to care for our wounded warriors. In fact, funding for the VA has increased from \$88 billion a year in 2009 to \$146 billion in 2013. However, as ABC news correspondents said, "You can't just throw money at a problem and think it will go away." It seems this is what our government does with problems, along with "CY...booty."

Given the facts, who believes the President knew nothing about the problems at the VA? He is the Commander-in-Chief and delegation of responsibility only goes so far. The VA's problems should have

been at the top of Obama's list of priorities, and it is obvious they were not. Furthermore, the disastrous VA situation underscores the government's inability to manage healthcare. The VA boondoggle reveals the equivalent of "death panels" from long waits to see a doctor. And we learn there was a second sets of books used to secure bonuses for the VA staff who "met" performance goals.

The Democrats and Obama now want to manage everyone's healthcare. Never mind that the government's only medical experience is operating healthcare on Indian reservations and the VA system. How's that working? Obama's Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, Eric Shinseki, can't run the VA healthcare program, but he is just a sign of the systemic problem, like a fever is the sign of pneumonia. With these revelations, any sane person would question whether the government can manage the healthcare of the nation.

I thought about playing it safe and not pointing out these and other failures of Obama, like his \$780 billion Stimulus Program of 2009. Mr. Obama would later joke that a lot of the projects were "not shovel ready." Perhaps the

Stimulus helped our neighbor city Alcoa to build their over-walk of highway 129 to no-where.

The Democrats never cease to amaze me. Did you hear that they are now blaming the VA scandal on "Bush's two Middle East wars?" It is true that we've never been at war this long, and there has been additional pressures on the VA to care for our war heroes, but that is not an excuse. Apparently the terrorists at Gitmo (which was never closed as Obama promised) have far shorter waiting times to see a doctor than our veterans. Shameful!

I've read that the presidency of Ulysses Grant was corrupt, and we all know about Richard Nixon's lying and coverup of a two-bit burglary at the Watergate. Our President lies with apparent impunity and his Administration is incompetent. His previous Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, was asked about the Benghazi attack on 9.11.2012 and its causes. She infamously said, "What difference does it make?" I say the truth matters, Mrs. Clinton, especially when people died and the President and the State Department lied to the American people about the cause of the attack. No one had even heard of or

seen the comical U-Tube "anti-muslim video" prior to the Administration using it to cover up the mismanagement of security at our Benghazi consulate. We still don't know who came up with the video explanation, though emails track the talking points to the NSA and the State Department. Wasn't it lying to the American people that led to Nixon's impeachment?

Who can trust an Administration who uses the IRS to target rivals? Mr. Obama said that the IRS abuses were due to a few "rogue agents in Cincinnati" and there wasn't "a smidgeon of corruption" in the IRS. We now know the Cincinnati IRS was directed by Lois Lerner from the Washington bureau and coordinated by Ben Rhodes of the President's White House staff. Apparently, there was more "than a smidgeon" of collusion. I trust people until they show themselves to be dishonest. I can forgive, but I can never forget.

After the American Revolution Europeans referred to our newly won freedom and the subsequent Constitution as the "America experiment" in democracy. Many historians have observed that democracies fail in two hundred or so years, about the time when citizens realize they

can vote themselves a paycheck. Recent studies show that there are now ten million Americans on disability (more than ever before) and ten million who are chronically unemployed. Forty-seven percent of those unemployed say they don't plan to seek employment again, that is unless their benefits are canceled. Whoopie Goldberg recently said on The View that people didn't want to be on the dole. Studies don't support her belief.

Sometimes I think I should stop listening to the news. Stewardship of knowledge is a hard taskmaster, but a "Watchman's" responsibility in this "barely civil war" of ours.

I wish I were wrong about today's progressives who are moving us toward socialism and who masquerade as Democrats. There are a few of the latter left. I've not seen a John Kennedy or a Harry Truman in years - the dodo is also extinct. Maybe today's birds have just changed their feathers again.

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

### Early Education Provides Mold for Outstanding Life (Part VIII)

# Becoming a Dentist

I looked at the still black and white photo and marveled that it even existed. It was made during a time when pictures were important and rare. A single picture captured the most special

moments in our lives. It was long before the arrival of smart phones, cell phones, and digital cameras that seem to record our every move today.

The year was 1958. Two promising dentists had reached a milestone,



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

and the black and white photo filmed the unforgettable occasion. Second year dental students Dr. Perry McGinnis and Dr. Reuben (Nib) Pelot III were dismissing their first patient,

the late Eddie Strong of Memphis, Tennessee. Over a six-week period, both dentists made a set of dentures for her as their first clinical assignment. McGinnis, the Gibbs High School graduate who enjoyed a long and outstanding

career in dentistry, shared a personal note about that day. "When the instructor inserted my dentures to grade them, he looked at me and said rather bluntly, 'Son, your dentures almost beat my hand out of the mouth!'" Dr. McGinnis said. The instructor's understatement that the dentures did not fit too well evidently did not bother Ms. Strong. "To show her appreciation, she gave each of us a silver dollar," Perry said.

Today, Dr. McGinnis is retired, and Dr. Reuben Pelot presently practices general dentistry in Farragut, Tennessee.



*Photo from the archives of Carol and Perry McGinnis, the historical photo of Dr. Perry McGinnis, the late Eddie Strong, and Dr. Reuben Pelot.*

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## Church Happenings

**Dante Church of God**  
Dante Church of God will be distributing Boxes Of Blessings (food) on Saturday, June 14, 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 United Methodist Church**  
Come worship Sunday morning with Focus columnist Dr. Ferguson and Becky "down by the river!" During the summer, First United Methodist Church has worship service at the pavilion over looking the Tennessee River and UT Farms. Riverside service is at 8:30 and the traditional service in the sanctuary is at 10:45. Come and see why First Church at 3316 Kingston Pike, (just east of Cherokee Blvd.) is where the difference is worth the distance!

**Seymour United Methodist Church**  
The "Soul Sisters" ladies fellowship group will meet on Tuesday, June 3rd, at 6:30 p.m., poolside at home of Rhonda Johnson. Speaker will be Ellen Moss. Bring dessert or sides for meal, and for Lost

Sheep Ministry, bring candles or sunscreen. The weekly fellowship meals on Wednesdays have been discontinued throughout the summer months. Watch for notice of when they will restart sometime in August. The Praise Team rehearses each Wednesday evening at 7:45 p.m., and this will continue weekly. Helpers are being accepted for the upcoming Vacation Bible School in July. Theme this year is "Weird Animals," with daily emphasis on God's love for everyone. Contact director, Rebecca Hill. Next Sunday, June 8th, brings about the start of Holston Annual Conference at the Lake Junaluska, NC, Retreat Center. Conference goes on each morning, afternoon and evening until conclusion around noon on Wednesday, June 11th.

For further information, please call the church office at 573-9711. The website is [www.seymourumc.org](http://www.seymourumc.org). Seymour UMC is conveniently located at the corner of Chapman Hwy and Simmons Rd., just one block north of the Boyd's Creek and Rt. 411 intersection with Chapman Hwy.

## Tracing the Trail of Tears on horseback

**By Mike Steely**  
[steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)

Emma Leigh Ann Swendsen is well on her way to retracing the historic Trail of Tears. Rather than walking or driving the long journey, she's taking her dog and riding her horse. The Trail of Tears saw the forced removal of the Cherokee nation from North Carolina and Tennessee to Oklahoma in the 1800s. The forced march, policed by the U. S. Army under the authority of President Andrew Jackson, caused thousands of deaths along the way. Only a few Cherokee managed to escape the removal or secretly leave the march and form Eastern Band of Cherokee, in the Smokey Mountains of North Carolina. Today much of the trail has been identified and marked, here and there, in several states including Tennessee. The Cherokee were rounded up and compounded at several points in our region and then began the long walk westward. Different groups left from different points in southeast Tennessee, some from Charleston. That's where Swendsen began her ride, eventually hoping to arrive in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the old Western Band Cherokee capitol. "So far I have been accompanied by my horse, Flame, and my dog, Rune. Flame is a 12-year-old Arabian

Mustang and Rune is an 11-month-old German Shepherd mix," she told *The Focus*.  
By mid-May the trail rider reached Hopkinsville, Ky. and took a rest while Flame recovered from some leg injuries.  
"I have been following as closely as possible the original route with some detours for safety purposes in Nashville. I have been camping for the most part although I have found places with horse facilities three times so far," she said.  
"My generation hasn't been encouraged to remember American history or help the American people, but rather to focus on other countries," she said.  
"I have met so many people already and heard so many amazing stories that will be lost if we continue to turn a deaf ear to America. Many of my peers do not know what the Trail of Tears was when I spoke to them about my trip," she continued.  
"That is sad evidence to me that we are allowed to forget our history and that will only allow it to be repeated," she said.  
Swendsen is relying on donations to help in the journey and many people are following her progress on her Facebook Page, at "Trail of Tears Through Time" and "Go Find Me."  
"I plan to restart my journey, I still



Emma Swendsen and Flame on the Trail of Tears. She hopes to eventually reach Oklahoma as she retraces the forced removal of the Cherokee from our area. (Photo Courtesy of Swendsen)

am just shy of 600 miles to complete," she said.

## 3rd Annual Walk & Wag To Be Held In Memory of Abby Gibson

The Abby Gibson Memorial Foundation will hold its 3rd Annual Walk & Wag event on Saturday, June 7, 2014, at Victor Ashe Park in Knoxville, TN. This dog friendly, family event is presented by PetSafe will be held from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with early registration check-in and day-of-event registration starting at 9 a.m. This event is rain or shine.

The annual Walk & Wag event is held in memory of ten-year-old animal lover, Abby Gibson, who passed away suddenly on June 3, 2010 from injuries she sustained in a horseback riding accident. Proceeds of this year's event will benefit the Abby Gibson Veterinary Medicine Scholarship Endowment at UTCVM, H.A.B.I.T., H.A.L.T., and the Knoxville Zoo's ZooFund for Kids. This is a fun-filled event for dog lovers of all ages! After walking and wagging in memory of Abby, attendees will have the opportunity to: participate in contests with their dogs; learn more about animals with the Knoxville Zoo's ZooMobile; watch demos by Knox County Sheriff's K-9 Unit; enjoy music and delicious food; enter prize drawings; participate in a scavenger hunt with chances to win prizes; and much more. Plus there will be all new fun games and activities for the kiddos in the new kids' zone. Bring your dog(s), family, and friends and enjoy a morning of fun while supporting great causes! All breeds of dogs are welcome. Participants will receive a goodie-bag filled with things for them and their dog(s). Early registration is \$10 - \$15 per Adult and ends May 30th. Day-of-event registration is \$20 per Adult. Children and teens are FREE! For more information or to register or donate online, please visit [www.abbygibson.org](http://www.abbygibson.org).



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Central City Democrats Meeting

The "Central City" Democrats will meet at 6:15 on Monday, June 2, at the Burlington library located at 4416 Asheville Highway. Speakers for the district meeting are Mark Mulhuro, on amendment 1 women's rights, and Marshall Walker. Both are Board of Education candidates. Please attend if you can and be informed. There is a lot to discuss. Hosted

by Rep Tony Brown.

## HBPA Breakfast Club

On Tuesday, June 3rd, the Halls Business and Professional Association's Breakfast Club will gather at OneLife Church, located in the North Place Shopping Center, at 6709 Maynardville Pike in Halls, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Please make plans to drop in and enjoy a cup of coffee with your fellow HBPA members. If

you would like to sponsor a Breakfast Club event in 2014, please contact Bob Crye at bob2793@comcast.net.

## Karns Republican Club

Karns Republican Club will meet Tuesday, June 3 at the Karns Middle School Library beginning at 7:00 p.m. The speaker this month will be Judge Patricia Hall Long who is running to retain her seat as Sessions Court, Division

III Judge.

## Master Gardener Speakers Bureau events

Join the Knox County Master Gardeners Saturday, June 7, for an informative demonstration and lecture on the finer points of caring for your flowering plants to make them picture perfect called "Off With Their Heads...pinching, deadheading and cutting back." Time: 10:30 until noon. Location:

Fountain City Library, 5300 Stanton Rd, Knoxville, TN (865)689-2681

Also on June 7, Knox County Master Gardeners will give a presentation on caring for heirloom tomatoes called "Killer Tomatoes vs Tomato Killers," including identifying tomato diseases and methods for protecting your plants.

This is a free event but pre-registration is required. Call Kim at the UT Extension Office (865)215-2340 to reserve your seat. Time: 1:00-2:30. Location: Faragut Library, 417 N. Campbell Station Rd, Knoxville, TN

Knox County Master Gardeners will present a program on what you need to do for a great lawn this summer on Friday, June 13 called "Summer Lawn Care."

This will be held at

Humana, 4438 Western Ave., Knoxville, TN 37921 Time 3:15-4:00. Open to the public. For information, contact Humana at (865)329-8892.

On Saturday, June 14 "Sustainable Solutions: Weeds, Water and Insects" will be presented. Learn about some of the latest techniques for dealing with these vexing gardening issues. This talk is geared toward the vegetable garden, but many of the principles could readily translate to the ornamental garden.

This Master Gardener Demonstration Garden will be held at All Saints Catholic Church, 620 N. Cedar Bluff Rd, Knoxville, TN.

Time 10:30-12:00... rain or shine. Open to the public. Free. Contact: UT Extension (865)215-2340

# CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization - Technical Committee Meeting, June 10, 2014.

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 10, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Topics to be considered: Adoption of the PlanET Playbook and Discussions on Multimodal Issues and Freight; and other business.

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

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- 1 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup fat free sour cream
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- Reduced calorie whipped topping

In medium saucepan, combine pudding mix, milk powder and water. Stir in raisins. Cook over medium heat until mixture thickens and starts to boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Fold in sour cream and nutmeg. Pour into the unbaked pie shell. Place in preheated 450-deg oven and cook for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 and bake an addition 20 to 25 minutes. Cool completely. Chill for at least one hour before serving. When serving, top each piece with 1 TBSP whipped topping.

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Contact Greg at (865) 604-3468 for all of your auction needs.  
You can bring in your items to us, or we can haul them for you.

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