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RALLY FOR SCHOOLS MARCHES TO SCHOOL BOARD MEETING



More time requested for PPU audit

By Focus Staff

Knox County Auditor Andrea Williams presented to the Knox County Audit Committee her findings of Knox County School System (PPU) physical plant upgrade account.

The genesis of this audit came from Knox County Commissioner Jeff Ownby who told this reporter today that he received phone calls from constituents that asked him to take a look at the PPU account. According to Ownby these were former employees of the school system that had knowledge of the financial dealings of the system's accounting procedures.

Funds from the PPU account are earmarked for capital projects only and not to be used for new structures. Ownby claims that money from the PPU account was used not only for land purchases for the new Northshore Elementary School, but also for band equipment purchases and a piano. Ownby claims this is a violation of how the PPU account should be used.

After requesting the information from the school system in March of this year, Ownby claims it took 13 days for him to receive the information requested, although he was supposed to receive the information in 10 days. It was at that point after reviewing the information provided that he felt an audit was in order.

Williams reported that the audit for the PPU account is incomplete and she's unwilling to discuss preliminary results. She expects that it (audit) should be complete in approximately one month.

There was unanimous agreement of the committee that four offices with incoming new office-holders have close-out audits performed: Two by an external audit firm and two internally. Larry Elmore, from Pugh, CPAs is the external firm chosen for external auditing.

Those four offices are: Trustee; Criminal Court Clerk; District Attorney General; and Fourth Circuit Court.

In other business Mark Jones updated the committee about the Knox County hotline. He reported six cases had been reported. One case was closed and five cases are still open. All six cases were investigated. Jones said that most all reports were valid.

Bob Thomas, assistant superintendent of schools for Knox County, reported that the school board approved funding for a new bookkeeping system that will allow online viewing for all school activity financial transactions throughout the year. He reports that \$19.5M in transactions from activity funds came through the school system last year.

The next meeting of the Audit Committee was set for Aug. 12 at 9 a.m. in the City-County Building Main Assembly Room.

School Board Approves Charter School Application

By Sally Absher
sallyabsher@gmail.com

Last week the Knox County School Board voted 7 to 1 to approve the Emerald Academy Charter application. Karen Carson was the only board member to vote no. Gloria Deathridge, representing District 1, was absent from both meetings last week.

The Emerald Academy would operate more like a private school with its own board of directors. This board will have wide governing authority over the Charter school.

Emerald teachers will be employees of Emerald Academy, not Knox County. The local elected School Board will have little more than charter oversight authority of Emerald Academy.

The most common justification for approving the Charter was to "keep local control of the Charter school." As Dr. McIntyre explained, the process for approving a charter school in Tennessee starts with the local school board, to approve or deny the application. But there is an appeals process that goes to the state level.

"It has been the experience in Tennessee that if there are applications that put forth a quality plan, that are reasonable in expectations and that have a high likelihood of producing a high quality educational experience for students, and those applications are denied at the local level, they are likely to be overturned at the state level."

Board of Education law director David Sanders concurred, adding that "if the local school board rejects a charter application and the state approves it, [and if there is a priority school in the district], the state becomes the Charter oversight authority, and takes control of that charter away from the local Board of Education." This was codified in the "Charter Authorizer" bill (HB702) approved by the legislature this spring.

According to Steve Diggs, executive director of the Emerald Youth Foundation (EYF) and president of Emerald Charter Schools, this "college and career prep" school will begin with K-1, phasing in remaining grades 2-8 over five

Rep. Gloria Johnson organized a march preceding Wednesday's Knox County School Board meeting. The group, carrying signs that said "Students Need Teachers, Not Testers" and "Teach the Students, Not the Tests!," met on Market Square before heading to the City-County Building. Photo by Dan Andrews.

years. They looked at models around the country, determined that Charter schools were a good fit for Knoxville, and selected Breakthrough Schools in Cleveland, Ohio as the model they would use. Diggs said the target student population is urban kids living in the "empowerment zone."

The school will be "teacher-driven and data-driven." Teachers will develop the curriculum. Grades K-4 will have two certified teachers per classroom, for a 1 to 15 ratio (one teacher and a 1:20 ratio for grades 5-8). Teachers will be licensed and certified by the state, with no Teach for America teachers other than as tutors or assistants. The school will promote a culture of high expectations.

Everyone on the board, and all those who spoke in public forum, have high regard for Emerald Youth and the job they do ministering and serving urban kids. Emerald Youth is making a difference in the lives of some of the most at-risk kids in Knoxville. Steve Diggs is highly respected as someone who doesn't just talk the talk, he walks the walk. But there the consensus stopped.

Karen Carson was the most outspoken School Board member. She said "The state has put this board in a difficult position. They are not asking if this Charter school is what's best for kids of Knox County... As long as a Charter application meets or exceeds the rubric, then you don't have grounds not to approve... I do not feel this is best for Knox County kids... At this point I will not support this... Our legislators took this out of our hands to make local decisions about our local schools."

Several board members, including Carson and Indya Kincannon, as well as many teachers and parents, questioned the necessity of a Charter School in Knoxville. They point out there is nothing new or innovative in the Charter application that Knox County is not already doing, or could not do. Many asked why Emerald Youth could not partner with our already very successful Community Schools program, rather than opening yet another school. There were concerns about cherry-picking students

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Focus on the Law

Tennessee's Jock Tax

I thought I was pretty familiar with Tennessee's Professional Privilege Tax, having paid it every year since its inception in 1992. When first enacted, it included a laundry list of occupations and professions whose practitioners were obligated to file a return and pay the required flat tax to the state department of revenue. Doctors, lawyers, architects, accountants, dentists, agents, engineers, brokers, investment advisors and others had



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

to pay up or face losing their state licenses. Over the years the list of covered occupations was trimmed and the tax was doubled from \$200 to \$400. The returns must now also be filed and paid electronically by June 1st of every year. My cost this year was \$409.96 for the privilege of paying my privilege tax with a credit card. While online dutifully paying my tax, I noticed that there was mention of the tax applying to "persons employed as players on any

franchise of the National Basketball Association or National Hockey League for more than 10 days in the tax period who are on the roster for any NBA or NHL regular season game within the boundaries of the state." The law went into effect on July 1, 2009 and applies to both Tennessee based teams (Nashville Predators and Memphis Grizzlies) and their opponents. Every athlete who is on the club's active roster and eligible to participate in a game is subject to the tax, regardless of whether they actually play or not. Interestingly, the tax does not apply to professional

football players so the Tennessee Titans are exempt. More interesting is that this "jock tax" on each player is \$2,500 per game, up to a maximum of three games per year. So an individual player may be taxed up to \$7,500 per year under this tax. That is not much to LeBron James who makes about \$19 million per year but not all players do quite as well. According to the National Basketball Players Association, about 20 percent of NBA players have either lost money or broken even in Memphis. The NHL has agreed to

reimburse hockey players for the money they pay for the tax, which amounts to about \$2 million per season. Before that change to their collective bargaining agreement, more than a third of NHL players had lost money when playing in Nashville. Unlike the other privilege taxes collected, the money from the jock tax does not go to the state. It goes to the operators of the arenas in Memphis and Nashville. In Memphis, that means to the owners of the Grizzlies franchise. The Tennessee Department of Revenue has been collecting money on behalf of private entities

since 2009. That does not sound very constitutional, does it? According to an analysis in Volume 23 of the Marquette Sports Law Review, it most likely violates the Commerce Clause because it is not fairly apportioned, is discriminatory and is not fairly related to the services provided by the state of Tennessee. The remedy? The state legislature amended the law in April 2014 to abolish the jock tax as to NHL players in 2014 and end the tax on NBA players in 2016. Governor Haslam signed the bill into law on April 24, 2014.

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In next week's Focus

New and You-nique

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

It's new, it's different and it's YOU-NIQUE. That's right, Jamie Ferguson's "You-nique" Boutique and Salon at 7141 Clinton Highway is something different. The former cosmetology teacher grew up in Powell and has opened the family-owned Salon with her mother, Sandra Estes. Sandra's Media Prints shop is there as well, printing everything from tee shirts to campaign signs. That business began because her husband, Rocky, was big-time into auto racing and she began printing signs for his cars. Jamie opened You-nique in May and with the help of word-of-mouth, Facebook, and *The Focus* is finding her old clients and adding new ones. She also offers a line of "clothing you can afford" and jewelry. She and Krista Richey tend to the hair needs of their clients. "We opened in May and began running an ad in *The Focus* a couple weeks ago. The first ad ran on a Tuesday because of Memorial Day and by Thursday I had 3 new bookings because of it," she said. "It's all about you," is the Salon's motto. On the walls and counters are not only beauty supplies



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Jamie Ferguson, Krista Richey, Morgan Ferguson and, behind the counter, Sandra Estes, at You-nique Boutique and Salon on Clinton Highway in Powell. On the counter are just some of the unique printed items that Sandra does there.

and jewelry but hats, shirts, and plaques made by Mrs. Estes. "I've done hair for 11 years and taught cosmetology at South Doyle, but I'm from Powell," Jamie said. The shop, at 7141 Clinton Highway,

is also in Powell. She added that business is good and she's looking forward to growing the business. For an appointment you can reach Jamie at 257-0789, Krista at 232-5987, or Sandra at 938-8833.

Now Open!

School Board Approves Charter School Application

Continued from page 1

for enrollment, and pulling parents who are involved out of the neighborhood schools. There were questions about ELL and special needs kids. There were concerns about cost, and diverting funds from neighborhood schools. Lynne Fugate, citing fiduciary responsibility, also had concerns about funding. "Our brethren down the road in Nashville are losing \$9M a year out of their operating budgets to fund new charter schools, and their fixed costs have not gone down at all." Doug Harris, who stated for the public record he is on the board of Emerald Youth, again cited Knox County's funding problem. "I don't know why we haven't been able to close the gap. But high

performing Charter schools get great results. I am excited." In the end, Emerald Academy was approved by the board on the basis of the reputation of Emerald Youth in providing ministry, mentoring, and outreach to kids in Knoxville's urban neighborhoods, and acquiescing to the State Department of Education and their threat to take control of the charter away from the local board if they do not approve it. Emerald Charter has not secured funding for the school, nor do they have a definite location at this time. Their first choice is the Moses Center, a former school built in 1916. Architects have not been hired, nor is it known what the true cost of renovation will be.

Jamie Ferguson (standing on right), her daughter Morgan and You-nique Boutique and Salon would like to welcome Krista Richey (left) to the staff.



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Publisher's Position

Board Trying to Stifle Free Speech



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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For any person who values free speech, recent actions by the Knox County Board of Education are cause for deep concern. Superintendent Jim McIntyre is always braying about "great conversations" and "wonderful dialogues," but that is for public consumption; the reality is quite different.

Board member Karen Carson apparently had an epiphany last week and came to the astonishing conclusion the board hasn't been following its own policies. This is hardly news to anyone as the board has rarely followed its own rules and policies unless it was attempting to punish fellow board member Mike McMillan. McMillan is the board member who is the most vocal opponent of the McIntyre reign and a constant irritant to his colleagues.

Carson is now urging the board to enforce a policy which would require school employees (i.e. teachers) to follow a circuitous route through the Byzantine labyrinth of the chain of command in writing before they could approach the board to speak at public

forums. Carson claims this would allow the board to see just where there might be lapses in the flow of information through the chain of command. Right. McIntyre himself has been caught more than once of keeping things from the board. So I doubt very much Carson is as interested in the chain of command as she is in stifling free speech.

The effect of forcing teachers and other employees to go through a process more complicated than a corn maze. Keeping them quiet and out of public view is the ultimate goal. That same process has the effect of suppressing all such criticism and complaints.

Two speakers before the board last week, Dr. Rapheal Crawford and James Dunn,

a Hall High School student, were both strongly urged not to appear before the board. Not coincidentally both of them made remarks highly critical of McIntyre and his administration.

Board Chair Lynne Fugate, now safely reelected, imperiously gaveled down teachers in the audience who had the temerity to applaud some remarks made by Mike McMillan.

Ms. Fugate then arrogantly reminded the teachers it was not their meeting, but the board's meeting. Lest anyone forget and hope that this is an isolated incident,

some board members have suggested that perhaps the board should regulate teachers' use of Facebook and other social media on their own time. There is a clear pattern by the

majority of the board and the McIntyre administration to silence its critics.

The local media has done its best to ignore actions by the board and McIntyre to silence their opposition. Of course had this same thing occurred on any other public body, the local media would have been after it like a shark after a bleeding seal. The mighty News Sentinel has been cravenly silent on the issue, which readers should remember the next time the daily newspaper publishes a blazing editorial defending free speech.

Dr. Crawford, a highly respected and esteemed educator, flatly charged he couldn't even get McIntyre on the phone and was told by an underling the superintendent doesn't speak to principals individually. This in spite

of the fact Crawford was recruited by McIntyre to come here and work as a principal. Evidently McIntyre has all kinds of wonderful dialogues, just not with his own appointees.

The board has never been bothered by whether some action was legal or not and my guess is they will find any attempt on their part to enforce a rule or a policy at variance with the Constitution will be struck down and quickly.

If they think folks not being able to speak their minds in public is going to add some luster to McIntyre's already diminished reputation, they are mistaken. With every passing day, it becomes more clear that Jim McIntyre is, as the old Texas saying goes, all hat and no cattle.

Karen Carson to Invoke Board Policy BCBI to Censor Teachers?

Board of Education members and the public in attendance at last Monday's Work Session meeting expected to breeze through the first eight items of the Board Agenda, with the majority of the meeting devoted to the Emerald Charter School



By Sally Absher
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the agenda, any person can speak to that item. Employees have every right to speak to items on an agenda."

Several teachers who were at the Work Session meeting said this sounds like an attempt to censor teachers from

application and the Revised FY 2015 Budget. They were quickly derailed by a discussion on Board Policies, however.

Karen Carson brought up an existing (1995, revised 2011) policy BCBI, "Appeals to and Appearances Before the Board." She said the Board needs a policy so that "we don't have to hear about a problem when an employee speaks before the board in a 5 minute scenario, or on various social media... that should have been addressed through the proper chain of command." Policy BCBI addresses appeals, appearances before the board, and complaints.

The policy says that an employee may come before the board when they have exhausted the normal chain of command. She wants teachers and other KCS employees to put their concerns in writing, and follow the chain of command, so that if it breaks down, the board will know where and be able to address it at that point.

Carson added, "If an item is on

speaking during Public Forum at board meetings. Carson is one of several board members who have expressed their impatience with teachers. Several months ago one board member said "We're so glad the teachers have spoken up, but we've heard you now."

Lynn Fugate said, "This is our existing policy, and as Chair, I didn't enforce this last fall, because we were in a heated moment, and I thought as a goodwill gesture and a matter of good faith with our educators, we wouldn't enforce this. I think what we are saying is, we need to be enforcing our policies. These are OUR board meetings." She later attempted to try out her new policy enforcement on recently resigned teacher Lynne Schneider when she came to the podium to speak during public forum. Ms. Schneider's comments were directly related to the budget and Charter Schools, both of which were on the agenda.

Doug Harris further raised concern by using the example of SAT-10 testing. He said instead

of individual teachers spending 5 minutes at public forums, "it would have been more helpful if teachers got together with their principals, and the principals went to Dr. McIntyre, saying, 'A whole lot of teachers want to address the board on this topic' and then put together a presentation so we can ask them questions and have a dialogue."

"Then it would be on our agenda so we would be able to get information from (Dr. McIntyre) and the administration, and come up with conclusions before the meeting, and be able to ask



School board member Karen Carson at last Monday's BOE Work Session.

questions of the teachers." A teacher reported on the SPEAK page that she had emailed all the BOE members to express her concerns about this policy. She said she received replies from Mrs. Kincannon and Mrs. Carson. "Kincannon was NOT happy about the attempt to prevent teachers from talking about issues not on the agenda. She will not support this. Carson defended her views."

Board member-elect Amber Rountree said "it would be difficult for teachers to address concerns in a group presentation format...

many of the concerned teachers don't know each other and work at different schools." She added, "While this may be a current policy, I don't believe it could be enforced based on a recent resolution from Amy Broyles." She was referring to Ordinance 14-2-101, passed by the Commission on March 24, 2014. This ordinance amends the Knox County to add language relative to an employee's right to speak openly and freely regarding any issue involving Knox County Government, its agencies, boards or its elected or appointed officials so long as such speech does not violate the laws of slander and libel. So it would appear that we now have a conflict between Board policy and a Knox County ordinance.

During the Wednesday Regular Board meeting, further discussion and action on this agenda item was deferred to July. Lauren Hopson addressed the issue during public forum, saying, "It seems to me that the board still feels like teachers who have addressed the board have not tried to take their concerns up the chain of command... But when years of trying this method got us nowhere, this is our only recourse. Just like a tree that falls in a forest, a teacher who expresses a concern without a board member to hear it, doesn't make a sound at all."

School Board Passes Budget

By Sally Absher
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The School Board met for their June Work Session and Regular Session meetings last week. It's too bad that Knox County Schools didn't get \$10 for every time Dr. McIntyre or one of his board members took a jab at County Commission or the Mayor for not fully funding their board approved budget for next year. It would go a long way to making up much of the \$7.4M "shortfall."

\$2.9M of the shortfall was due to a change in the BEP funding estimate from the state. Indya Kincannon presented a letter she drafted to Governor Haslam expressing the board's "deep concern and dismay about the recent and unexpected changes to the BEP formula."

"This unprecedented last-minute reduction did not stem from legislative changes or reductions in tax collections. This change was

never discussed or reviewed by any Commission or Board, much less an elected body such as our General Assembly."

The board asked the governor to delay the BEP funding changes until the recently appointed BEP task force completes their study.

The school board has a long history of asking for more money. When total funding per pupil is examined, Knox County (\$9,077) comes in slightly under the state average (\$9,293), as board member Doug Harris likes to remind us at every opportunity. What Harris never points out is that Knox County ranks fourth highest of 95 Tennessee counties in the local contribution (\$4,895) for K-12 education. Only Davidson, Sevier, and Hamilton Counties contribute more locally than Knox County.

Still, the reality is the

Board will be making due with \$7.4M less than they planned on for the 2014-2015 school year. Dr. McIntyre presented the FY 2015 Budget in the amount of \$424,885,000. He said, "It is extraordinarily challenging to be in an already lean and tight budget, and identify \$7.5M to cut."

"We have tried to continue to focus on the work we do in the classroom, to preserve teacher positions, and to organize our limited resources in a way that will allow us to continue to make progress with our kids."

"The board has set a priority on making progress on teacher compensation, but unfortunately, without the support of the County Commission, the raises that were in the board's initial budget are not feasible at this time."

He outlined a number of different strategies to further reconcile the budget,

including eliminating unfilled positions held in reserve; slowing the transition of the summer bridge program from Great Schools Partnership to the general fund; and selective hiring freeze for non-instructional positions.

Karen Carson asked about instructional coaches, saying one thing she frequently hears should be cut is coaches (not football). Dr. McIntyre defended the use of instructional coaches, and pointed out that the majority of coaches are not funded through the general fund. He said the Return on Investment (ROI) report shows the value of coaches.

Mike McMillan challenged Dr. McIntyre, saying, "As far as the raises, I think you are in denial, I think some of my fellow board members are in denial, about the money. The teachers that are complaining, for the first time... the raises are

not the number one priority for most of the teachers that I've talked to. There are a lot of other things that we could do to make life easier"

At this point, some in the audience clapped, bringing a stern response from Chairman Fugate, "Please, please. This is our board meeting!" She added "I don't think this board ever said that is the most important thing for the teachers. We said that is the most important thing to this board, to give our teachers more money."

In Public Forum Monday night, Brenda Owensby said that over the past few years, the board raised principals salaries, many over \$10K, while continuing to talk about teacher salaries falling behind. But "teacher concerns are not about money. Departing teachers are leaving because they are not treated as the professionals that they are.

Your actions speak louder than your words."

Lynne Schneider said it's "not clear that our funds are being spent wisely in Knox County Schools. You take every opportunity to portray the county commission in a negative light for not approving your budget." She added, "Return on Investment is a business term. Schools are not businesses."

On Wednesday, Kim Waller asked if anyone on the board had looked at the line item budget, or did they simply take the \$7M cuts from the superintendent. She asked, "Why, if we are in a budget crunch and teacher salaries are a priority, are we opening a \$1.2M CTE Magnet school? And now the Charter?"

The board unanimously approved Dr. McIntyre's budget for the 2014-2015 school year.

Farmers Co-op is for everybody

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

It's a common misconception, as Lewis Jones, explains, that the Farmers Co-op is only for members. It isn't, anyone can shop there.

Jones, who took over management of the Asheville Highway Co-op a few months ago, explains that the Co-op is owned by local farmers, orchards, nurseries, etc. but the stores are open for anyone to shop. There are two stores in Knox County, one at 6616 Asheville Highway and one at 3903 Fountain Valley Drive in Halls.

Together the two stores have about 20 employees and sell everything from clothing to fertilizer. Last Tuesday the Asheville Highway store was busy with people coming for everything from lawn care products to hay baling twine.

"It really picks up here after 4 p.m. as people

come by on their way from work. We get people from Jefferson City who work in Knoxville that come by," he said.

Tennessee Farmers Cooperatives started in 1945 and has 150 locations throughout the state. It's a product originally of the Tennessee Farm Bureau under the leadership of Al Jerdan, a University of Tennessee marketing specialist. Each Co-op is a separate, independent business controlled by farmer members. Above expenses any savings goes back to members. The Knox Farmers Co-op has more than 1,300 members.

"All the money stays in the community," Jones said.

The Co-op does more than just run a retail farmer's store, it does farm visits, outside sales, and has state Co-op specialists available, like a vegetable specialist and a



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Knox Co-op General Manager Lewis Jones (left) is joined at the check out by Elizabeth Cardwell, Tory Evans, Shellby Johnson and Wesley Hawkins. Not pictured are employees Chris Beeler, Annie Crawford, and Herbie Haynes.

weeds and grass specialist. "We sell more than 1,200 tons of bulk fertilizer each year," he said, adding, "We also sell bulk diesel and kerosene. Lots of people heat their greenhouses with kerosene."

He says that during the winter they sell mostly

livestock feed, but also offer wildlife items like salt blocks and bird seed.

"A lot of people want the salt blocks so they can feed the deer and see them on their property," Lewis said.

He also said that the Co-op supports FFA and 4-H programs. The Coop

has a special program with Case Knives to help the 4-H Clubs.

You can find them online at "knoxcoop.net" or call the Asheville Highway store at 522-3148 or the Halls store at 922-2155. Danny Penman is the Halls manager and the phone

number there is 922-2115. Home delivery is available from both stores. The Asheville Highway location is open Monday through Friday 8-6 and Saturday from 8-4. The Halls location is open Monday through Friday 8-5 and Saturdays 8-4.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Asheville Highway's Knox Farmers Co-op sells everything from clothing to fertilizer and isn't just for farmers. Anyone can shop there.

CNB Presents Scholarship to SHS's Taylor Case

Citizens National Bank and The Dollywood Foundation are pleased to present the Dolly Parton Scholarship in the amount of \$15,000 to a young lady and graduate of Seymour High School, Taylor Case. Taylor is the daughter of Phillip and Michelle Case of Seymour.

Taylor is a member of Beta and of the National Honor Society. She is also the editor of SHS yearbook staff.

"We congratulate Taylor and wish her great success as she pursues her dreams of becoming a veterinarian," says Daniel McNeely, Banking Officer and Assistant Branch Manager of CNB's Seymour Branch. Taylor will attend Walter State Community College this fall and plans to finish her education at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.



Taylor Case is presented the scholarship award from CNB's Daniel McNeely, Christy Crouse, and CNB's Daniel Reed.

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South Knoxville Homes For Sale

107 Lakeview Drive. 2BR/1BA, office area, nice kitchen, all appliances convey, basement for lots of storage. \$94,900

417 Centeroak Dr. Lots of space in this Miami Stone and vinyl home. Eat-in kitchen, granite counter tops, 3BR, 1.5BA main level; Family Room, BR, 1/2 BA, storage basement lvl. Beautiful lawn. \$129,900

106 SE Stonewall Dr. Lots of character in this nice, older home. Built-ins, arched doorways, new carpet, new composition slate roof, new gutters and new compressor for H/A unit. \$164,900

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New Listings in Gibbs!

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This all brick basement ranch home is squeaky clean and move in ready! On the main, enjoy 3BR, full bath, eat in kitchen, formal dining, large living-room & gleaming hardwood floors. Out the kitchen window, enjoy the beautiful 16 acres, Large Oak wood barn and Mountain view. Downstairs yet another kitchen (appliances stay in both) huge bath, and rec area. Property offers many possibilities! Acreage to build additional Home. MLS888339 \$289,900

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REALTY EXECUTIVES

Our Neighborhoods

SOLWAY AND DIXIE LEE JUNCTION

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Not all of us live in apartments or subdivision. A large portion of Knox County residents live in small neighborhoods or communities that often get little mention. Many local people drive through these places everyday and probably don't know where they are or what they are missing.

Sunday drives are great for finding out who and where your county neighbors are and what's in their special little enclaves. Solway and Dixie-Lee Junction, in extreme western Knox County, are good examples. Both these neighborhoods are, for most people, "pass by or pass through" areas.

SOLWAY IS COMFORTABLE EXCEPT FOR TRAFFIC

Solway is that area where Western Avenue (or Oak Ridge Highway if you prefer) intersects Pellissippi Parkway. Between there and the bridge across Melton Hill Lake is Solway. I've noticed that some Solway residents prefer to say to out-of-area people that they live in or near Oak Ridge. In fact, Anderson County is just across the bridge.

The Solway area also stretches over to the lake to the west and along Solway Road south to about Pellissippi College and east along old Emory Road. To the east is the Karns Community and to the south is Hardin Valley.

The stretch of Pellissippi



An ornamental rooster greets shoppers at the Junction Plants and Produce in Dixie Lee Junction.

Highway through Solway has convenience stores, some small shops, and some empty stores. Nearby are unique businesses like Solway Sporting Goods, Steward Home Inspection, and Nature's Best Organic.

Nature's Best Organic features premium mulch, compost and blended soils. They also have all sizes of rock from pea gravel to 5-inch stone and produce playground mulch. The company is at 8707 Joe Daniel Road just east before the Western Avenue-Pellissippi junction.

Everett Biddle and his wife live on Old Solway Ferry Road and he said, "Solway is a good place to live, lots of older folks."

"I built here in 1971 because I found a lakefront property," he says. He explains that many

people there have Oak Ridge addresses although they live in Knox County. He said if you try to find someone's address there on your GPS as "Oak Ridge" you will get nothing.

He said crime is low there but traffic after 4 p.m. is too heavy for locals to get out and go anywhere. "When they let the (Oak Ridge) plants out you can't get onto the highway. I've waited 20 or 30 minutes just to get going," he said.

"Everyone's nice and friendly here," Biddle said.

Churches in the Solway area include Faith Promise-Pellissippi Campus, Branch Hill Baptist, Smith Grove Baptist, True Light Missionary Baptist, Oak Ridge Baptist, Solway Church of God, and Solway Baptist Church.

neighborhood is split between Loudon and Knox County and Farragut stretches through that part of the county until the county line in the heart of Dixie Lee.

Why is it called Dixie Lee Junction?

Simple. Before there was a designated national highway numbered system you had Dixie Highway running north and south and Lee Highway running east and west. When the highways joined in Knoxville they ran together through town and westward where they split, thus the name.

The same is sort of true

today with Interstates 75 and 40 combining in Knoxville and running west to split just northwest of the original "junction." In the years before the interstates were built Dixie Lee Junction was the "last chance" for motels, food, and drink as you headed south.

Today the neighborhood, like Solway, is for most people a "pass through" area, but the number of new businesses, the developing subdivisions, and the pace there is quickening. It is becoming a small shopping area for West Knox and North Loudon county residents. Depending on which side of the county line the homes or businesses are, they can carry either a Farragut or Lenoir City address.

Companies like Farragut Lawn and Tractor, Town Framery, Dixie Lee Wine and Liquor, Lands and Homes Magazine, Y-12 Credit Union, and Cool Sports Iearium call it home. The Renaissance complex there houses many companies and also hosts the Dixie Lee Farmer's Market is there each Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.

"It's our 7th season and time for tomatoes, squash, and fresh vegetables. Everything is local from producers and gardens within 50 miles," Jeff Cannon told *The Focus* about the market that he and his wife, Virginia, operate.

"We also have jams, jellies, meats, eggs, and crafts like wood turning, blacksmithing, soaps, lotions, and jewelry," he

Continue on page 2



The Solway Baptist Church is an "old fashioned, independent" Baptist Church that uses the King James Bible and old-fashion hymns and believes in World Wide Missions.

DIXIE LEE JUNCTION IS JUMPING!

The old meets the new at Dixie Lee Junction. It's as far west as you can go in Knox County. The old intersection of Highway 11 and Highway 70, famed in song and story, is booming today with new buildings, new roads, and new people.

Many of us think of the Dixie Lee Junction community as beginning at Fox Den Road on Kingston Pike and stretching down to Highway 321. The



Watts Road is being extended to Old Stage Road in Dixie Lee Junction.

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SOLWAY AND DIXIE LEE

JUNCTION

Cont. from page 1

said. There's membership fee for setting up and you can contact the Dixie Lee Farmer's Market at jeff.dixieleafarmersmarket.com or call him at 816-3028.

A new building is quickly going up next to the Renaissance that will house a bank and Edsouth, a non-profit group that finds funding for education beyond high school graduation.

Dixie Lee Junction was, for years, the home of The Court Café, where Southern lunches were popular among business people from the area as well as locals. The building is vacant now. Some of the buildings, like the former Farragut Lawn and Tractor

business that moved just across the county line next door, are being renovated and readied for new tenants.

Watts Road is currently being extended to connect with Old Stage Road and should increase mobility in the community.

The Mayor Bob Leonard Park on Watts Road just north of Dixie Lee Junction has multi-sports fields with a playground, concession stand, paved walking trails, etc. within the 50 acre Farragut Park.

Other businesses at Dixie Lee Junction include Ace Hardware, Summit View of Farragut, Subway, several convenience stores, First National Bank, Dixie Lee Fireworks

(on the Loudon County side of the neighborhood), and The Fireside and Patio Shop.

The Junction Plants and Produce is an outlet for plants from Pope's Plant Farm in Greenback and at the site of the former Dixie Lee Greenhouse.

"We feature annuals, seasonal, and some perennials, all from our greenhouses. We also have Florida tomatoes and will have Blount County tomatoes in two or three weeks," The Junction manager Ben Blackwood said.

He said the Dixie Lee Junction location was a "good marriage" for the produce and plant market.

Almost in the bag

By Dan Andrews
andrewsd@knoxfocus.com

For Becky Chaffee, a simple idea has become a long and daunting challenge. The idea is to provide affordable, well-crafted musical instrument shaped purses to the general public. This passion project has given her a first-hand view of the complex maze of the entrepreneurial process and also provided an insight into the many available resources available to entrepreneurs.

The process of creating a new purse brand involved having to learn about the SEO process, manufacturing, branding, quality control, social media, publicity, and retail sales, to name a few. A major help in dealing with frustration is her SCORE mentor, Chuck Christiansen. SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives) was incorporated in Washington DC in 1965 and presently has over 380 chapters with about 11,000 volunteers. It is a nonprofit, all-volunteer association dedicated to entrepreneurial education and the formation, growth, and success of small businesses nationwide.

"My SCORE mentor and I visited and called many manufacturers. It was even hard to find manufacturers

overseas to create only a few hundred at a price that I can sell at with good quality. The violin purse is very complex with steel in both the scroll and back pocket, and the beads for tuning pegs. The guitar purses are also difficult to make with stiff enough neck. I am still having to finish the insides of the guitar purses myself after they arrive before I give them to artists to paint them. The piano purses could be done here, but there are waiting lists at factories of a year if one is lucky, with a very limited choice in fabrics. I sent the violin purse to Mexico, and the sample that they sent me (for an extraordinary price) looked to me like a sack of potatoes," Chaffee told The Focus.

After months and months of searching for a way to produce her product 100% in the United States of America (hopefully with recycled fabrics), she realized that a mass level of production was not possible.

"Nobody in America raises their daughter to work in a sewing factory. The fabric and the beads are made overseas. We don't have that many manufacturers here." That was the response Mrs. Chaffee received when she called the Georgia Textile Manufacturers Association. It was a crushing blow to her.

"Mr. Christiansen will point me to answers involving any business questions I might have," Chaffee said. "He has helped me find the most effective process with very limited resources. He invited another SCORE mentor, Walter Williams, into one

meeting to give me a crash course on search engine optimization (SEO)."

Another organization in Knoxville that has been a tremendous help is the Knoxville Entrepreneurial Center, located in Market Square. The organization holds meetings where other business-minded entrepreneurs meet to discuss strategy and share ideas. These meetings provide a steady stream of positive, informative and dedicated feedback, which is important to Mrs. Chaffee.

Currently, Mrs. Chaffee is actively involved in both selling her purses and for using her purses to support vital musical arts programs in the community. It has not been an easy path, but Chaffee is determined not to give up.

"I have been knocking on useless doors for a year, sending emails, making phone calls and going in person. I started attending meetings for various associations in several towns, and meeting people who know the town and know the people. Some of these people have connections, and are so glad to be helpful. The attitude at the networking type meetings is that you never know who can come to your aid, so everyone is important. And after having so many people come to my aid, if I can help anyone, I would be so happy to do so."

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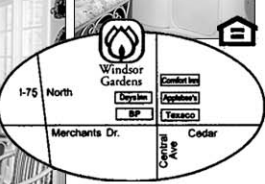
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Edward Hull Crump: The Boss 1

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

The modern history of Memphis is inextricably tied to that of Edward Hull Crump. "Mister" Crump was indisputably a political boss in a region of the country where political bosses did not normally flourish. Political bosses were hardly uncommon in the United States during the heyday of E. H. Crump and they still exist today, albeit in lesser forms. The products of political machines in the United States have at least a few who have risen to the presidency of the United States. Chester Alan Arthur was a political boss from New York State and occupied perhaps the biggest plum within the gift of the president at the time, as the Collector of the Port of New York. Arthur later infuriated many of his own supporters by supporting civil service and saw his backing melt to the point where he could not muster enough delegates to be nominated for the presidency.

President Harry S. Truman was also a product of the infamous Pendergast machine in Kansas City, Missouri. Tammany Hall in New York City is perhaps the most notorious example of a political machine and Boss Tweed the noxious example of a political boss. The HBO cable network has even launched a very successful series based on the life and dealings of New Jersey political boss, Enoch "Nucky" Johnson.

Chicago has a long history of political machines and the last vestige of the old Daley machine, Richard Daley, Jr., just retired as Mayor of Chicago. Frank Hague, the boss of Jersey City, was infamous for shouting, "I AM THE LAW!" during one outburst and in New Jersey, he was.

These same political machines have elected everything from aldermen and city councilmen, to county clerks and Presidents of the United States. Machines have helped to determine the outcome of national elections, just Chicago Mayor and Boss Richard Daley, Sr., held back the vote returns from Cook County to push Illinois into John F. Kennedy's column in one of the closest presidential races in our country's history and giving JFK the presidency with the gift of Illinois' electoral votes. Lyndon Johnson was elected to the United States Senate through ballot boxes controlled by George Parr, the "Duke of Duval" County.

There have been many men described as political bosses, but if the definition were "one who runs a fully functioning political organization," the number would drop appreciably. By any standard, Edward Hull Crump would qualify as a political boss as he

presided over one of the most smoothly functioning organizations in the country. Through his mastery of the Shelby County political machine, Crump ruled absolutely in Memphis for nearly half a century.

E. H. Crump became a force to be reckoned with, not only locally, but in Tennessee and national politics as well. Crump, in conjunction with Tennessee's U. S. Senator Kenneth D. McKellar, dominated Volunteer State politics for the better part of two decades.

Born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, Crump came to Memphis as a fresh-faced young man with a full head of flaming red hair, causing later political opponents to refer to him as the "Red Snapper." Like many of his contemporaries, Ed Crump grew up relatively poor as his father died young from yellow fever. Employed as a bookkeeper as a teenager, Crump fell in love with and married the daughter of a prosperous merchant, who provided Crump with the funds to purchase the firm where he worked.

It is ironic to consider E. H. Crump first entered politics as a reformer. Many Memphians were chafing under the rule of Mayor John J. Williams, who had annexed communities adjacent to Memphis, which had the happy effect of increasing the government's revenues and expanding services. Williams was evidently a live-and-let-live sort of fellow, as the Mayor did not work very hard in actually enforcing local vice laws. Some accused the Mayor of being too closely aligned with saloon owners and the liquor interests, which was a damning charge during a time when Tennessee was frequently embroiled in a debate on the question of prohibition. That same debate was so fierce it left one former United States senator literally lying dead in a gutter.

In 1905 many of the leading citizens of Memphis revolted and sought to drive Mayor John Williams from office by reforming local government and creating a commission form of government. Crump was elected as a member of the City Council as part of the progressive movement. Crump was closely associated in the reform movement with a young attorney, K. D. McKellar, and the two would remain friends, confidants and political partners for the next five decades.

Crump soon proved to be a master at organizing and was a particularly effective administrator. The breadth and scope of the Crump organization is difficult to conceive in today's political atmosphere. While many would hardly be shocked to

consider a genuine political machine composed of public employees, the Crump organization extended into virtually every aspect of the political, business and social fabric of Memphis and Shelby County. Even many progressives became stalwart members of the Crump machine, along with socially prominent citizens, business and labor leaders, and educators. The Crump organization permeated civic associations, clubs, neighborhood groups and even churches. All fifty-two voting precincts had Crump leaders and each was tightly organized.

Crump improved government efficiency while at the same time getting more out of the various governmental departments in terms of services to the citizenry. While a poor public speaker, the future Memphis Boss possessed an unrivaled sense of political showmanship, as well as a remarkable ability to shrewdly size up his fellow human beings. Crump's organizational skills, ability to understand people and events, as well as his showmanship were all crucial factors in his being able to parlay those strengths into a winning campaign to unseat Mayor John J. Williams.

Crump's inability to make a speech didn't much hurt him in the campaign, as he relied upon the organization he had so carefully crafted. Others carried the burden of making speeches, while Crump himself concentrated on turning out the vote. It proved to be a highly effective method of winning elections and would remain so until the end of Crump's life. Never in his long reign did the Memphis Boss ever take an election for granted.

E. H. Crump was not one to ignore a life lesson and

he did not soon forget his political ambitions had quite nearly been upset by former Mayor Williams's overwhelming support from the black community. Unlike many Southern cities, African-Americans owned businesses and were not only allowed to vote in Memphis, but actually encouraged to vote. The various competing political organizations in Shelby County and Memphis paid the poll taxes for African-American voters with the clear expectation they would vote "right" and they usually did. Crump immediately set out to switch the political allegiance of African-American citizens to his own organization, although Memphis was still very much a segregated city at the time.

Mayor Crump saw to it that city services were provided to African-Americans, something that was virtually unheard of in most of the South. Crump's close ties to the black community would be a source of contention in the future with many of his political opponents outraged by the notion African-American citizens were voting and participating in Democratic primaries. It was hardly unusual for Crump opponents to appeal for support on the basis of nominations being determined by the vote of African-Americans. Many of those same appeals were not surprisingly blatantly and crudely racist. Crump's relationship with the black community would change over the years and the Memphis Boss tolerated no dissent, a lesson some would learn to their ultimate regret in the future.

E. H. Crump survived a bid by former Mayor John Williams to recapture his old seat of power and Crump was busy consolidating

his power in Memphis and Shelby County when his tenure abruptly came to an end. It was a humiliation he never forgot nor forgave. As former Mayor Williams had turned a blind eye to much of the rampant crime and vice in Memphis, Crump started a very public campaign to clean up the city. The effort did not last and Crump likely realized it was not possible for local government to stamp out of existence prostitution, gambling, and saloons. Rather than attempting to eliminate vice completely, Crump moved to confine prostitution to a red-light district, tolerated saloons and kept the gambling dens manageable. The vice interests were largely ignored for the most part, but those same interests were expected to contribute to the well being of the Shelby County political machine. One Chief of the Memphis Police Department testified the contributions from illegal operations amounted to almost one hundred thousand dollars, a sum that would be the equivalent to several million dollars today. Some have described those funds as "protection money," but likely the bulk of it was used to fund political activities and campaigns for the Shelby County machine and its candidates. Crump saw nothing wrong with assessing the illegal businesses operating in his domain to perpetuate his machine any more than he objected to legitimate businesses contributing to the organization.

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FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Edward Hull Crump

Crump did, however, strongly object to the notion of any official taking the money to fill his own pockets.

It was Crump's refusal to enforce the prohibition laws in Memphis that led to his removal from the Mayor's office. Tennessee's then-Governor Ben W. Hooper was not only a prohibitionist, but a Republican. Governor Hooper supported an oyster law which enabled the removal of Crump as Mayor of Memphis by the judiciary. E. H. Crump, ever practical, resigned as Mayor just before he could be ousted from office.

Crump's removal as Mayor, while widely hailed by his opponents, did little to tarnish his reputation in Memphis and Shelby County. It did nothing to diminish his actual power. Crump was elected as Shelby County Trustee mere months after leaving the mayor's office. It might seem an odd choice for Crump to serve in an obscure county office, but state law at the time allowed the Trustee to personally keep excess fees, usually amounting to approximately \$50,000 per year, an enormous sum in 1916. In today's dollars, adjusted for inflation, it was almost a million dollars.

As E. H. Crump assumed the Trustee's office, he was soon able to extract a measure of revenge on former Governor Ben W. Hooper.



It's Time For Fans To Stop Being Creepy

By Alex Norman

If you are a Tennessee football fan that pays attention to recruiting, the odds are you know about Torrance Gibson. According to 247 Sports, Gibson is a "dual-threat quarterback" that is considered to be the 14th best recruit in the nation, and the number one "athlete" in the Class of 2015. He is listed at 6' 4" and 200 pounds, and led American Heritage School (Plantation, Fla.) to a Class 5A state title in 2013.

Anyone and everyone has offered Gibson a scholarship, including the Tennessee Volunteers. Butch Jones and company didn't sign a quarterback in the Class of 2014, and are in desperate need of someone like Gibson at that position, even if there are still questions about where he will line up at the next level.

Gibson says that Tennessee is in his Top 7 schools remaining, along with Auburn, LSU, Oklahoma, Ohio State, Miami and Central Florida. He has also stated that Auburn and Tennessee are currently the leaders for his services.

Do a search on the interwebs for his highlights and you can see he has all the physical tools to be a star in college, and possibly in the pros someday.

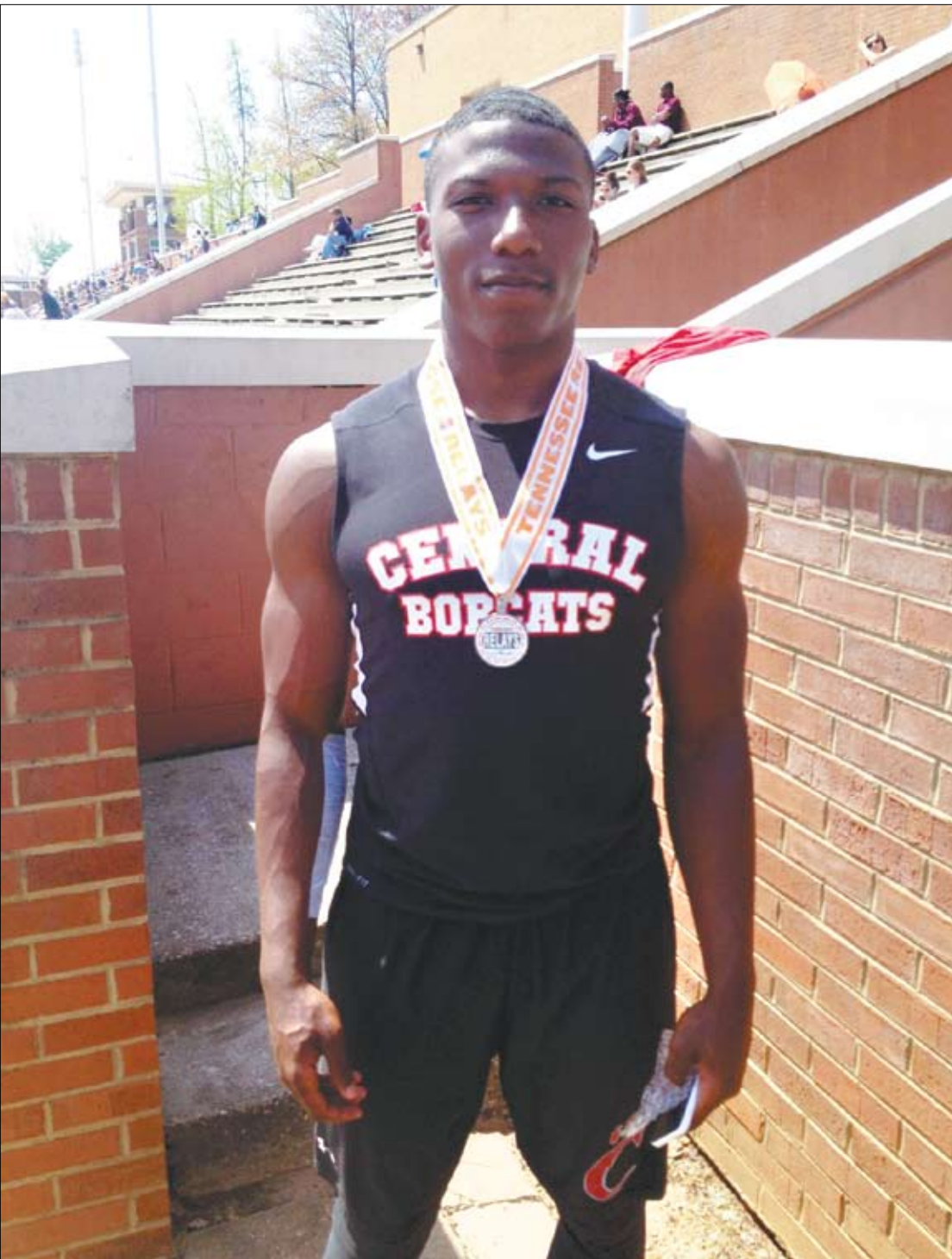
This has caused some fans to lose their collective minds. Gibson writes a blog for USA Today High School Sports, and relayed this message last week.

"Of course there are a lot of fans that want me to go to their school and so I get a lot of messages on Twitter telling me why certain schools are the perfect fit for me. The

Continue on page 2

THE BEST OF TIMES

Speed helped push JaJuan Stinson ahead



JaJuan Stinson, a football and track standout, is Central High's Male Athlete of the Year.

By Steve Williams

JaJuan Stinson used his outstanding speed to achieve success in football and track in 2013-14.

For his accomplishments, he is Central High School's Male Athlete of the Year, according to Athletic Director J.D. Lambert.

The Bobcats' senior running back, who signed with East Tennessee State University, earned All-District 3-AAA first-team honors for the second season in a row last fall and was the district's Specialist of the Year as a kick returner. He was a Player of the Week three times during the season.

In track, the 100-meter dash was Stinson's specialty. He had a first place showing at the Tennessee Sea Ray Relays and was a close second in the annual Knoxville Interscholastic League meet before placing fourth in the 100 at the TSSAA's Class AAA state meet.

"It has been an honor having JaJuan Stinson on our track team this year," said Michael Fox, Central track coach. "Not only is he a great athlete, but a great person as well. I have enjoyed working with him over the last year."

Courtney Styles is Central's Female Athlete of the Year. The softball standout signed with Chattanooga State. She was All-District (2011-14), All-Region (2011) and All-State (2013).

Seniors Hagen Owenby and Shea Coker are Powell High's Male and Female Athletes of the Year, respectively, said Brad Carr, the school's athletic director.

Owenby was the Panthers' quarterback until a knee injury sidelined him late in the season.

Continue on page 2

Pilot Rocky Top League returns to Knoxville

By Ken Lay

The Pilot Rocky Top Basketball League will soon make its return to Knoxville and for the second consecutive summer the league will have a new home as it moves to Catholic High School.

This is the eighth year for the summer basketball league which features University of Tennessee players as well as Volunteer legends

and other area college and high school players.

After spending last summer at Christian Academy of Knoxville, the league moves to Catholic.

"We were going to use Catholic last year but they were redoing their floor," League Commissioner Andre Whitehead said.

"It's a bigger venue [than CAK] and we're excited."

Whitehead has plenty to be excited about this summer as the University

of Tennessee has a new basketball coach in Donnie Tyndall.

"The new [University of Tennessee coaching] staff has been great and I've known Donnie Tyndall for 15 years," Whitehead said. "We'll have some former Vols like Chris Lofton, Bobby Maze, Dane Bradshaw, Cameron Tatum and Skylar McBee. They will all come and play in a few games. You don't

know how many games that they'll be able to play but we'll take them when we can get them."

Whitehead also noted that all current Tennessee players will participate along with most of the incoming freshmen.

The league, which tips off on June 16, unofficially begins with its draft Wednesday night at 6:30 at Doc's All American Grille and Sports Bar.

Action begins Monday with three games.

Knoxville News-Sentinel will take on DeRoyal Industries at 6 p.m.

Campus Lights tangles with Rice Buick GMC at 7:30 and Next Level

will play Choice Spine at 9 p.m. in the finale.

Play continues through July 2 and admission is free.

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Webb named girls basketball coach at Powell

By Ken Lay

Christin Webb is exactly where she wants to be. "I've always pictured myself coaching basketball at Powell High School," said Webb, who was recently named to coach the Lady Panthers basketball team. "I'm really excited but I'm also a little nervous." Webb, who replaces Caitlin Hollifield (now at Christian Academy of Knoxville), is a 2004 Powell High graduate and she played on two State

Tournament teams at Powell.

She's no stranger to the Powell coaching staff. She served as Hollifield's assistant last season after spending two seasons as an assistant at Powell Middle School.

"This has always been a dream of mine but I just didn't think that it would be this soon," Webb said. "Being at home is more comforting. I'm moved with emotions."

"I'm a little nervous but I think I'd be more nervous if

I were somewhere else. I'm looking forward to impacting the girls positively. I want them to be successful as basketball players but I also want to teach life lessons."

While at Powell, she played on a pair of State Tournament teams and she'd like to make it to Murfreesboro as a coach.

"It would be nice to go to the State Tournament," Webb said. "Those were exciting times and going to state was a great experience."

Webb, 28, is married to Kyle Webb, who is also a former Powell basketball player. The couple recently welcomed a daughter (Mabry Kate) into the world.

Away from basketball, Christin and Kyle enjoy playing golf. They are also active in the youth group at Powell Church.

Christin played golf in college. She attended Lincoln Memorial University and graduated from East Tennessee State University.

She's a fifth-grade teacher at Adrian Burnett Elementary School in Halls.

Webb also said that Michael Blair, the longtime and former volleyball coach at Powell, will be her assistant coach. Blair, who served as an assistant to the two previous girls basketball coaches (Hollifield and Clay Young) was previously an assistant volleyball and girls basketball coach at Halls before moving west on Emory Road.

Area lady high school hoopsters hone skills at local camp

By Ken Lay

The temperatures may be in the high 80's but that doesn't mean that area girls high school basketball players are taking it easy.

They spent the early part of last week playing games at Bearden High School's team camp which was hosted by the Lady Bulldogs.

Defending Division II-A State Champion Webb participated along with Jefferson County, Morristown West, Heritage, Bearden, Catholic, William Blount, Elizabethton, Anderson County, South-Doyle, Lenoir City, Farragut and Campbell County and Morristown West participated in the three-day camp that concluded Wednesday at BHS and Cedar Bluff Middle School.

The Lady Spartans closed their stay by playing Class AA State Champion Elizabethton. The Lady Cyclones overcame an early 9-2 deficit to outlast Webb 53-44.

"Right now, it's just the summer and we have veteran players working on their individual skills to make our team get better," Webb coach Shelly Collier said. "It's fun to come here and play."

"The competition is good and we got a chance to play against two [other] state champions in Elizabethton and Morristown

West."

For Bearden coach Justin Underwood it was a chance to see his team play without the pressure of having to win.

"It's been a good week," said Underwood, who led the host Lady Bulldogs to the Class AAA State Tournament in 2013. "It's good any time that you have a couple of state champs."

"This is our camp and this is the first time that we've played this summer. We'll play in a couple of other local camps at Heritage and William Blount and then we'll go play at [Middle Tennessee State University]. We're excited."

The Lady Bulldogs lost three players to graduation. KIL Player of the Year Erin Walsh, Lexus Norwood and Tyler Carter have departed and the trio accounted for the bulk of the team's scoring.

Now, Underwood can get a preview of what to expect from a veteran squad when things tip off in November.

"For the coaches, this is a chance to evaluate and for the girls, it's a chance to run up and down the floor and sweat in a hot gym and they love that," Underwood said. "This is the chance for older players to learn their roles and it's a chance for everybody to expand their roles."

Cherokees win district soccer title, finish second in tourney

By Ken Lay

The South-Doyle Middle School boys soccer team recently completed a stellar season.

The Cherokees, who won their Smoky Mountain Middle School Soccer regular-season District Championship, followed that with a second-place finish in the postseason tournament.

South-Doyle had a 7-1 regular-season district record and finished with an overall 8-2-1 mark.

The Cherokees opened tournament play with a 2-1 victory over Farragut.

"This was the first time that anybody remembers us beating a team like Farragut," South-Doyle coach Eric Keith said. "The thing that stuck out for me was just the way the kids came together."

This was Keith's first season coaching the Cherokees but he was no stranger to the players in the program.

"I coached them in AYSO and I coached them in indoor," he said. "Most of the kids play club soccer for Blount United. I've

coached most of these players for seven years.

"I had some really good kids and they really meshed. Over half of the guys didn't play on the middle school team last year."

In the win over the Admirals, Lawson Jenkins and Aiden Snyder scored South-Doyle's goals.

The Cherokees then dropped a 1-0 decision to eventual tournament champion West Valley. South-Doyle then clinched its second-place finish with a 0-0 draw against Webb.

Cherokees' goalkeeper Ethan Ridge allowed just one goal in three games and the defense was anchored by Bosco Niyonkuru, Manso Kamara, Gage Chester and Freddie Garcia.

Keith also credited his assistant coaches and the team's parents.

"My parents were just awesome and the kids were great. I had two great assistant coaches, David Corbitt and Jason Cox," Keith said.



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Speed helped push JaJuan Stinson ahead

Continued from page 1

He recovered from the injury in time to be one of the Panthers' top pitchers in baseball and help lead Powell to the District 3-AAA championship and its first-ever Region 2-AAA berth.. He also batted No. 2 in the lineup and was used as a designated hitter usually when he wasn't pitching.

Owenby signed to play both

football and baseball at ETSU.

Coker was a Coaches' All-KIL second-team basketball honoree and signed with Lincoln Memorial University.

Golf standout Megan Gaylor was named Halls' Female Athlete of the Year, according to AD Michael Wise. Gaylor, a senior, was an All-District and All-Region performer and a state qualifier.

It's Time For Fans To Stop Being Creepy

Cont. from page 1

craziest message I got was from some guy who said he'd get naked and run around in the street if I committed to his school. I couldn't believe it. I was just thinking I definitely don't want to see that one! But it's cool to have great fans that care about their school that much."

Translation: People are insane.

If you do a search on twitter you'll find football fans sending messages to Gibson imploring him to choose Tennessee... or Auburn... or Ohio State.... (Those three fan bases have the most representation in a completely unscientific look at Gibson's mentions).

This is a teenager trying

to make an important decision as to the spot he'll spend the next few years. And there are full grown adults putting pressure on him... adults that Gibson has never met.

The internet of course has changed all the rules... now we feel like we have a close connection to people when we really don't. I enjoy twitter and Facebook as much as the next person, and have "friends" that I've never been in the same room with...

But I can't imagine taking the time to make a request that an athlete choose my school because I know his twitter handle.

Back in the day people used to find out the phone

numbers and addresses of high school athletes. And they still do, which is equally if not more disturbing. The internet has taken stalking to a completely new level.

If you really want to lose your faith in humanity, wait until Gibson makes his decision known (he says that he will not be committing to a school early).

When that day comes, some of the same people sending him well wishes with a #VFL or #WarEagle hashtag will be sending messages filled with vulgarity and hate.

All because a kid decided he wanted to go to a different school.

Look, I understand the passion of sports fans. I know how badly you want your team to win. Some of my best memories have come when the team I root for wins a championship.

But there's a fine line between supporting your team, and being a crazy person.

Too many fans are on the wrong side of that line these days...

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Versatile Karri Byrd had a ball playing at Gibbs High

By Steve Williams

Karri Byrd could kill it, shoot it and hit it.

She also could dig it, steal it and catch it.

And for four years, she did that and more at Gibbs High School.

Byrd played volleyball, basketball and softball for the Lady Eagles, and is Gibbs' Athlete of the Year for 2013-14, said Jeff Thomas, the school's athletic director.

"It is an honor that I am very proud of and humbled to have been selected," said Byrd last week via e-mail from Guatemala, where she was on a mission trip with her Fairview Baptist Church youth group.

Starting with volleyball in the fall and ending with softball in the spring, with basketball in between, Karri stayed active throughout the school year.

"It was very tiring but I would not change anything," she said.

As a senior in volleyball,

Byrd would start out in the rotation as a middle hitter on the front row and was an "all-around" performer. She was named Gibbs' Offensive Player of the Year and made the All-District 3-AAA team.

In basketball, she also was All-District, was named to the Thanksgiving Classic All-Tournament team and received the Lady Eagle Award.

Byrd was a versatile basketball player, averaged close to 17 points per game, and along with junior teammate Haley Cavalaris, gave Gibbs a 1-2 punch.

Byrd, who was a key player on Gibbs' Class AA state championship softball team as a sophomore in 2012, played both first base and right field as a senior. She batted in the No. 3 spot in the lineup much of the season but hit in the No. 2 hole at the state tourney.

She was among five seniors who helped lead the Lady Eagles to the state finals and a school best 50-6

record in their first season playing in Class AAA.

Individual honors for the season included being named to the District 3-AAA All-Tournament team and to the Commando Classic All-Tournament team.

"I can't pick a favorite sport," said Byrd. "Each group of girls and each team was very different and each competed to be successful."

Favorite memories? "Winning the 2012 softball state tournament and finishing state runner-up this season . . . and the time spent with all of my team members," she answered.

Karri got her start in sports playing with her older sister, Kayla, in boys' T-ball and then basketball.

In 2010, when Kayla was a senior at Gibbs and Karri a freshman, they were teammates on the Lady Eagles' district championship volleyball team. In fact, Karri was "Rookie of the Year" on that squad.

Some of her other athletic honors in high school have included the 2013 Golden Glove Award in softball, the 2012-13 Lady Eagle Award in basketball and the 2012 Defensive Player of the Year and Lady Eagle Awards in volleyball.

Karri had a 3.7 grade point average and was a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. She also received the 2014 Eagle Award - Peer Tutoring Special Needs, the 2014 Army National Scholar/Athlete Award and the 2014 Johnny Mauer Award.

"I plan to attend UTK, majoring in special education and coaching," she said.

On her mission trip to Guatemala, her youth group helped conduct Vacation Bible School, spent time working on a fish farm and installed stoves in some homes that could be used as a heat source as well as cooking.

Justice excelled in wrestling and academics at Halls

By Steve Williams

Tanner Justice lost the lead in the closing seconds of his quarterfinal match in the TSSAA Class AAA state wrestling tournament in February, but a one-point defeat didn't put out the fire in the Halls Red Devil.

Making his fourth and final appearance at the state, the senior was determined to make it to "the podium." Justice, competing in the 106-pound weight class, battled back to win four straight matches in the consolation bracket and take third place.

The three-day state tourney at the Williamson County Expo Center in Franklin was a grueling challenge.

"Tanner's performance at the state surpassed all of my expectations," said Halls Coach Shannon Sayne recently via e-mail. "It's hard to explain how not only physically but mentally exhausting the state tournament is. It lasts three consecutive days and wrestlers must preform at their highest level while making weight each morning throughout the tournament."

"Tanner was able to get the job done this year and had this best-ever performance at the state. I would have put Tanner up against any wrestler at his weight class that weekend."

In addition to placing third at the state, Justice also had a cumulative 4.0 grade point average, said Halls Athletic Director Michael Wise, and is the school's Male Athlete of

the Year for 2013-14.

"I just want to thank God for gifting me with all of this," stated Justice. "I am very honored to receive this award and I just want to thank everyone who assisted me during my journeys that lead to this award."

Justice had a one-point lead over Drake Haney of Walker Valley with only 20 seconds remaining in the quarterfinals, but a two-point "reversal" by his opponent changed the outcome and gave Haney a 5-4 decision.

"I went back out there to wrestle with everything I possibly had and then some to pull out the third place," recalled Justice, who pinned Brian Potter of East Hamilton in 2 minutes, 4 seconds to claim third place and finish the season with a 40-8 record.

On his way to the state, Justice took first place in the Catholic Invitational, third in the Halls Invitational and won the Region 2-AAA tournament.

"Tanner was definitely one of the leaders of our team this year," said Coach Sayne. "We were blessed with a senior class that took the leadership role and ran with it. Tanner was a very vocal leader that lead by example. He knew what his goals were throughout the season and did his best to help others achieve their own goals."

Evan Huling, a junior teammate, also placed third in the state's 113-pound division, helping Halls finish 12th in the team scoring.

Justice said he first tried wrestling in middle school but didn't really like it. Needing something to do when he got to high school, he said his dad "hinted" about trying wrestling again. So he did.

Tanner, who weighed 85 pounds as a freshman, remembers his dad saying, "If anything, it will put some meat on your bones."

"I will never regret the decision. The sport not only has put some meat on my bones like my dad was wishing for, but it has turned me into a young man. It showed me that hard work breeds success. Also, with success I have had to learn humbleness, because without it, success would really be nothing."

Keeping his weight down to compete in the 106-pound division was hard and required making sacrifices and enduring hardships. That included cutting out late night snacks and not getting to fully enjoy Thanksgiving Day feasts or Christmas cooking.

"Yet wrestling in this division was my choice," he pointed out.

The summer prior to his senior year, Justice said he weighed 128 pounds. "Coach Sayne constantly told me to 'Get bigger, add more weight.' However, in the back of my mind, I knew that 106 had my name all over it for the next year."

During the season, "Keeping my weight down was more of a science to me or even a challenge," he said.

The joke around the house close to weigh-in days, said Tanner, was how much heavier than his 15-year-old brother, Tolliver, also a wrestler, was.

Justice didn't participate in any other sports at Halls but was a member of his high school's first robotics team.

"Beginning in January, I would finish wrestling practice at 6ish and run to the other side of the school and work on the robot for the competitions ahead. There were some nights I wouldn't leave the school until 9."

Justice said he was always told he was a "student athlete, and the student portion came first. So, I knew I had to keep my grades up to be on the mat."

He hates to say it, but wrestling is not in his future. Academics still come first.

"I am attending the University of Tennessee, majoring in Nuclear Engineering," he said.

Coach Sayne added that Tanner's 4.0 GPA throughout high school "is probably the most impressive stat on his resume. I am sure his perseverance will help him achieve his goals at UT."

THE BEST OF TIMES

The Knoxville Focus this week recognizes Athletes of the Year from Central, Gibbs, Halls and Powell high schools:

- JaJuan Stinson, Central, (football, track)
- Courtney Styles, Central, (softball)
- Karri Byrd, Gibbs, (volleyball, basketball, softball)
- Tanner Justice, Halls, (wrestling)
- Megan Gaylor, Halls, (golf)
- Hagen Owenby, Powell, (football, baseball)
- Shea Coker, Powell, (basketball)

Athletes of the Year from Austin-East, Carter, Fulton and West will be recognized in 'The Focus' June 16 issue.



Courtney Styles, Central's Female Athlete of the Year, has been an All-State softball player for the Lady Bobcats.



Karri Byrd, Gibbs High's Athlete of the Year, helped lead the Lady Eagles to the TSSAA state softball finals this spring in their first season in Class AAA.



Halls' Tanner Justice gets a hug from his sister, McKenzie, after placing third in the TSSAA state wrestling tournament. McKenzie, a junior, was a team manager for the Red Devils.

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Scouts were recently honored following a dinner at the Knoxville Elks Lodge 160 on May 9. Pictured left to right are: Clifford Stallworth, Eagle Scout; Allen Kidd, Eagle Scout; Charles Rowe, Jr., Eagle Scout; Dexter Dinsmore, Eagle Scout; Noah Keebles, Eagle Scout; Yvonne Mullins, Exalted Leader of B.P.O.E Lodge #160.

Reflections of Summer

It is a time of hayfields and honeysuckles, birds singing, warm breezes blowing, and sunrays beaming down. It is a time for gathering summer crops like home-grown tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, cantalopes, and watermelons. It is a time of Vacation Bible School, summer camps, and cookouts. After a long winter and with spring quickly passing by, it is almost time for summer.



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

as many things begin to die. I am reminded of the often quoted passage in Ecclesiastes 3---"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; . . . a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; . . . a time to rend, and a time to sew; . . ."

Seasons are much like our lives. Spring is a season of new life and growth after lying dormant through the winter. A slower pace in summer gives time for enjoyment and vacations. In fall, we see the end of life

All that we have comes from God--our time, our talents, our health, and the beauty of the seasons. They are all God's gifts for us to use for His glory and to enjoy each day. It is almost summer.



The barn is reflected in the pond with a lone calf standing in the water-- one of my favorite scenes of summer---by Ralphine Major

City offers free Father's Day fishing event June 14

Dads, kids and the whole family will be able to catch a bonding experience at the Father's Day Fishing Event, presented by City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department and the Mast General Store, on Saturday, June 14, in Victor Ashe Park.

The event will run from 4 to 7 p.m. at the park, 4901 Bradshaw Road.

"This has become a family tradition kind of event," said Joe Walsh, Director of Knoxville Parks and Recreation. "We're appreciative of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Mast General Store for making this event possible."

The two-acre lake at Victor Ashe Park is stocked with channel catfish ranging from 2 to 8 pounds that were donated by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, in addition to the existing largemouth bass and bluegill.

The Mast General Store is

partnering with the City of Knoxville by donating prizes to be given away, including a grand prize for the top three largest fish caught by a father/child team. There's also a prize for the first person to catch the albino catfish!

Participants should bring their own bait, tackle, fishing poles and blankets. Fried Green Tomatoes will be on site selling their signature company-titled dish in addition to fried catfish and more.

Fishing licenses are required on site for everyone over the age of 13 who will be fishing. There is a take-home limit of two fish for this event.

No pre-registration is necessary. However, participants can register for door prizes on the day of the event.

For more information, please visit www.cityofknoxville.org/recreation/fathersday or call 311.

Wood from city tree donated for playground improvements

Families once played in the shadow of an oak tree that had graced Lakeshore Park in West Knoxville.

That tree will continue to support family recreation, even after its demise.

The City of Knoxville has donated salvageable pieces of oak wood from the tree to be used in enhancing a playground in the North Ridge Crossing neighborhood.

The ailing tree, in decline for years, was removed earlier this week as a safety measure.

But the tree's sturdy limbs will be used to add natural playscape elements to an existing playground in the North Knoxville neighborhood, including walking logs, an interactive garden and new plants to provide shade. Three- and four-year-olds at the neighborhood's Knoxville-Knox County Head Start preschool program will be enjoying the new elements, beginning in the next few weeks.

Head Start encourages school readiness and overall wellness in low-income families through preschools, family support services, in home-parent training, parent and child socialization groups, free nutritious lunches and other research-based programs.

The North Ridge Crossing playground improvements come after months of

planning by Mary Jane Moran, head of the Partners through Playgrounds research project that's funded by a University of Tennessee Outreach and Engagement Grant in support of university-community partnerships.

With the help of UT and community volunteers, Partners through Playgrounds will study how naturalizing hot, urban playscapes might affect children's activity levels and play styles. Other team members on the project include Drs. Dawn Coe and Robyn Brookshire.

"We're hoping this is going to be the beginning of something - transforming other Head Start playgrounds into natural playscapes that enrich children's play and learning lives - and that it'll keep going and going," Moran said. "The life of that tree is going to continue in the lives of these children. And that's just the truth."

Kasey Krouse, the City's Urban Forester, said the 150-year-old tree was removed after a tree-risk assessment showed it was in continuing decline and, if left in place, would pose a significant safety risk.

"We had to cut it down because it was an elevated risk for the city, but fortunately, we're able to donate parts of it to a good cause," Krouse said.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Consanguinity

"What kind of dog is that?" asked Mrs. S as I greeted her at my front door. She was seeing me for a concierge medical visit and was obviously puzzled by my dog, Jack. I explained to her that Jack is a Mountain Feist, but he is actually a "rescue."

In my previous life and practice I had a patient who bred feists as squirrel hunting dogs. My nurse of many years holds a tender spot for all creatures and agrees with George Orwell's pigs in "Animal Farm" who maintained, "Four legs good, two legs...[not so good]." As LuAnn checked the breeder's blood pressure she learned of a runt in the new litter of pups, and it "wasn't going to make it." LuAnn was horrified to discover that breeder's often cull undesirables. The runt needed another option, and so he became

our Jack.

Jack's genes are evident when a squirrel enters our yard because he goes ballistic and promptly trees the bushy-tailed rodent who dared challenge his range. Jack is also quick to greet anyone who comes to our farm, though he loses interest quickly unless you have a bushy tail. I've told Becky that our adopted "child" would make a wonderful greeter at Walmart.

As I was relating Jack's story, Mrs. S was patting his head, but then inquired about Jack's pronounced under-bite. And that's where this week's essay began. I told her that Jack also goes by the name, "Uncle Jack" because his father is also his brother! I've learned that breeders frequently violate the laws of consanguinity. This is a term describing blood relatives or descendents.

In the Middle Ages it was recognized that children of close relatives can produce genius, but more often idiocy. The prohibition of marrying closer than a fourth cousin derives from these observations, and subsequently became English Common Law. I haven't discussed the taboos of consanguinity with Jack.

Human's are inquisitive creatures. In fact, this inquisitive nature may have induced us to explore our environment and perhaps stimulated the development of reason. There is something about us that makes us want to know, "Why?" My wife, Becky loves mystery stories; I do not, but I am intrigued by the "why" of things. However, I've observed an inherent danger in explanations. People and doctors sometimes blindly accept explanations and stop inquiring and thinking.

The recent murderous rampage in Santa Barbara again raises the question, "Why?" Mental illness is a quick answer, but I believe it's far more complicated. As a parent I empathized with the murderer's parents who apparently tried to help their dysfunctional son who was said to have "high functioning Asperger's Syndrome." Was

mental illness the cause or just our collective need to explain why he chose to kill others and then himself?

A scientific paper on autism spectrum disorders (ADS) in the May 2014 JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) seems timely. These disorders are defined by impaired social interaction and communication as well as restricted interests and repetitive behaviors (Hollander, Textbook of Autism Spectrum Disorders). Apparently, ASD affects 1-2% of children in the general population, and includes Asperger's Syndrome, considered by the American Psychiatric Association to be a mild form of ASD. I read some years ago that there was speculation of Bill Gates being someone with "high functioning Asperger's Syndrome."

What is normal behavior? This is not a rhetorical question. How long does it take you to realize something or someone is not right? If you trust your instincts I'll bet it doesn't take long to conclude someone is dysfunctional. When I was a boy we had a beautiful white Persian cat who my mother euphemistically named Marilyn after Marilyn Monroe. Neither of these Marylins was "right."

The beautiful cat would sit in a mud puddle and birds would flock to our yard to swoop at poor Marilyn until she escaped their torment by huddling under a bush. The cat's namesake killed herself.

Discernment is a part of human nature, but what if we override our common sense? We accept a wide variation of "normal," and that's good. I've often quipped, "It's good to be a mongrel." How tragic it would be if we were all bred to tree squirrels or judged by Aryan standards. Our problem is that political correctness and the attempt to mandate equality has run amok. It now trumps common sense, and has begun to endanger us all. What if political correctness prevents us from saying someone is dangerous to himself and others? We once had institutions where impaired people were sheltered and treated. Now these folks are on the street talking to themselves, selling their bodies for drugs, and preying upon each other. Now, we strip-search granny at the airport, and set terrorists free. It's not the guns or knives that are dangerous. Pogo said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

Science can help us find our way if we don't close

our minds to reason tempered by compassion and pragmatism. We can't legislate morality, but we can muster the courage to speak the truth in love and act accordingly.

The JAMA article also reiterates that medical conditions in our kinfolk matter. The researchers found that the risk of ASD was 10-fold higher in siblings of ASD patients. And though the risk of ASD lessened as "genetic relatedness declined," there persisted a 2-fold increased risk in cousins of ASD patients.

Clint Eastwood once starred in a movie called The Good The Bad and The Ugly. Perhaps the same relates to our genetic inheritance. However, you should realize that while you may inherit a predilection for a problem, disease is not an inevitability. Science can aid us by identifying potential problems and reducing disease through focused screening and preventive therapies.

So pay attention to your family's medical history and your own health risks. Don't surrender common sense to political correctness. And don't marry your cousin, or your kids may look like Uncle Jack.

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

Triple Crown Challenge for kids to begin June 21

Crown Cleaners is excited to announce a new triathlon series for kids of East Tennessee, just in time to beat summer boredom.

The Kids Triple Crown Challenge will be composed of three events: the Salamander Splash & Dash on June 21 at Knoxville's Westside YMCA, the Sharks & Seals Kids Tri on July 19 at Springbrook Pool in Alcoa and the Dragonfly Kids Tri on August 16 at the Knoxville Racquet Club. The schedule is the same for each event. Late registration and check-in will start at 7 a.m. Kids between seven and ten years old will begin racing

at 8:30 a.m., while kids between the ages of 11 and 15 will begin racing at 9 a.m. Awards will be at 10 a.m. Registration is \$60 through June 7. After that date, registration will be \$70.

Don Holecek, owner of Crown Cleaners, is a former triathlete. He said the sport is perfect for kids of all abilities. They don't have to be strong at all three components - swimming, biking and running - in order to do well because each is just one part of the overall race.

"So if you are not a good swimmer, the race is not terribly long in terms of the swim portion. You might do

better on the bike or you might do better in a run," Holecek added.

In addition, because the Kids Triple Crown Challenge allows relay teams to register, kids can make it work for what they're interested in and for their athletic ability. Competing as a team isn't unusual; Holecek and his children have competed in triathlons as a relay team.

Series participants will receive a 22-ounce water bottle and a t-shirt with the series logo. At each event, racers also will receive race shirts and finisher medals.

"We're trying to create a little bit of specialness,

kind of like a badge of honor," Holecek said.

In addition, registrants will receive free entry to the 2014 Race Day Events Kids Triathlon Clinic on Saturday, June 7 at the Knoxville Racquet Club. At the clinic, various youth triathlon drills and skills will be covered from 9 to 10:15 a.m. Proper bike racking technique also will be covered, but a bicycle will not be required. Swim and running gear will be required for the clinic.

For more information or to register for the Kids Triple Crown Challenge, visit race-dayevents.net/events.



Don and Janie Holecek

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Church Happenings

Glenwood Baptist Church of God

Glenwood Baptist Church of Powell, 7212 Central Ave. Pike, is accepting appointments for the John 5 Food Pantry. Phone 938-2611 or leave a message. We will return your call.

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 overlooking 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 Holston Annual Conference is now in session at the Lake Junaluska, NC, Retreat Center. Conference goes on each morning, afternoon and evening until conclusion around noon on Wednesday, June 11th. Keep the conference and participants in your thoughts and prayers during this important decision making process.

Conference schedule/agenda is on-line at www.ac.holston.org.

The weekly fellowship meals on Wednesdays have been discontinued throughout the summer months. Watch for notice of when the Wednesday fellowship meals will restart sometime in August.

During the summer months of June and July, all the children's and youth choirs and handbell groups take a break from their busy schedules. Watch for notices of re-start.

The Praise Team rehearses each Wednesday evening at 7:45 p.m., and this will continue weekly.

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

My daughter Lacey and her family moved this week. After a few years in a wonderful little house in Bellevue, just outside Nashville, they bought a house in Hendersonville. It offers much more space so that they don't trip over each other or struggle to find space to put things.

It also has a second master bedroom, something that they might regret having if grandparents visit too frequently.

Amy and I have played doting grandparents this week as Madden came to visit so that his parents could move all their worldly belongings. The boy returns home on Wednesday and will have plenty of fun loading his new room with his "stuff." It's during these few days that Madden has visited that I've realized some things.

First, a six-year-old boy has more energy than I do. Madden woke up every morning ready to "do something." He came to our bedroom to wake us. After we dragged our weary bodies out of the bed, he announced that he was bored. Over the course of the week, he rarely tuckered out, and when a lull occurred, it was soon followed by a request for one of us to play with him.

A young boy has an imagination



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

with no limits. At one time or another, Madden was a dragon, a shark, the boy from "The Jungle Book," and a character running from a monster (me). In-depth story lines came with each character, and rules of games played changed as Madden's need to be the winner intensified. I marveled at his ability to come up with plots for games and what each of us would do.

I'm reminded that children will stay in a pool all day long. Madden wasted no time; he jumped out of the car, changed into his swim suit, and got into the pool. After three days of water, he began to complain that his neck hurt. It was the result of getting too much sun that slightly reddened the area. Only begrudgingly did he retreat to the house.

Inside, the boy took command of the television. My "Judge Judy" viewing ended for the duration of Madden's stay. Instead of our favorite programs, our grandson viewed such things as "Ninja Turtles." What most amazed me was how he could watch the same episodes over and over. He sat in front of the viewing of "The Jungle Book" no fewer than half a dozen times.

Not all was blue skies and smiles. Like all little ones, sometimes Madden bowed his back and

pouted over things we asked of him. He wrinkled his brow, ducked his head, and turned from us. I never liked that when my children did such things, but I learned that with a little time, Madden would be fine. He quickly forgot what upset him and returned to being happy.

Madden woke us up each morning in a special way. His little feet slapped the floor in the hallway, and then he would enter our bedroom. He'd stand still and wait for us to look at him and speak. Then he'd say "good morning" with an angelic voice and crawl into our bed for just a few minutes of snuggle time. That brought back wonderful memories of two little ones who are now adults with active lives.

On Wednesday, Madden left Knoxville to find a new house and bedroom and neighborhood waiting for him. His parents will need some time to recover from moving their stuff, but before long, they'll all be settled in and enjoying the extra space. Back in Knoxville, Amy and I are going to sleep in a couple of days to recover from the expenditure of energy. The house will be a little too quiet for a while. All in all, having Madden at our home brought back some of the magic that comes with children. It also left me missing those early years with Lacey and Dallas.

Come worship with us

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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
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Rosie's World

My grandchildren and great-grandchildren call me Nana. I called my grandmother Nana. It runs on the family. My Nana had a

Words from Nana

lot of sayings, some of them made up, I think, and lot that are true today. Here are some of them:

This one was her favorite and still popular today: "Don't leave the house with dirty or torn underwear on. What if you are in an accident? How embarrassing!"

She had strong ideas about what's going on in the world. If there are a lot of boys born in any given year, there will be a war in about eighteen years. When the Democrats are ruling Congress, there will be a war. Republicans in Congress meant peace. Also she

was positive "it always rains on Election Day".

This is a true saying: don't use the scissors or needle in a thunderstorm. We lived in a second-floor apartment and whenever it started to storm we would huddle on the stairway in the hall, hoping the lightning wouldn't strike there.

She had prominent ideas about beauty: It is only skin deep. Pretty is as pretty does. Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

My personal favorite is, don't wear white from Labor Day till after Memorial Day. She also hammered into me, a

person is known by the company he keeps. And an apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Last, but not least, she always admonished me that anyone who will gossip to you will gossip about you.

I have a feeling that young people today don't know any of these sayings, which is sad. I think, they don't seem to belong in this technical age but wouldn't it be great if they would live by them instead of the nonsensical axioms they hear today. Dream on!

Thought for the day: Laughter is a tranquilizer with no side effects.

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Ossoli Circle installed new officers on May 12, 2014. The officers in photo are left to right as follows: Janet Oaks, past president and yearbook honoree, Nancy Carmon, 1st Vice President/Elect, Charlotte Miller, President, 2014-2015 and Roberta Pedigo, Past President.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fountain City/North Knox Republican Club Meeting

The Fountain City/North Knox Republicans will meet this Tuesday, June 10 at 6 p.m. for Dinner and Fellowship, with the meeting following at 7 p.m.

This month's speakers are Sherry Witt, Scott Green, Bill All, Ed Shouse and Clarence Pridmore.

Halls Republican Club

The Halls Republican Club will meet on Monday, June 16, with fellowship and snacks at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. The meeting will be at the Boys & Girls Club of Halls/Powell located at 1819 Dry Gap Pike. Foster Arnett, Knox County Clerk, will speak.

Heiskell Community Center

The Heiskell Community Centers' Seniors Program will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2014 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Center is located at 9420 Heiskell Road in Heiskell, TN. Our speaker this month will be Author Bonnie Peters who

will be speaking about her book which tells the history of Union County. For those of those that have signed up for the July bus trip, please bring your money for payment of the trip. Lunch at noon, bingo at 1 p.m. No charge for meeting or lunch, donations appreciated. Bring a dessert and a friend. For more information call Janice White at 548-0326.

United Daughters of the Confederacy Meeting

The Captain W. Y. C. Hannum Chapter #1881, United Daughters of the Confederacy will meet at the Green Meadow Country Club in Alcoa on Saturday, June 21. Social time will be from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 10:30 a.m. Brunch will be served at 10:35. Cost for the Brunch is \$14.00. For reservations or more information, please contact Charlotte Miller, (865)448-6716.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

TRUCK WILL BE SOLD @ WILKERSON DIESEL & TIRE LOCATED @ 3742 HWY 82 WEST LELAND MS 38756. UNIT WILL BE SOLD FOR TOWING, RECOVERY, AND STORAGE FEES. SALE WILL BE ON 06/23/2014 AT 5:01 PM. IF YOU ARE THE OWNER OR HAVE A CLAIM AGAINST THIS TRUCK, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 662-334-7716. INTERNATIONAL TRUCK 9200 I VIN 2HSCEAXKC92047582

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- ¼ teaspoon almond extract
- 1 pastry shell (9 inches) baked
- ¼ cup chopped walnuts

In a saucepan, heat pie filling on low. Meanwhile, In a mixing bowl, beat egg whites on medium speed until foamy. Add cream of tartar; beat until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, on high until glossy peaks form.

Remove pie filling from heat; stir in extract. Pour into pastry shell. Spread meringue over hot filling, sealing edges to crust, sprinkle with walnuts. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until meringue is golden. Cool on a wire rack for 1 hour. Chill before serving. Refrigerate leftovers. Yield: 6-8 servings.

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