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PHOTOS BY MIKE STEELY.

Above, the Gibbs High School's Junior ROTC presented the colors at the Clapp's Chapel Memorial Day Ceremonies. Below, A salute was fired by Civil War reenactors during the Clapp's Chapel Memorial Day Celebration last Monday.

## Knox County Schools' Non-renewal Problem

By Sally Absher  
sallyabsher@knoxfocus.com

When the legislature passed a bill in 2011 making it more difficult for Tennessee teachers to get tenure, many people thought this was a good thing. After all, the previous year, Davis Guggenheim's pseudo-documentary "Waiting for Superman" popularized the false statement that "Tenure is automatic, and it means a job for life," leading to an all-out assault on tenure by state legislatures across the country.

The bill, pushed by Governor Haslam, requires teachers to work five years, instead of three, to achieve tenure. It also created an evaluation procedure that can lead

to revoking tenure based on poor job performance, and many teachers who will never attain tenure in spite of "Rock Solid 3s" on their evaluations. In reality, KCEA President-elect Lauren Hopson told the Rude Awakening radio show last week, all tenure means is due process rights. "That means, if you are going to fire a teacher, you have to have cause, you have to be able to prove it, the teacher is allowed a hearing, and the opportunity for representation."

Last week, the news that a number of highly regarded (at least by parents and students) KCS teachers had been "non-renewed" spread quickly

**Continue on page 4**

## Corryton honors veterans

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

There were numerous ceremonies held over the Memorial Day weekend but few had the feeling of a community drawing together to honor their local veterans as did the event last Monday afternoon at Clapp's Chapel United Methodist Church in Corryton.

Knox County Commissioner Dave Wright, who is a member of the church there, served as master of ceremonies for the outdoor event. Local residents assembled behind the church and in front of the church cemetery as Wright spoke. The Gibbs High School Army ROTC and a group of Civil War reenactors honored the flag and later the reenactors presented a gun salute from



**Continue on page 2**

## Grant questioned, MPC chair criticized

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A consent agenda item to accept a \$40,000 grant at the Knox County Commission Tuesday became a disagreement and sparked discussion between some commissioners, the county law director, and School Superintendent James McIntyre.

Commissioner Charles Busler commented on the commission approving a sub-grant agreement with Achieve, Inc. to support work to complete

a student assessment inventory by August 30. No local matching money is required but Busler questioned how the grant money approval came to the commission. Chairman Brad Anders said the resolution was to clear up some confusion over receiving the money.

The grant money was apparently received by McIntyre, who told the commission that a ruling from a previous county law director said

**Continue on page 4**

## Veterans' Home parking lot dedicated

Recently, Knox County Engineering crews completed work on a new addition to the parking lot at the Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home. Before the addition was constructed, visitors and staff often had to park on the facility's lawn because all of the paved spots were taken.

Tennessee Commissioner of Veterans Services Many-Bears Grinder, Assistant Tennessee Commissioner of Veterans Services Lorenza Wills, Tennessee State Veterans' Homes Executive Director Ed Harries and

Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home Administrator Doug Ottinger joined Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett in a brief dedication event and site visit at the facility last Thursday.

"With a number of elderly friends and relatives visiting veterans living in the Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home, it's important to have a safe place for them to park and walk into the building," said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. "I am happy that Knox County was able to get this work done for those served by this facility."



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Local and state officials cut the ribbon at the Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home parking lot dedication last week.

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# Focus on the Law

## Contempt of Court

Courts operate with authority over the property of parties to a lawsuit and in some cases with authority over the person of the parties. The court can require that a person perform specific acts or refrain from taking specific actions. Without the

power to enforce obedience to orders of the court, such orders would become ineffectual and the court system could not properly dispense justice to the parties before it. If a court makes a decision and orders that something be done, the violation of this order is called a contempt. "The power to punish for contempt is inherent in the courts of justice." Thigpen v. Thigpen, 874 S.W.2d 51 (Tenn.



By Sharon Frankenberg,  
Attorney at Law

Ct. App. 1993).

The Tennessee statute found at T.C.A. Section 29-9-102 defines and limits the scope of court power to issue attachments and inflict punishments for contempt of court to the following cases:

(1) The willful misbehavior of any person in the presence of the court, or so near thereto as to obstruct the administration of justice;

(2) The willful misbehavior of any of the officer of such courts, in their official transactions;

(3) The willful disobedience or resistance of any officer of such courts, party, juror, witness, or any other person, to any lawful writ, process, order, rule or decree, or

command of such courts;

(4) Abuse of, or unlawful interference with, the process or proceedings of the court;

(5) Willfully conversing with jurors in relation to the merits of the cause in the trial of which they are engaged, or otherwise tampering with them; or

(6) Any other act of omission declared contempt by law.

If any of these contempts occur in the presence of the court, the court may verbally order that the offending party be arrested by the bailiff without process or notice and the offending party may be held without bail. The judge may proceed at once to fine, or imprisonment, or both the offending party. This type of contempt is a criminal contempt because it is to preserve the power and vindicate the

dignity of the court. A contempt action is generally considered a civil contempt when the purpose is wholly remedial, serves only the purposes of the complainant and is not intended as a deterrent to offenses against the public.

Where the contempt occurs outside the presence of the court, the party complaining of the contempt must file a motion describing what order of the court has been violated, who allegedly violated the order and the circumstances of how the violation occurred. The party accused of contempt must be served with notice of a hearing. If the party does not appear or respond, the court may take action against him or her and enter a civil contempt order by default. The court may order the violator's body be attached and he or she

be arrested. If the contempt is for failing to perform some required act (such as the payment of alimony) which is within the power of the person to perform, the court may order that person jailed until he or she performs it.

You should consult an attorney if you need assistance with a particular situation. Sharon Frankenberg is an experienced civil attorney licensed in Tennessee since 1988. She is a sole practitioner who handles foreclosure, evictions, probate, collections and general litigation. She represents Social Security claimants and represents creditors in bankruptcy proceedings. Her office is in Knoxville and she may be reached at (865)539-2100.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Clayton Sharp, a 93-year-old veteran, took part in the reading of the names of the veterans buried at the Clapp's Chapel Cemetery. Dean Sharp stands with him at the podium.

## Corryton honors veterans

Cont. from page 1

the cemetery grounds.

The reenactors, dressed in Confederate uniforms, were Ryan McKenzie, Sam Miller, John Hitt, Stewart Ulseth and Ed Bardill.

The Clapp's Chapel Choir performed as the audience stood for the flag and then held a moment of silence in honor of fallen veterans.

Wright was followed by local people who read poems and letters from veterans. The participants included Gin Legg, Will Boggs, Ed Bardill, Ben Greenwell, Susan Hargis and Ceabe Davis.

Other citizens then read the names of the veterans buried in the church cemetery. The readers were Opie Legg, Donna Boggs, Angie Sharp, Dean Sharp, Dave Wright and Clayton Sharp. Sharp is a 93-year-old Air Force veteran with service in Australia and New Guinea. After each name, term of service and branch

of service was read, a chime sounded. The names read stretch back to the War of 1812 and include just about every war since then. Veterans buried in the cemetery include soldiers of both the North and South.

Pastor Bill Akers led the closing prayer and everyone was invited into the fellowship hall to have refreshments, view the large display of military items and photos of local veterans who served, and to socialize.

Wright told *The Focus* about the history his family has with the church and said that the late Richard E. Wright, a distant relative, began the annual memorial event in 2007. Although Wright, a former U. S. Navy Chief Petty Officer, has passed away the church and the community continue to honor all veterans and, next year, they plan a 10th Anniversary.

## Kerns Bakery, Bijou and others get city funding

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Kerns Bakery Building at 2110 Chapman Highway is one of the recipients of city funds to help restore and upkeep historic properties. The Kerns building will get \$200,000 for renovation and redevelopment for mixed use.

The Kerns site was purchased in March by a group of developers and businesses headed by David Dewhirst for \$650,000 with plans to renovate the interior for offices, retail space and an entertainment business.

The Historic Preservation Fund was created by Mayor Madeline Rogero with a commitment of \$500,000 in the current 2014-2015 budget and another \$500,000 for next year. The selection of applications came after evaluating twenty-four requests. Eight sites were selected.

Also selected for funding include: the Alfred Buffat Homestead, located at 1717 Love Creek Road, gets \$21,529 for foundation and structural repair; The Bijou Theater, at 803 Gay Street, receives \$49,475 for roof renovation; the Branson House, at 1423 Branson Avenue, gets \$24,198 for a new dormer and windows above the front porch; Historic Westwood, at 3425 Kingston Pike, with \$12,000 going for a second phase of window replacement, McMillan Flats, at 507 North Central Street, gets \$150,000 for renovation of row houses returning to single family homes; and Park City Church, at 2204 Linden Avenue, gets \$23,900 for roof and gutter replacement.

The funding also goes to the Planning Commission's Historic Resource Inventory, which receives \$124,000 for an inventory update of historic buildings in the city.

## Dollar General gets smaller parking lot

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A Dollar General Store proposed for 3130 Circle Oaks Drive received approval for smaller parking spaces and a smaller parking lot during Wednesday's Knox County Board of Zoning and Appeals meeting. JMB Investments, LLC asked and received permission to downsize parking spaces from 200 square feet to 171 square feet or 9 by 19 feet and to reduce the number of spaces from 73 to 30.

Board member Carson Dailey commented that he lives down the road from the proposed store location and that Dollar General has always done a great job at presenting proposals. Corporate representatives attended a local meeting recently and are working with the neighborhood requests.

The store will be located near the Governor John Sevier Highway and Maryville Pike.

The setback of a proposed 1600-square-foot house received permission, in a 5-2 vote, to be decreased from 20 to 15 feet. The shape of the lot in

question, located at 7228 Thornbrook Lane off West Beaver Creek Drive, is triangular and two members felt the lot and setback should have been considered when the subdivision there was designed.

Board members Kevin Murphy and Cynthia Stancil voted NO.

Elvin and Eileen Carr received permission for a sunroom to enclose part of their deck at 1857 Stone Harbor, near Northshore Drive.

Marsha Cunningham was granted a variance on front setback from 40 to 10 feet for construction of a home on Hodges Ferry Road on a 4.9-acre tract of land. The applicant shares a common easement with neighbors and has their permission. The hardship was power lines in the rear of the property.

A request for a variance for a self-storage facility at 6829 Tice Lane, from 2 acres to 1.3 acres was postponed for 60 days on a request from Brackfield and Associates attorney Arthur Seymour, Jr. He said the property may be up for sale.

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# Troubling TCAPS



By Sally Absher  
sallyabsher@knoxfocus.com

News outlets across the state have been mute about this year's TCAPS results, but the blogosphere and social media have been on fire.

First, some definitions: a **Quick Score** is a temporary score delivered after the tests have been administered, to give students and teachers a score that can be used for final grades. A **Cut Score** is a cut-off point – the points on a line or bell curve of test results dividing results into “advanced,” “proficient,” etc.

**Equating** test scores takes one test score and makes it comparable to another score. Additional factors are taken into consideration, such as the difficulty of each test, the number of questions, the kinds of questions, and other factors, to determine what a score on one of these tests would “equate” to on another test. Scores

can be equated before students are tested (**pre-equating**) or after the test is given (**post-equating**).

Last year, the TCAP post-equating process caused delays resulting in the quick scores not being received by the district in time to be included in students' final grades.

Apparently the TN DOE got that pesky post-equating problem resolved, because the quick scores were received on time this year. And at first glance, the scores are fantastic! Which is worrisome.

Momma Bear's blog reported, “Teachers are skeptical that students improved so dramatically. People are wondering if the scores were inflated to make parents happy, and worry the artificially inflated scores will penalize them in their evaluations in future years using the secret mathematical

TVAAS formula that tells if a teacher is good or bad using test scores.”

This initial euphoria was quickly extinguished when the index cut score information came out last week. You see, our kids did so awesome that the state had to raise the bar. In 2014, students who scored 85 or above were determined to be “proficient,” but this year, the necessary quick score for “proficient” ranged from 89 to 91.

The TN DOE uses post-equated scores, which means that after the tests are given, they can set the cut scores wherever they want. In other words, even though the quick scores show that most students mastered the material, the TN DOE can go back and make adjustments to get the proficiency results they want.

Additionally, the state changed its methodology for calculating quick scores for students in grades 3-8. It is now using the cubed-root method the state has been

using for high school EOCs. This change in methodology resulted in apparent grade inflation, leading parents and educators to believe students had performed better than in previous years, and resulted in a 4 to 6-point increase in cut scores from 2014.

Blogger Thomas Weber (Dad Gone Wild) wrote, “Clearly, this isn't like Ms. Johnson's 5th grade class where there were 50 questions and each one you got right earned you two points, and if you got between 80 and 90 points you got a “B,” 90 to 100 an “A,” and so on. Under the state scenario, a student receives a score, for example, 87, and whatever number the cut score is set at determines whether the student is proficient or advanced. If the cut score is set at 88, the child would be considered basic. If the cut score is 86, they are proficient.”

But standardized tests are inherently flawed. Jersey Jazzman, an education researcher and blogger,

explains that both the standards and the tests are created to yield “normal” or bell curve distributions.

When the bell curve is applied to the test results, some students will fall to the exceptional end of the scale and some students will fall to the other side, but the majority will fall in the middle. Weber explains, “While we are demanding that students do exceptional work, we are utilizing a measurement system that guarantees the majority of them will do average work. Because if too many of them do exceptional work, we'll just make the test harder so that the majority fall back in the middle.”

He continues, “In Tennessee, we have the Achievement School District, which has the mission of taking the bottom 5% of schools up to the top 25% while ignoring the fact that there will always be a bottom 5%. The use of a bell curve goes one step further and insures there will always be

below average schools and teachers. Or, as the reform movement likes to label them, failing schools and failing teachers. How many parents and community members are aware of this, and how many take the results at face value?”

And, Weber points out that students are not alone in being held to a higher standard in a system that only allows for a few “above average” students. He says, “Countless articles have been written about the need to have a great teacher in front of every class, yet each of those teachers will only be allowed to produce average outcomes. Because again, if all those teachers produced great outcomes, we'd have to redo the test to make sure those outcomes were average.”

Are you starting to understand why students and parents across the country are refusing to be part of this ruse, by refusing the test? When will you join them?

## THE CHALK BOARD

### Bits of News About Local Education

By Sally Absher  
sallyabsher@knoxfocus.com

This week, the KCS administration is working overtime – with meetings scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (June 1-4). The agendas for these meetings can be found here: <http://knoxschools.org/Page/2110>.

#### JUNE 1

#### Knox County Schools BOE Work Meeting

The Board of Education will convene for their June work session on Monday, June 1 at 5 pm in the First Floor Board Room of the Andrew Johnson Building located at 912 South Gay Street.

Interested persons may sign up to speak by contacting the Board Executive Assistant at 594-1630 or by arriving at the meeting five minutes early to sign up.

Board Policy BCBI states that at non-voting (i.e., work and mid-month) meetings public comments on agenda items will be heard during Public Forum.

Individuals not addressing an item on the agenda will be recognized and allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes as a part of the Public Forum at the end of the Board meeting.

#### JUNE 2

#### Community Meeting on Student Assessment

The Knox County Schools' Student Assessment Inventory Committee will host a community meeting on Tuesday, June 2, at 6 p.m. at West High School (3300 Sutherland Avenue) to gather input from the community regarding student assessments. The meeting is open to educators, students, parents and members of the community.

The community meeting is part of a comprehensive student assessment analysis the school system is conducting, funded by a grant provided by Achieve, Inc. Broad Resident Christy Hendler is directing this effort.

Ultimately, the goal of the

analysis is to “help ensure that all assessments given to students in the Knox County Schools are either required or useful in informing instructional decisions.”

(It should be noted that last year's Teacher Advisory Council completed a similar exercise in which teachers wrote down every single assessment given in all the grades across the system, and then crossed out the ones that were of little to no value to teachers and students. Which was most of them).

The June 2nd community meeting will begin with a brief overview, followed by “break-out” sessions where participants can discuss their questions and concerns related to student assessment.

After the break-out sessions, the small groups will summarize their discussions for the broader group. The large group sessions will stream live on [knoxschools.org/kcstv](http://knoxschools.org/kcstv) and can be viewed live on Comcast cable channel 10 or AT&T U-verse channel 99.

(But it's really better to be there

in person. The administration needs to hear from parents who are concerned about the over-emphasis on standardized tests, including the huge amount of instructional time lost each year to test prep, test practice, and actually taking the test).

#### JUNE 3

#### Knox County Schools BOE Regular Meeting

The Board of Education will convene for their June regular session on Monday, June 1 at 5 pm in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building located at 400 Main Avenue.

Interested persons may sign up to speak by contacting the Board Executive Assistant at 594-1630 or by arriving at the meeting five minutes early to sign up.

Board Policy BCBI states that at voting meetings individuals will be granted up to five minutes to speak when their topic of interest is addressed on the agenda. Note that all public forum speakers should address items on the

agenda. (The agenda can be found here:

#### JUNE 4

#### Joint Education Committee Meeting

The Joint Education Committee, including members of the School Board and the County Commission, will meet on Thursday, June 4 at 4:30 p.m. in the board room located on the first floor of the Andrew Johnson Building.

*If you can't attend the meetings, email the BOE and Superintendent with your thoughts on transparency, treatment of teachers, testing, and any other concerns about public education:*

- [amber.rountree@knoxschools.org](mailto:amber.rountree@knoxschools.org),
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the exception of Heated tile floors in the bathrooms, (tile in kitchen isn't heated) and solid wood trim and doors! All bedrooms on the main level with a finished basement! The finished basement has a gameroom and the house is wired for portable generator. The 20x40 gunitite inground pool is ready for use!! The backyard has 1250ft. of decking and an outdoor shower to help you enjoy the yard and pool. There is a detached apartment as well! The apartment is an additional 576 sq.ft. and it is handicap accessible. Great for an elderly parent, college person or Man Cave!! 6 car garage MUST SEE!! MLS 920776 \$249,900

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# History of Johnson University to be discussed

SEYMOUR – More than 120 years ago, Ashley Johnson, a teacher, evangelist and author, founded the School of Evangelists. In 1909, the school was renamed Johnson Bible College. Recently, its name changed again to Johnson University.

Dr. Thomas “Tommy” Smith, the university’s vice president for academic affairs, will explain the history and growth of the South Knoxville school at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 16 at Seymour Public Library. He will illustrate his talk with historic photos.

Johnson’s vision in his own words was that the school should be “open day and night to the poor young man who desires above every other desire, to preach the Gospel of Christ.” Founded in 1893, the present Johnson University retains its rural South Knoxville campus, a campus in Florida and offers courses on-line. It has kept its focus on producing Christian community leaders while keeping tuition costs low.

Dr. Smith has seen many changes first-hand. “I just finished my 26th year working there,” he said. He was a history professor before taking on his present position. The deans of eight academic schools within the university all report to him. “I’m the guy who gets blamed for everything,” he joked.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johnson Bible College and a Master’s from Emmanuel Christian Seminary in Johnson City, Tenn., Dr. Smith obtained a Ph. D. from the University of Tennessee. He taught at UT for four years before moving full-time to Johnson Bible College in 1991.

Dr. Smith’s talk is sponsored by Friends of Seymour Library as part of its “How We Live: Then and Now” series of programs that explore the people and culture of East Tennessee. The library is at 137 West Macon Lane in Seymour. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. For more information, call the library at 865-573-0728.



Mrs. Ashley Johnson, wife of Johnson University’s founder, in front of the main building in South Knoxville in 1926. At that time it was called Johnson Bible College.

## Grant questioned, MPC chair criticized

**Cont. from page 1**

a superintendent could accept grant money if it was less than \$50,000. Current law director Richard (Bud) Armstrong told the meeting the school board needed to rectify a mistake and advised the commission to “pass this on to help the school board deal with the issues they have.”

Armstrong said that there’s no record of a former law director ever reviewing the acceptance of a grant by the superintendent and said the only legal opinion that matters is the current one.

“I’m not going to discuss it anymore,” he said.

McIntyre described Achieve, Inc. as a “very reputable company.” Commissioner Mike Brown asked if the school system couldn’t conduct an assessment inventory without outside funds and McIntyre said they do each year but the grant will help go more in depth.

Given the item was on the consent list Commissioner

Sam McKenzie questioned if it should even be discussed.

“The school board is cleaning it up, this isn’t something sinister,” he said, and asked his fellow commissioners to “tone it down.”

The resolution passed, on consent, without a motion.

Commissioner Brown brought up recent actions by Metropolitan Planning Commission Chair Rebecca Longmire, who Brown said was exceeding her authority. Brown criticized Longmire for placing a severance package for outgoing MPC Director Mark Donaldson on a commission consent list and for “hiring a replacement without going through the proper channels.”

“She’s not acting in the best interest of Knox County,” he said.

Brown asked about the term limits of MPC members. He pulled the reappointment of Longmire and Laura Cole from the

consent list and was the only NO vote on the resolution.

In other action the commission approved a solar panel agreement for the schools at a cost of \$9,281,315 and solar panel agreement for \$3,158,685 for the county Detention Facility, the Juvenile Justice Facility and Knox County Central.

The commission also voted to accept the donation of exercise equipment from Covenant Health for the Karns Senior Center and adopted changes to the county Animal Control ordinance.

Chairman Anders said a Special Session will be held Monday, June 15 at 4 p.m. to establish the upcoming county budget and to fix the tax rate, as well as adopting the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. He set the date for Thursday, June 11, at 5:30 for a Public Hearing on the budget if the City-County Building’s main assembly room is available.

## Northwest Sector Plan goes back to MPC

**By Mike Steely**  
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Although the Knox County Commission followed the city’s lead in adopting new parking lot regulations to downsize parking space widths, the commission would not accept the Northwest Sector Plan the city has adopted.

The Northwest Plan and General Plan 2033 was designed by the Metropolitan Planning Commission and presented to both jurisdictions. The city, after being requested by some citizens to remove all references to PlanET from the document, opted to seek a compromise and added a statement disavowing any connection with the regional recommendations with PlanET but left the term in other parts of the resolution.

The county commission bowed to the request of a few citizens Tuesday afternoon and voted to send the plan back to the MPC and have the planners remove all references to PlanET. Only Commissioner Sam McKenzie opposed the motion.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker was critical of the MPC for including illustrations of places not in Knox County in the sector plan and asked the planners to include local photos and artwork in other sector plans that will come before the

commission. The plan includes the areas of Papermill, Middlebrook, Lonas, Weisgarber, Vanosdale, Western Avenue, Merchants, Schaad, Clinton Highway and Calahan.

PlanET is a multi-year study of future growth in several counties surrounding Knox County and has been used as a guideline for growth by various counties and groups, including the MPC. Some opponents see PlanET as a conspiracy to adopt United Nation plans worldwide. Because PlanET often refers to “sustainable growth,” a term used in the UN’s 1992 action plan Agenda 21, some fear that referring to PlanET would be adhering to a one-world-order concept.

City Council’s Tuesday meeting moved to successfully adopt the Northwest Sector Plan including many references in the plans to PlanET. Opponents were present during the council meeting but didn’t address the issue. The final reading of the sector plan passed unanimously without discussion.

So it appears that the county and the city will have a long-range plan for the Northwest Sector with slightly different verbiage: one with references to PlanET and one with no mention of PlanET at all.

## Knox County Schools’ Non-renewal Problem

**Cont. from page 1**

across social media. One in particular was Kindergarten teacher Christina Graham, who some parents and colleagues worried, was targeted for non-renewal because of a speech she made during public forum at a BOE meeting.

In April 2014, Graham spoke out against the SAT-10 standardized assessment that was given to KCS students in grades K-2. This was not a state required assessment, and it has since been discontinued in Knox County.

But Graham may never know the reasons her contract was not renewed – as a third year teacher, she did not have tenure and she was told by HR that her principal acted within policy by terminating her without having to give a reason. No due process for teachers without tenure.

To those on the outside, Graham did everything right. She was a “rock solid 3” – having attained evaluation scores of 3 or more for each of her three years of teaching.

On the professionalism rubric, she has been recognized as a “Promoter” for the past two years. A promoter is defined as “a

model teacher leader who promotes and delivers high quality, time intensive support to the school community and beyond, primarily focused on student growth as well as professional development and growth.”

Last summer, after hearing Dyslexia advocate Jennifer Nagle speak at several BOE meetings, Graham took an online class through the Dyslexia Training Institute to help her recognize the one in five students in her class who may have some form of Dyslexia.

Also last summer she and several other KCS teachers baked brownies and treats, and gathered at West Town Mall at midnight to welcome the KCS TSA teams home from their national competition in Washington D.C.

Graham spent a few days of her Spring Break this year in Nashville with fellow educators, meeting with legislators to voice their opposition to vouchers (note that the KCS Board of Education passed a resolution this year against vouchers).

She participated in a community clean-up in conjunction with KCEA and Keep Knoxville Beautiful at Fulton High School this spring. Fulton is not her school, or even her district,

but she (and several SPEAK members) gave up a Saturday to support the teachers, parents, and students in the Fulton community.

She worked hard to get her Donors Choose project funded for her classroom. And now she worries she’s going to have to decline it. Meanwhile she is completing training to become a big sister through the Big Brothers, Big Sisters organization.

Was she targeted? We may never know, and worse, she may never know. Local TV station WATE picked up on the story, which soon spread to theBlaze.com and an invitation for Graham to appear on Fox News.

Graham is only one of many KCS teachers who were non-renewed. Dr. Kathy Sims, KCS Chief Human Resources Officer, told WATE that so far there are 33 teachers on the non-

renewal list. The district has until June 15 to notify teachers if their contract will be renewed for next year. Last year, 55 teachers were non-renewed.

Sims also told WATE, “You can non-renew an employee for any reason or no reason, as long as it’s not an illegal reason.” But, how does someone know if the reason is legal or illegal, if they aren’t given a reason?

Teachers who were not renewed can apply for another teaching job in Knox County, as can teachers who were “riffed,” a term referring to “reduction in force” (a legal way to fire a teacher with tenure). For example, at Cedar Bluff Middle School, a STEM teacher, a Phys Ed teacher, and an AVID teacher were informed their positions had been eliminated.

Many parents have

asked, “What can we do?” There are no easy answers, except to write letters, email BOE members, show up at meetings, and contact the press. The administration has proven it has little regard for teachers, but maybe they will start to pay attention if enough parents, grandparents, and taxpayers show up

at meetings and demand answers.

The Board of Education will have their June Work Session meeting this Monday, June 1, 5 pm at the Andrew Johnson Building. The regular June Meeting is Wednesday, June 3 at the City County Building. Please attend.

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## Our Neighborhoods

# The Tale of Two Towers

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Suppose you live in a nice neighborhood and you learn a cell tower is being planned there, right smack in the middle of homes and on a high point where it would be very visible. What would you do?

It's a continuing problem for neighborhoods as more and more cell phones are in use and more and more companies compete to provide service.

Such is the dilemma now facing two Knox County neighborhoods. Although they are across town from each other, both share concerns about how a cell phone tower would affect property values, traffic and the general appearance of their neighborhoods.

The neighborhoods of Lakemoor Hills and, across town, Martha Berry are both facing proposed cell towers in the midst of homes there.

A third neighborhood, Sequoyah Hills, is concerned about the proposed Lakemoor tower because it would be directly across the lake from their homes and very visible.

## Lakemoor Hills

Lakemoor Hills has been called "Sequoyah South" because the upscale neighborhood faces Sequoyah Hills and the Cherokee Country Club just across the lake. The neighborhood sits on a peninsula that you reach from Alcoa Highway by either Mont Lake Drive or Maloney Road and residents there like the location. Part of that area is in the city and part is in the county.

"We call it the quiet side of the river," said John Haynes, secretary of the Lakemoor Home Owners Association. He's one of the founders of the association and one of the opponents to a cell tower proposed there. The association's president is Dick Graf, vice-president is Rosanne Wilkerson, and Bill Stoess is treasurer.

The well organized group has various committees to oversee beautification, security, health, KUB and an Alcoa Highway Committee.

Support is growing against

the 190-foot T-Mobile tower and recently members of the Lakemoor and Sequoyah Hills neighborhoods met with an attorney for the cell tower company. The tower would be unlit and the company is proposing a "balloon test" there so residents can see the height of the tower.

"They don't really need it (the tower)" Haynes said, adding, "We're strictly residential."

Opponents at Lakemoor Hills stress that the tower's possible location intrudes on three historic sites: Speedwell Manor, Sequoyah Hills Park and Cherokee Boulevard, and Lyon's View Pike District.

"We've got some pointed questions," Haynes said, adding that the tower request at the planning commission has already been delayed twice. Currently it looks as if the tower request goes to the planning commission in July.

Lakemoor Hills residents love the scenery and lake frontage there and sacrifice convenient shopping and eating locations to live there. They don't mind the drive out of the neighborhood onto Alcoa Highway and

often dine at restaurants at the airport or head downtown or to West Knoxville.

"It is obvious the overwhelming sentiment of the neighbors is against the tower," Haynes.

The neighborhood association meets at the Lake Hills Presbyterian Church and the area is on the Dogwood Trail. You can contact the neighborhood at "Lakemoorhillshoa.org" or "No Cell Tower in Lakemoor Hills" on Facebook.

## Martha Berry

Across town the residents of the Martha Berry and Ridgecrest neighborhoods are facing the placement of a 150-foot monopole telecommunications tower at 2119 Ridgecrest Drive, south of Martha Berry Drive and east of Hollyhock Lane, in close proximity of many homes there.

Also on the Dogwood Trail the neighborhood is located atop the ridge northwest of Gresham Middle School. In the valley to the north are Rifle Range Road and Dry Gap Road. Carrera Romanini has a petition against the tower and Ron Gordon is involved in the opposition to the structure.

"We live in a beautiful and established area," the online petition reads "A cell phone tower will mar the beauty and character of the neighborhood and decrease its desirability for residents and homebuyers alike."

Many elder residents in the neighborhood live on fixed incomes and opponents of the towers are concerned about a decrease in property values. Homes to the north of Martha Berry are among the highest elevation in the city and have fantastic views. The proposed tower is only 168 feet from the nearest property.

Opponents say the tower would increase commercial traffic there on what now only carries light residential traffic and would be a threat to wildlife through the destruction of trees and ground disturbance. Gordon recently posted lots of information on the internet about possible explosion of towers, the health hazards, and information about what other jurisdictions



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

*Can you go anywhere in Knox County without seeing a cell tower in the distance? This one is located in the Corryton area, rising high above the Clapp's Chapel Cemetery.*



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

*The view across the water from Lakemoor Hills sees the Sequoyah Hills and Lyon's View area. Those neighborhoods could soon be looking across and seeing a 190-foot cell tower proposed for their neighbors to the south.*

and neighborhoods have done to stop the construction of towers.

The question may go before the Metropolitan Planning Commission on June 11 after being postponed once and residents are being urged to voice their opposition by attending the meeting or by contacting the planning commission.

The builder, Branch Towers, proposes an 8-foot security fence on the 5.7-acre site and the tower would initially have four telecommunication antennas. A 16-foot wide paved road would be built to access the tower. If approved by the planning commission for the R-1 (Residential) neighborhood the matter would then go before City Council for approval or denial.

The Top of the Ridge Neighborhood Watch is involved with the effort to stop the tower. Suzanne Matheny of 1710 Ridgecrest is the contact for the group. You can also find the neighborhood on Facebook and sign the petition.



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# Sixty-day delay too late to save Christenberry House

By Mike Steely  
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On the same day that the Knoxville City Council passed a 60-day waiting period on the demolition of historic homes, the Christenberry House on Kingston Pike was demolished. Just hours before the 7 p.m. council meeting wrecking crews destroyed the historic home.

Kim Trent, Executive Director of Knox Heritage, spoke to the

council prior to the demolition delay vote.

"Today for me it shows why this is important to the city," she said and called the demolition a "permanent act to solve a temporary problem."

The 60-day waiting period might have given the city, Knox Heritage and other groups time to organize more and possibly save the home or make arrangements to salvage building materials. The new ordinance does not, however, prevent owners of historic properties from demolishing structures if they wish; property owners are not even required to work with preservation efforts. After the waiting period a demolition permit would be issued.

Owners of the home and the almost five acres of lakefront property reportedly said the structure was beyond repair and plan to build a new home there. The Christenberry House was on the recent "Fragile Fifteen" list of endangered houses issued annually by Knox Heritage.

The Howard House on Broadway would fall under the new regulation. A Walmart

Neighborhood Market is proposed for the site along with the site of the Centerpointe Church next door but a rezoning request has not been filed yet for those sites.

In other action the city council voted to pass Mayor Madeline Rogero's annual budget, to fund the city departments and to set the "no tax increase" rate. Councilman Nick Della Volpe jokingly asked the mayor not to spend the entire budget. She replied that Della Volpe could tell her which project in his district should be cut.

United Way President Ben Landers informed the council that the 211 Helpline will now be a partner with CAC's 311 center. He said the Community Action Committee will handle the 211 calls and provide information to callers about various local services such as shelter, food, housing, and medical care, etc. Landers said the United Way and other agencies began the local 211 service 20 years ago and the service has been privately funded.

He praised Knoxville's 311 helpline as "one of the best in

the nation" and said the contract is for one year.

The council also voted to fund the Office of Neighborhood's Neighborhood Grants that were announced last week. Twelve city neighborhoods received funds for local projects.

The application for a \$24 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for possible construction of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge from south of the river to the University of Tennessee campus was authorized. The city would match with \$6 million in funding. The project has been discussed for many years and is contingent on federal funding.

"If UT isn't a player I don't think we'll come up with the money," Councilman Nick Della Volpe said. The span would mainly serve UT student housing on the south side and offer access directly onto the campus.

Dawn Michelle Foster, Deputy Director of the Office of Redevelopment, said the bridge is "a great project to move forward with."

The council also voted to recognize the late Mayor Kyle

Testerman by naming a tennis complex in his honor. Members of the Testerman family were present and said that Testerman learned of the honor prior to passing and was delighted with the honor. Testerman was a founder of the Knoxville Racket Club, a business leader, an attorney, and in 1972 became Knoxville's youngest mayor.

Knoxville became a "Purple City" in a council vote and one of the first in the nation to begin a program to inform people how to deal with fellow citizens with dementia.

The council also authorized the Knoxville Area Transit to purchase fourteen "low-floor cutaway buses" over the next five years, allocating \$629,940 for the first year for the purchase of five buses.

They also authorized a tax break for the White Lily partners for property on North Central and East Depot Streets, purchased sidewalk easements at 514 West Jackson Avenue, and accepted the donation by the Tennessee Air National Guard for the donation of two gas ID meters for the fire department.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Dawn Michelle Foster speaks to the city council concerning an application to the federal government for a grant of \$ 24 million to build a pedestrian bridge from South Knoxville to the UT Campus.

## TPO supports city's pedestrian bridge application

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A grant request from Knoxville to the U. S. Department of Transportation to fund a pedestrian and bicycle bridge connecting South Knoxville to the UT campus received support Wednesday from the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). The request, for \$24 million, was addressed by Dawn Michelle Foster, Deputy Director of the city's Office of Redevelopment.

Foster told the TPO executive committee that the 1,700 foot bridge would reach from bank to bank and that the "clearance has already been approved" along with mentioning the letters of support from the University and Congressman John Duncan.

If a grant is received for less money Foster said the city's match would need to be tweaked. Currently the city's match would be \$6 million.

Competition for the federal funding is high and the National Park Service has asked for similar funding to complete the Foothills Parkway system in Blount County to Wears Valley.

The TPO is made up of members from Knoxville, Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon and Sevier Counties, along with the cities of Alcoa, Clinton,

Lenoir City, Loudon, Maryville, Oak Ridge and Farragut, the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the East Tennessee Development District.

An additional member will soon be joining the Knoxville TPO, according to TPO Director Jeff Welch. He reminded the group that the state house and senate voted to add one new voting member to the Knoxville and Nashville regional groups and that the new member will be chosen from the Tennessee County Highway Officers Association.

The group voted to move some funds around for various projects including dropping a plan for Fort Sanders sidewalks and using that money toward sidewalk projects near Austin-East High School.

Sara Martin, Outreach Coordinator, spoke to the organization about Smart Trips and a gift card program for people who take part in an internet effort to cut down on car use through mass transit, biking or walking. She also spoke of the TPO's search for additional Park and Ride lots in the region.

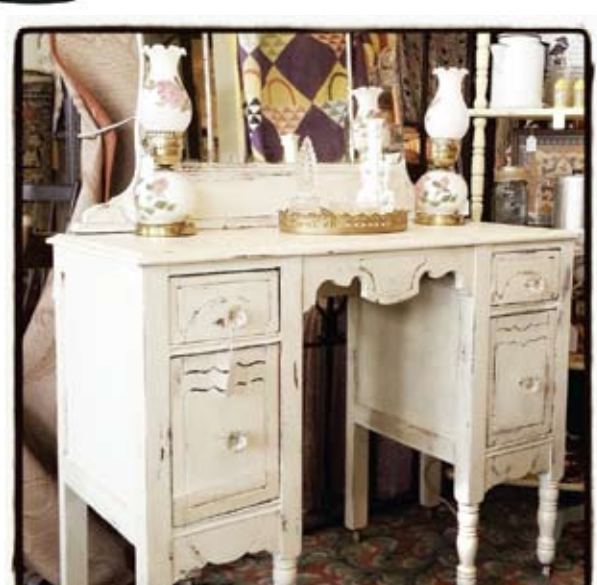
The next executive board meeting for TPO is Wednesday, June 24 at 9 a.m. in the small assembly room of the City-County Building.



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# James B. Frazier, Jr.

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

James Beriah Frazier, Jr. came from one of Tennessee's most distinguished families; young Jim was the son and namesake of a former governor and United States senator.

Born June 23, 1890 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, J. B. Frazier, Jr. went through the public schools before attending the Baylor School in his home city. Young Jim Frazier then went off to Charlottesville to attend the University of Virginia. After completing his course work at the University of Virginia, Frazier then enrolled in the Chattanooga College of Law, graduating in 1914 when he was twenty-four years old.

Jim Frazier interrupted his life and law practice to volunteer for service when the United States entered World War I. Frazier was discharged from the Army with the rank of Major and returned to his home and law practice in March of 1919. Young Jim was fortunate to be able to practice law with his father, who remained one of Tennessee's most distinguished citizens. The former governor was still very much in demand as a speaker at various events all across the state.

Frazier's entry into politics came through the revival of the national Democratic Party in 1932 when New York Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt defeated incumbent President Herbert Hoover. The most influential politicians in Tennessee, including Senator Kenneth D. McKellar, Senator Cordell Hull, and Congressman E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political machine, had all backed Roosevelt prior to his nomination. Roosevelt selected Senator Hull to serve as Secretary of State, a position he held longer than any other individual in history. With the arrival of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, McKellar was in an ideal situation to make recommendations and it fell to the senior senator to control most of the appointments and patronage in the State of Tennessee.

Naturally, the Republican appointees who had served under President Hoover's administration were expected to be replaced and one of Senator McKellar's recommendations was James B. Frazier, Jr. to serve as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee. McKellar had known Jim Frazier for most of his life, as the senator was friends with the young man's father. McKellar was also a great admirer of Jim Frazier's mother, Louise Keith Frazier. Toward the end of September 1933, Frazier's nomination had been confirmed by the

United States Senate and he would remain in office until his resignation on April 12, 1948.

The newly appointed U. S. Attorneys in Tennessee all had ties to Senator McKellar; William McClanahan, U. S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, had briefly worked in McKellar's Washington office and served as his secretary. McKellar would frequently visit the McClanahan home in Memphis whenever he was back in Tennessee and it was not unusual for the senator to join the family for dinner. The youngest McClanahan daughter, Millie, recalls her mother using an old pair of the senator's white trousers for a sewing project.

Not only was the appointment a comfortable one with a good salary, it afforded young Jim Frazier a political post that would give him a higher profile in the community.

Frazier had to be reappointed every four years and when the time came for him to be appointed yet again, the future Congressman got caught up in Tennessee politics. Senator Nathan L. Bachman had died on April 23, 1937 and Governor Gordon Browning had appointed George L. Berry to serve until a special election could be held in 1938. Initially, Berry believed he had an agreement with Senator McKellar to divide the patronage and appointments, giving Senator Berry control over those appointments made in East Tennessee. K. D. McKellar was highly popular in East Tennessee and the senator was likely congenitally unable to share such appointments. McKellar was not especially fond of his new colleague and it was not long before an alarmed Jim Frazier notified the senator Berry did not seem to be for his reappointment.

Unfortunately for Berry, he had written Frazier previously to indicate he was for Frazier's continued service as U. S. Attorney for Tennessee's Eastern District. McKellar advised Frazier to forward a certified copy of Senator Berry's letter to his Washington office. The wily McKellar quickly and effectively outmaneuvered Senator Berry, who merely accomplished irritating the Frazier family and the family's many friends in Hamilton County. Senator McKellar brought Frazier's nomination out of the Senate's Judiciary Committee where it had briefly languished and won a quick confirmation before the full Senate.

Berry was defeated in his bid to win election to the Senate seat to which he had been appointed following a ferocious fight amongst Tennessee Democrats. Senator



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION

Congressman James B. Frazier, Jr.

McKellar and Ed Crump of Memphis joined to eliminate both Governor Gordon Browning and Senator George Berry politically and they were successful.

Another death briefly tempted Jim Frazier into resigning his office and becoming a candidate for office. Sam D. McReynolds had been the Congressman from Tennessee's Third Congressional District since 1923; McReynolds had just been reelected to another two-year term in 1938, but his heart was giving out and he died on July 11, 1939. There would be a special election to determine McReynolds's successor and there was considerable speculation Jim Frazier would enter the race.

Frazier would certainly have been a strong candidate and it is interesting to contemplate just how different Tennessee's political history would be had he run and won. Frazier's hesitation likely had less to do with political concerns than personal matters. Jim Frazier had married late in life and had in fact just married Elizabeth Hope on March 30, 1939 when he was months shy of his forty-ninth birthday. Their union would soon produce their only child, a daughter named for her mother, Elizabeth Hope Frazier.

Jim Frazier announced he would not be a candidate for Congress, preferring instead to remain in office as U. S. Attorney for the East Tennessee District. In all, Jim Frazier was appointed U. S. Attorney four times before his resignation in 1948.

As it turned out, Frazier's entry into Congress was merely delayed. When Estes Kefauver announced he would not seek reelection to Congress in 1948,

but would instead seek election to the United States Senate, Jim Frazier resigned his federal office to become a candidate.

Jim Frazier faced two serious opponents in the 1948 Democratic primary, John C. Hammer and Robert A. Morrison. Despite a lively primary campaign, neither Hammer nor Morrison managed to make a dent in Frazier's popularity, especially in his native Hamilton County. Frazier carried seven of the fourteen counties comprising the Third Congressional District and won a huge majority inside Hamilton County. Frazier's margin of victory was almost the total of the number of votes received by his closest opponent.

J. B. Frazier, Jr. began a twelve year Congressional career when he was fifty-eight years old. Frazier was a stately-looking man and as he aged, his hair turned silver, giving him the classic appearance of a Congressman. Friendly, engaging, and diligently looking after the interests of his constituents, Jim Frazier remained popular inside his district.

Assigned to the House Judiciary Committee, Congressman Frazier tended to the traditional duties of his office and was regularly reelected to office every two years. Frazier was challenged by one Fred Hixson in the 1950 Democratic primary, but again demonstrated his strength and personal popularity by carrying every county in his Congressional district. Opposition to Congressman Frazier began to dwindle. He finally faced another serious opponent in the 1960 primary in the person of Cooper Holt. Once again, Congressman Frazier

carried every county in the district.

The situation in 1962 was quite different.

Congressman James B. Frazier would turn seventy-two before the primary election and faced the most serious challenge of his career when Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. announced his candidacy. Thrasher came from a highly prominent family and was the son of a former Hamilton County judge. Young and handsome, Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. seemed to be the embodiment of the new age of "Camelot" under the administration of America's new president, John F. Kennedy.

Congressman Frazier had incurred the wrath of some Kennedy administration officials as he had voted against the president's Medicare proposal as a member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. Frazier was a more traditional and conservative Democrat and Wilkes Thrasher challenged the Congressman from the left. Thrasher campaigned for federal aid to education and ran as an all-out supporter of the Kennedy administration. Tennessee's senators, Estes Kefauver and Albert Gore, were both considerably more liberal than Jim Frazier and the Thrasher campaign received quiet support from the senators.

Frazier was immediately put on the defensive and was at a serious disadvantage, as he was oddly fatigued during the campaign.

The primary election was remarkably close; Frazier lost by 269 votes. For the first time, Jim Frazier had lost his native Hamilton County.

It was a pyrrhic victory

for Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. The Republicans had not won a Congressional election in the Third District since 1920, but the GOP had nominated a savvy thirty-one year old businessman, William E. Brock, III. The grandson and namesake of a Democratic U. S. senator, Brock proved to be a masterful organizer and he and the Young Republicans of his district organized right down to the precinct level and surprised virtually everybody when he won the general election.

Many of Congressman Jim Frazier's strongest supporters never reconciled themselves to supporting Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. and voted for Brock. It was a turning point in Tennessee politics and foreshadowed the revival of the two-party system in the Volunteer State.

Congressman Frazier's loss was naturally a blow, but as it turned out, his defeat likely saved his life as he was suffering from cancer and didn't know it. Frazier was successfully treated and returned home to Chattanooga and retirement.

Surviving cancer, former Congressman J. B. Frazier, Jr. lived in his Chattanooga home for a number of years, finally succumbing to old age on October 30, 1978 at age eighty-eight.

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# Sunburn

My grandson Madden came to Knoxville during the Memorial Day weekend. He pulled off his shirt on Friday evening, and his shoulders and arms were fiery. It was the boy's



By Joe Rector  
joector@comcast.net

first ever taste of sunburn. His parents have been good at slathering him up with sun screen, but this time, Madden and a pack of little boys were too involved in outdoor activities to remember to apply the stuff. I know how easily that happens as a kid.

In Ball Camp, a group of boys spent a great deal of time together during the summer months. We'd play games of baseball or tackle football. No one ever took out time to coat himself with Coppertone. Instead, boys relied on a thick coating of dirt to protect their skin from the

sun.

Jim and I managed to get a yearly sunburn as we weeded the strawberries. We'd also turned red as we took hand clippers and cut every weed around

the foundation of the house and several flower gardens. Later in life, we mowed the yard and toasted ourselves as we either cut the grass or raked it up in piles.

We also managed to bake ourselves on vacations. A week in the mountains each year did the trick. As soon as we'd finish breakfast, it was off to the river. There we stayed all day and swam, dove, and played. By the end of the first day, shoulders and legs sizzled. Our first trip to the beach came when Jim and I were ten. Cousin Charlie's family

also traveled with us to Treasure Island, Florida. Playing in waves and searching for shells took our full attention. Not until we tried to rest in the evening did the scarlet that covered our backs, legs and love-handles hand out plenty of pain.

In high school, I scorched myself on two painfully memorable occasions. At the end of the last half-day of school, I traveled with Bill Burns and others to Big Ridge Park. We spread out towels and sat on the grass. The others passed a bottle around and took some of the contents. I didn't want to seem uncool, so I also partook. I spread a thick coat of baby oil on my skin and felt secure in thinking I'd protected myself from a sunburn. What I later discovered was that spreading the stuff on me was about the same thing as dropping a piece of meat into an iron skillet containing a

glob of Crisco. I was fried to a crisp.

I spent the afternoon of my 18th birthday working a Burger King. My jobs there included mowing and plowing the back plot of grass, changing spark plugs in my boss's car, and, on that day, mopping the red plastic shingles that covered the roof of the building. That evening, the candles on the cake at the surprise birthday party put off only a fraction of the heat that came from my burned back, scalp, and neck.

Those were glorious times, all too painful, but glorious all the same. These days, however, I have a standing appointment with the doctor to

scour my skin for precancerous and cancerous spots. A few years ago, the doctor discovered a spot that contained squamous cells. That led to another appointment where the doctor sliced my neck and dug her way to China as she removed anything that might lead to worse conditions. My hair has thinned enough so that my scalp burns after short periods in the sun, and just recently, the doctor found another place on the side of my head that contains squamous cells. In June, I will have part of my hair shaved away so that the doctor can once again dig. This time I've asked for something to keep me from

feeling so squeamish.

What we do as unsuspecting children and young adults sometimes comes back to bite us in the butts. Years of exposure to the sun then has led to some uncomfortable times now. I love the outdoors as much as any person. Now, I wear plenty of sunscreen and a hat. I'm through with inviting skin cancer to a free lunch. Make sure you protect your babies and yourself against the harmful rays of the sun. I suppose it's true that no tan is worth the misery that comes from fear about melanoma. Lather up!

## 'Meet Mr. Lincoln' program to be at Blount County Public Library

Imagine being President of the United States during a period of history when the states of that country are at war with each other. Abraham Lincoln, 16th President, tried to shepherd the states from a tragic Civil War back to one nation from 1861 to 1865.

In a first-person storytelling format, Dennis Boggs will depict Abraham Lincoln in Meet Mr. Lincoln, on

Monday, June 1, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the Blount County Public Library.

Dennis Boggs has been traveling all over the nation bringing Abraham Lincoln to life for audiences of all ages.

Told in first person storytelling format, "Meet Mr. Lincoln" is an enlightening, informative, and educational look at the life of the 16th President.

## The Cove at Concord Park to host Free Fishing Day

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is sponsoring Free Fishing Day on Saturday, June 6 from 8 a.m. to noon at The Cove at Concord Park. The Cove is located at 11808 S. Northshore Drive.

TWRA will provide fishing equipment and have several door prize drawings for kids. The Tennessee Valley Sportsman Club will provide free hotdogs and snacks.

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Central High honorees Chloe Padilla and Cedric Washington get together for a photo in downtown Knoxville.

## Washington and Padilla are Central's Student-Athletes of the Year

By Steve Williams

Cedric Washington didn't break Reggie Cobb's 30-year-old Central High School track record in the 200-meter dash this spring, but the mere fact he was closing in on it is meaningful.

"My fastest time is 22.51 and the record is a 22.45, which means I'm like not even a half of a step away," noted Washington in March.

Last fall, this reporter saw Washington continue to stay on the football field and play despite limping and not being 100 percent in a game. He was a team player who refused to quit.

This reporter also saw Cedric shedding  
**Continue on page 2**

**SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE**

The Knoxville Focus today begins its recognition of the area's top high school student-athletes in 2014-15.

Athletic directors from 28 schools were requested to send in their respective school's Female and Male Student-Athletes of the Year, and based on that information, *The Focus* will be featuring the honorees in upcoming issues.

## Valiant comeback effort falls short for Force

By Ken Lay

Tom Joslin scored a historic goal Thursday night for the Knoxville Force but his marker, which was the Force's first goal at their new home wasn't enough to propel Knoxville into the win column for the first time in 2015.

"We have a young team but we're starting to come together," Joslin said after the Force's 2-1 loss to the New Orleans Jesters before

a packed and boisterous house at the Emerald Youth Sansom Sports Complex. "We're starting to gel and I think we'll come back strong."

"I thought this was a pretty even game. The difference was that they took advantage of their chances and we did not."

The Force (0-2-1) had a pair of golden scoring opportunities just before halftime but came up empty thanks to two dazzling saves by New

Orleans goalkeeper Larry Newby, who faced five Knoxville shots in the opening 45 minutes.

"I thought we had two good chances before halftime but we just couldn't score," Joslin said.

Those scoring chances were a wake-up call for the Jesters (1-1-1), who turned up the offensive pressure after halftime.

"We got a couple of big saves from Larry before  
**Continue on page 2**

## New soccer fan club adds to atmosphere for Force

By Ken Lay

The Knoxville Force and Lady Force soccer teams recently opened their 2015 seasons at a new home with a new fan club — The Scruffy City Syndicate.

Knoxville's two semi-pro soccer teams moved to the new Emerald Youth Sansom Family Sports Complex, which recently opened on Dale Ave. The Emerald Youth Foundation now owns the two teams, which played their first few seasons at the University of Tennessee's Regal Soccer Stadium.

Now that the teams have a new home, they have some die-hard fans.

"This is our first year and I'm the leader of the Scruffy City Syndicate," said Ben Winder, who works as a youth minister at Knoxville's First Baptist Church. "I love to follow Knoxville's local sports teams."

"I go to the Smokies games and I watch the Ice Bears but I especially love soccer and the Knoxville Force. Soccer is my favorite sport."

Members of the Scruffy City Syndicate are die-hard soccer fanatics, though the game is relatively new to most, including Derek Green, who is a lawyer from Athens, Tennessee.

Green, who is an avid University of Kentucky sports fan, may be new to the sport, but he's wasted little time finding his niche at Force matches.

"I saw my first soccer game [when both teams opened their respective 2015 home campaigns on May, 23]. "Ben's brother is a partner at my law firm and I'm here to support the Force," Green said. "I'm a big sports fan. My family is from Kentucky, so I'm a Wildcat but I love the [Nashville] Predators and the Titans."



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Members of the Knoxville Force Fan Club, the Scruffy City Syndicate, cheer on Knoxville's semi-pro soccer club at a game Thursday night. The Force lost 2-1 to New Orleans.

"I grew up a Redskins fan but I became a Titans fan when they moved to Tennessee. I'm a big Predators fan and I love to go see them play whenever I can and the Ice Bears put a good product on the ice."

Members of the Scruffy City Syndicate add to the soccer atmosphere with cheers and songs throughout Knoxville Force matches.

"We'll sing all night," said Winder, who graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. "I'm a Bear but my roots are in East Tennessee, so I am a UT fan. I'm a mountain biker and I grew up in McMinn County."

Winder's true passion is soccer and he immediately forged a friendship and partnership when the Emerald Youth Foundation purchased the Force and Lady Force

**Continue on page 4**

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# Rocky Top League draft set for June 10

By Ken Lay

Summer basketball will soon return for a ninth season.

The Pilot Rocky Top League will open its 2015 season at Catholic High School on June 15. The campaign will unofficially tip off on June 10 with the league's annual player draft on June 10 at Doc's All-American Sports Grille. Festivities begin at 6 p.m.

The league, which will contest its season at Catholic for the second straight year, has undergone a few changes. No high school or junior college players will participate this year and that will enable college coaches to attend the games.

Most University of Tennessee players will play in the league along with current and former players from other area colleges.

The league will begin its second season at Catholic High School. Prior to finding a home there, the league held its games at Christian Academy of Knoxville during the summer of 2013 after spending its first several summers at Bearden High School.

At Bearden, the league enjoyed near-capacity crowds despite the school not having air conditioning in the gym.

Games begin at 6 p.m. and admission is free.

# Catholic's Cottam brings home Mr. Baseball award

By Ken Lay

**MURFREESBORO** --- Catholic High School catcher Kole Cottam culminated his stellar high school career recently by winning Tennessee's Class AA Mr. Baseball award.

Cottam, who will continue his baseball career at the University of Kentucky next season, received the award prior to leading the Irish (30-15) to a second consecutive appearance in the Class AA State Championship Game.

Catholic, which lost to District 4-AA rival Christian Academy of Knoxville in 2014, felt heartbreak again when it dropped a

2-1 decision to Christ Presbyterian Academy on May 22. The Irish lost 6-5 to the Warriors last season.

The loss to the Lions stung Cottam, who gunned down three CPA runners on the base paths in the 2015 title game but he'll long remember his days at Catholic.

"We're truly a team," Cottam said after the Irish's season-ending loss. "We bought in and this is the best group of kids that I've ever played with."

Cottam, who helped lead Catholic to a Region 2-AA Championship and was the district's Most Valuable Player, was one

of four area finalists for Mr. Baseball Awards.

CAK's Colton Norrod, who was the district's Offensive Player of the Year, was another Class AA finalist. The Warriors won both the District 4-AA regular-season and tournament championships. They beat Catholic to win the district tournament but lost to the Irish in the region title tilt.

In Class AAA, Farragut pitcher Patrick Raby was a finalist for the Admirals, who lost the State Championship Game to rival Hardin Valley Academy. Raby went 2-1 at the State Tournament and had a save against Houston in

a semifinal elimination game. He left the championship game with the Admirals and Hawks locked in a 2-2 tie in the ninth inning. Hardin Valley won its first State Title when it erupted for eight runs against Farragut's bullpen in a 10-2 win.

In Class A, Grace Christian Academy's Chandler Adkins was a finalist. He helped the Rams win a State Championship.

Webb School of Knoxville's Brock Beeler was a finalist in Division II-A. The Spartans reached the Sectional Championship Series.

## Valiant comeback effort falls short for Force

Cont. from page 1

half-time," said New Orleans coach Kenny Farrell. "I thought it was a pretty even game and we feel fortunate to get out of here with a 2-1 result."

"Knoxville is a good team and they were really making a surge. They were really starting to come on late in the game. They came on strong late in the first half."

The Jesters withstood a pair of surges from the Force to hang on to claim their first win of the young season.

New Orleans took a 1-0 lead when Tony Judice scored when Force goalkeeper Jonathan Shaw slipped in the net in the 51<sup>st</sup> minute. Ryan Reid picked up an assist on the first marker of the match.

"Knoxville played well but we just caught them sleeping on the back line a couple of times," Farrell said.

Judice, who scored the Jesters' other goal in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute, credited Reid for his first marker of the match.

"Ryan Reid beat his man and gave me a great ball," Judice said. "On the second goal, Keir Hannity gave me another great ball."

Force coach Paulo Neto was pleased with Knoxville's effort despite the fact that the Force came up on the short end.

"We had some good opportunities tonight," Neto said. "We played really well."

We want to get results but we also want to develop players in Knoxville and give something back to the community.

"We had six Knoxville players play tonight and that's big for us."

Joslin's goal came in the 87<sup>th</sup> minute and was assisted by Robbie Cutchin.

The Force played at Birmingham Saturday night but results were unavailable at press time.

The Force plays at Atlanta on June 6 before returning home to face Nashville FC on June 9.

Kickoff for that game is scheduled for 7 p.m.

## Playing the big boys helps GCA join Knoxville's title gang

The season before Mitch Turner got the head baseball coach's position at



By Steve Williams

Grace Christian Academy, he made a key observation at the TSSAA Class A state tournament as the Rams' assistant.

"I noticed two years ago we were a little shell shocked when we got there," said Turner. "The stage was just a little big."

Turner recalled saying, "If I ever coach there as a head coach, I'm going to make sure we get our tails kicked by some bigger schools, so when we get there even the best at Class A state won't look anything like a Karns or a Powell."

He put those words into practice this year, and the regular season schedule the Rams went up against was a big factor in Grace Christian winning the state championship.

The only Class A teams GCA played were in its district or in the post-season tournament.

"Everyone else is either a Karns or a Powell," said Turner. "Karns beat us at their place and we beat them at home. We beat Powell twice. We beat Sequoyah. We got our tails kicked by Sevier County."

Karns and Powell were the top teams in District 3-AAA, with the Panthers winning the district tourney. Sevier County in District 2-AAA was one of the state's best teams.

Turner, who played high school baseball at Bearden, would be one of the first to tell you that you don't have to go far to find outstanding competition

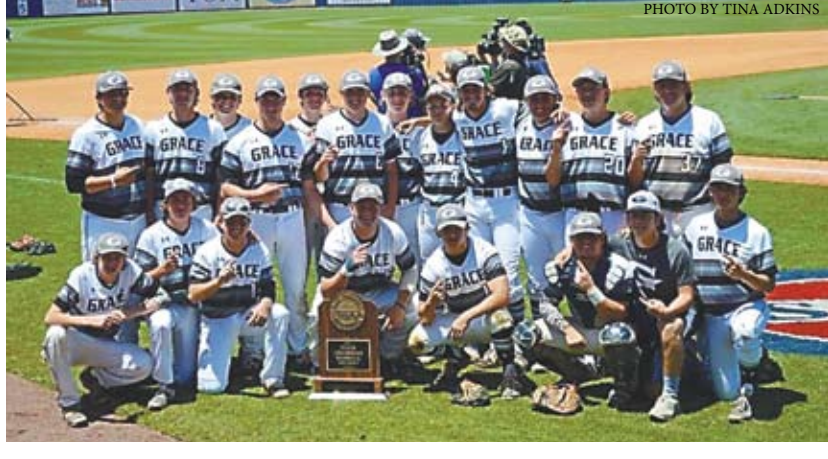


PHOTO BY TINA ADKINS

in this part of the state.

"It's all right here," said Turner. "I know all about Class AAA ball in this area. Farragut and Hardin Valley. I have a whole lot of respect for Knoxville high school baseball, I really do."

Hardin Valley Academy and Farragut, both out of District 4, ended up playing each other in this season's Class AAA state finals, with the Hawks knocking off the perennial power in eight innings.

For the record, Knoxville prep baseball has produced 13 state titles since 2000, with Farragut by far leading the way with eight crowns.

In addition to GCA and HVA winning this season, CAK, Gibbs and Webb each has a state championship trophy in the new millennium.

Knoxville teams also have combined for 15 state runner-up finishes since 2000 - four by Farragut, three each by Catholic and Webb and one apiece by Grace, Bearden, South-Doyle, Halls and Gibbs.

Turner also pointed to a loss against an out-of-state opponent in a regular

season tourney Grace co-hosted with Farragut.

"We faced a team out of Noblesville, Indiana that was last year's Class 4A state champion. We went into the eighth inning with them and they beat us 10-8. I was really excited about that. We grew a lot in that game."

"Noblesville had 5,000 at their state championship game in Indiana last year. Farragut beat them 2-0 and they came to our field, and we hit a two-run homer in the seventh to send it to extra innings."

Turner says he's called Farragut Coach Matt Buckner a couple of times in the past about trying to get a game with the Admirals.

"He has his schedule so full in advance, it's hard for him to find a place for a small Class A school like us," said Turner, "but he has been gracious enough to let us play in his tournaments."

Now that Grace Christian Academy has a state championship too, maybe that will help the Rams get a future shot at the Admirals.

## Washington and Padilla are Central's Student-Athletes of the Year

Cont. from page 1

tears on the field after Central's season came to an end with a 46-0 loss at West in the first round of the Class 5A playoffs. Realizing his high school football career was over obviously was painful for the young man.

He went on to play basketball and run track and was named "Most Athletic" as a senior at Central.

Washington, who helped the Bobcats end a long playoff drought in football

his sophomore year when he earned All-State honors as a defensive back, never tasted a playoff victory, but he earned a football scholarship to Lindsey Wilson College, a NAIA school in Columbia, Ky., where he will begin a new chapter in his life this fall.

"Cedric is a bright young man with a prosperous future," said Central head football coach Bryson Rosser. "He is the epitome of a student-athlete. I am honored to have coached

him in football his senior year."

The 6-foot, 171-pound receiver and free safety was the team's Defensive Player of the Year and captain as a junior and senior.

Academically, Washington had a 3.5 GPA and scored 22 on the ACT. He also was voted Who's Who by his teachers and advisors.

Washington plans to major in criminal justice and hopes to climb the police ranks and become

FBI agent or homicide detective.

Chloe Padilla was named Central's Female Student-Athlete of the Year. She played varsity soccer throughout high school and was team captain as a senior.

Padilla also earned the first-team all-tournament and second-team all-district (3-AAA) awards.

"One of the biggest honors that I have earned is that I was voted Most Athletic," she noted.

Academically, Chloe had a 4.0 GPA and was in the top 10 percent of her class. She was voted Who's Who by her teachers and advisors.

Padilla has been in the Health Occupational Student Association for two years, serving as Vice President. She also competed in the Upper East Tennessee Regional Competition and placed first in Researched Persuasive Speaking and competed in the Tennessee State Leadership

Conference in Nashville.

As a personal trainer, she's worked every day before and after school and has volunteered at a local gym, Frankie's Body Shop, since January.

Padilla has been accepted and is enrolled to go to the University of Tennessee this fall. She plans to get her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology, and then attend East Tennessee State University and get her doctoral degree in Physical Therapy.

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By Steve Williams

John Wright sees the game of football from the standpoint there are three teams on the field – the two teams that consist of players and a third team that officiates the contest.

It is the latter team that Wright and fellow Southeastern Conference official Johnny Hibbett, who are both from Knoxville, had in mind when they started “the thought process” of having an East Tennessee Football Officials Clinic in Knoxville a few years ago.

“Both of us have a lot of friends who are officials in the SEC,” said Wright, “so last year we said we’re going to do it and see what happens.”

The 2014 clinic was attended by 32 officials, said Wright. This year’s clinic, held May 9 at Central High School, had 45 officials. “Our goal is to increase it year by year.”

Tom Ritter, one of the top referees in the SEC, was added to this year’s clinic staff, which also included Atlantic Coast Conference referee Jeff Flanagan, SEC umpire Russ Pulley and Terry Brown, a National Football League Field Judge who also is a supervisor in the Knoxville Football Officials Association, which is made up of approximately 100 local high school officials.

“We just want to give back,” said Wright. “These clinics go on throughout the country. We have probably a dozen college officials from right here in



Officials listen to Terry Brown, a NFL Field Judge from Knoxville, during this year’s East Tennessee Football Officials Clinic.

East Tennessee, but we didn’t have a clinic here. The goal of it is just to give back to local officials from surrounding areas to help them get better.

“On a Friday night, I always say there are three teams on the field,” added Wright. “The players make up two teams. Officials make up the other. We want to make that team the best team.”

The clinic started with a physical conditioning/fitness session, led by Scott Held, a Conference USA line judge.

Lee Hedrick, a KFOA product who will be joining the SEC full time this

coming season, discussed 7-man crew mechanics. High schools just started using 7-man officiating crews in some regular season games in 2014.

A session on “Difficult Plays to Officiate” was presented by ACC referee Stuart Mullins.

After breaking into groups, officials worked on their specific position for almost two hours.

After lunch, there was a video presentation and an open forum for questions and answers.

The clinic concluded with officials working on the field at Central High’s Red and Black spring game.

Howard Russell, KFOA supervisor, was an observer at the clinic.

“I wish they all were here,” said Russell, referring to KFOA members. “Officiating is a learning process. A clinic like this would help the older officials as well as the younger ones.”

“If you want to move up to the varsity level in high school or move up from varsity to college ball, the more clinics you can involve yourself with, the more that can be gained in the learning process.”

Russell said the East Tennessee clinic should especially be attractive to KFOA officials since it’s held in

Knoxville. Ritter, who came in from Nashville for the clinic, will be going into his 15th season in the SEC. He said he gets a “couple of things” from working clinics.

“We always learn something no matter how long we’ve been around, and no matter who we’re around,” said Ritter. “If we’re around people talking football, we will learn something.”

“I pick up some things from people who come to the clinic – both the other clinicians and some of the attendees – and it’s also a way of giving back.”

Ritter officiated high school football in Texas and

about 12 years in Nashville.

“We’ve all stood in their shoes and tried to come up through the ranks and improve,” said Ritter. “We remember those days very clearly. We want to help these guys as much as we can.”

KFOA members Paul Romero and Mike Wallace both said the clinic provided a great “opportunity” to learn.

“I’m thankful that we have veteran officials like Johnny Hibbett and John Wright to be able to come out here and do this for us,” said Wallace. “It gives us the opportunity to learn new techniques and mechanics as well as advance and share some experiences with other officials. We appreciate that.”

Romero added, “Hearing some of the experiences they (the clinicians) have had and some of the regrets, it really goes to show that we all go through the same learning process and a lot of the same experiences.”

One lesson Wallace took from the clinic was the emphasis put on using officiating fundamentals, “even for pee wee ball to NFL. The fundamentals of officiating should never go away.”

Proceeds from the clinic, after expenses for lunch and T-shirts, go to the KFOA Scholarship Fund. A \$500 donation was made after the 2014 clinic, said Wright.

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# Corryton's 8-Mile Race

It is home to the world-renowned Oakes Daylilies. It has a post office, library, community center and fire station. Several churches can be found within its boundaries, as well as Corryton Elementary School. The rural place is tucked away in Knox County's northeast section. On Saturday, June 20, beginning at 7:30 a.m., this place--Corryton, Tennessee--will host the First Annual Corryton 8-Mile Race. Traveling from Harbison's



By Ralphine Major  
ralphine3@yahoo.com

Crossroads in the Gibbs Community up East Emory Road to the site of the race in the Corryton Community is a drive rich in beauty and history. Many people do not realize that Gibbs Community, which is home to Gibbs Elementary and Gibbs High Schools, is also a part of Corryton. The Nicholas Gibbs Homestead, Clapp's Chapel United Methodist Church, and The Hen House on the Calfee Farm are along the route. Farther up Emory Road at the Boruff Road intersection is the building that was once McGinnis Grocery.

Boruff Road is also home to Knox County Commissioner Dave Wright, the Spitzer Farm, and McGinnis Bus Lines. One of the best known landmarks, beautiful and majestic House Mountain State Park, can be seen in the distance. In between the rolling hills and mountains are more of God's gathering places including: Rocky Dale, God's Saving Grace Missionary Baptist Church, and Knox County's oldest church, Little Flat Creek Baptist. A turn onto Foster Road leads to the heart of Corryton and two more landmarks of the community: Corryton Church and Rutherford Memorial United Methodist Church.

"This is an official 'state record' race for those interested in trying to break it," Joe Longmire said. "The race will travel up Corryton-Luttrell Road and return for a scenic run," he added. Longmire is co-owner of the Midway IGA in Gibbs, but his family operated Longmire's Grocery in Corryton for many years. Joe is like a walking history book full of knowledge about the Gibbs and Corryton areas. All proceeds from the race will go to the Corryton Food Pantry. For more information, e-mail OOriley@aol.com or Ronaldmfuller@att.net or tuckalee@aol.com.

New soccer fan club adds to atmosphere for Force

**Cont. from page 1**  
and gave the squads a new home.

"This is a new era for the Knoxville Force with the Emerald Youth Foundation buying the team after last season and we have a great relationship with them.

"We're always looking for new members and if you join the Scruffy City Syndicate, it's \$40. That's the price of a season ticket. You get a season ticket, a t-shirt and a soccer scarf."

Soccer fans can join Knoxville's soccer boosters via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Scruffy City Syndicate hosts pregame tailgate parties. The Syndicate will also appear at selected Lady Force games this season.

"We'll attend some of the ladies' games," Winder said. "We came to their first game because it was part of a double header."

"We'll tailgate before all of the men's games."

The Lady Force, who compete in the Women's Premier League, notched a 3-0 win over FC Nashville Wolves on May 23. They hosted a pair of matches over the weekend but results were not available at press time.

The Lady Force will entertain Charlotte Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Force dropped a 2-1 decision to New Orleans at home Thursday night.

Knoxville, which plays in the National Premier Soccer League, is 0-2-1 this season. The Force will return home to face Nashville FC on June 9.

## The Problems with Youth Sports

By Alex Norman

Let me start this article by saying that there are a lot of great things about youth sports.

It gives kids an opportunity to get some exercise. It teaches them to work with others. And playing sports is all sorts of fun.

The only thing wrong with youth sports is what adults are doing to it.

Over the past year my kids have played in a local youth sports league. This is my first experience with youth sports since I played soccer as a kid, so I didn't know what to expect. What I learned is that the same "win at all costs" mentality that you see in college and professional athletics has made its way to the levels of sports in which the participants haven't even reached double digits in age.

It isn't important that I tell you which league, which age group or even which sport I have first-hand knowledge about, because from conversations with parents across Knoxville and friends I have around the country, I now know that this is happening everywhere.

So here are the basics.

Parents are spending hundreds of dollars so that their kids can play a

game. Long gone are the days of kids meeting at the local field, playing until the street lights come on, and then coming home for a nutritious dinner that their Mom spent all day cooking. And that of course is fine. Except for the dinner part... more home cooked meals would be great.

But now it isn't as simple as knowing you have 100 kids that want to play, so just put all their names in a hat and split teams evenly. Now, you have teams that are allowed to "protect" players... and all teams have to "draft" players.

So here is what happens. The top 3-4 teams in the league from the previous season know who the best players are and snatch them up before any other teams can. That means they make sure the top 16-20 players in the league go to them, thus ensuring victories before games are even played.

In addition, because you have to draft players, these coaches can instruct the other really good players they've learned about to not even attend an open tryout, so that when it is time to draft, the other teams had no way to learn about their talents.

This leads to having 3-4 teams

stacked with mostly experienced players and the other teams left with mostly inexperienced players.

There was one game I saw that every player on one team whose smallest player was still taller than the tallest player on the other team. And this isn't a rare occurrence.

When I asked league officials about why certain teams are allowed to stack their rosters, I was told this was allowed "for consistency," and that the following year teams would be more even as the inexperienced players gain some playing time.

The error in this logic is that if in 2015 you get a team with no experience going against a team with three years of experience, in that next year the team with one year experience is now going up against a team with 4 years of experience. So no, it does not even out.

"Playing against better competition will make you better!" This is the battle cry from the folks that have the built in advantage. Ask if they'd like to switch places.

As if watching kids compete on a slanted playing field isn't enough, the way that coaches act on a consistent basis is troubling.

I watch as coaches only give encouragement to kids that are getting base hits or scoring goals or making catches. Players that don't end up heading back to the dugout or sideline without as much as a "good try."

I also see parents screaming at the top of their lungs while a little kid sits under a short pop fly. Look, this is going to be tough to read... Jenny and Jimmy are not going to play professionally. They just aren't. So quit treating every athletic activity like the future of mankind depends on the result.

We are only young once. Games should be just that... games.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that we shouldn't keep score and that we should give everyone a trophy. Competition is healthy and will help these kids down the line in whatever they pursue.

But shouldn't we try to make sure the playing field is level, so that our kids get an equal opportunity to succeed and learn based on their own talents and not the conspiratorial and overzealous efforts of adults?

Sometimes... it is the adults that have to grow up.

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**The Doctor is in**  
 a weekly column by  
**Dr. Jim Ferguson**

*In God We Trust*

“Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, the most basic expression of Americanism. Without God, there could be no American form of government, nor American way of life.” Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1955

America has changed dramatically since President Eisenhower penned those words. I was four years old in 1955, and so my memories of the fifties and early sixties consist of endless summers, sandlot baseball and riding my bike to the neighborhood drugstore to buy baseball cards and fountain cherry-cokes. It was in those halcyon days that I first heard the siren song of an “itsy-bitsy teeny-weenie yellow polka dot bikini,” and my transition to adulthood began.

I don’t think America has evolved for the better, as some progressives say.

Our technology is better. The internet is a wondrous tool for the inquisitive. Our science, when not corrupted by politically motivated grants, allows us to see farther and understand more about the universe. However, human beings have not fundamentally changed in perhaps tens of thousands of years. And if unbridled we are too often inhuman.

I once read that the first prayer uttered by one of our ancestors upon exiting his cave and gazing upward at the stars, was an “Ahhh,” of wonder. Why have so many of us lost this wonder? Why has our horizon shrunk instead of expanding? When I was a boy my whole world was my neighborhood. As I grew older my horizon expanded to encompass my town, then my country and finally the world. Now, we are able to see into the depths of

atoms and outwards to the edge of the universe. Unfortunately, some no longer see the Creator of it all. What a blighted horizon to only see as far as reality TV.

I am a monotheist. I believe in an intelligent and purposeful Creator, and His fundamental principles necessary for a successful life. Eisenhower understood this perspective as did Albert Einstein. Why do so many of our citizens put their trust in frail men or the institutions of mankind, such as government? An ancient Greek philosopher named Protagoras once said, “Man is the measure of all things.” What a pitiable world view, conditioned by his unwillingness to see beyond his senses or to bend his pride before God. I believe this learned man had actually devolved from his proverbial ancestral caveman.

Recently, I read that the new Oxford dictionary for children has removed the word sin from this dictionary. Modern man struggles with the notion of sin and many object to the Garden of Eden story/allegory of sin. Theologically, I too have trouble seeing the sinful or “fallen” nature of my twelve week old granddaughter, Josie. Perhaps we need to come to an age of “understanding” before

we can choose God’s way or our way. My wife Becky better describes Adam’s “original sin” as his “original separation” from God. Perhaps this is operative in each of us as we consider whether we are the measure of all things or whether we side with the maker of all things. Hubris is, after all, a powerful tonic.

We again find ourselves in the political season of sound bites, gotchas and verbal jousting. I’m already sick of it and lament the waste of money on the meaningless rhetoric of politicians. It would be a lot simpler to just put Hillary Clinton in a boxing ring with Carly Fiorina and let the best woman win. It certainly would be entertaining, but someone would whine that the sixty year old Fiorina might have an age advantage over poor Hillary, who’s sixty-seven. Victims abound in our society.

I’ve written previously about hate speech and illiberalism. Look up the definitions if you need to; it will exercise your mind and expand your horizon. The latest news cycle kerfuffle is whether the opposition of some Christians to gay marriage constitutes hate speech. In other words, someone’s First Amendment rights may be intolerable to others

and must be silenced. Illiberalism is again on display as we await the Supreme Court’s decision on the redefinition of marriage. I find it a sign of the times that we trust nine old men and women to tell us what is right. You do realize that only 2-3% of Americans are gay and less than 1% of Americans are Muslim. Yet both of these minorities rule the day in our politics. What will happen if gay marriage becomes the law of our land as it did recently in Ireland? Won’t Muslims be even more offended by same sex marriage than by drawing pictures of Mohammed?

We use words to communicate, though I also read body language. I understand when I’ve displeased my wife – even if I may not immediately know what I’ve done. Symbols are also important. Case in point is the recent dust-up when a company placed an upside down American flag on their tee-shirts. I don’t know whether the company was trying to make a statement or just sell their wares. Through watching the Netflix series House of Cards I learned that an American flag displayed upside down is a sign of distress. It seems to me that the company was stating the obvious, but that was intolerable

to some and the company bowed to pressure and removed the “offensive” shirts from the market.

I believe in the Constitution and the First Amendment which guarantees freedom of speech and religion. I challenge you to read the First Amendment today and consider the words “establishment” and “free exercise.” The Constitution guarantees that a state religion will not be established and guarantees the freedom to exercise religion, even if it is the Christian religion.

As a conservative I believe that every citizen should have equal opportunity under the law. This defines a republic. Absolute equality is different and a utopian vision. Actually, equality of all men exists only in the eyes of God. But what if man says No! God, and replaces Him with the idols of money, sex, self, or government? It’s been done over and over throughout history, and always with the same result.

Our coinage says, “In God We Trust.” I hope that is still true and America will survive this dark time to experience a rebirth of God-given “unalienable rights.” We shall see.

**Tennova Healthcare Introduces LSVT BIG Therapy**

**New physical and occupational therapy program helps individuals with Parkinson’s disease**

Tennova Healthcare now offers LSVT BIG therapy for neurology patients at North Knoxville Medical Center in Powell and Lakeway Regional Hospital in Morristown. LSVT BIG is a physical and occupational therapy program designed to improve motor skills in individuals with Parkinson’s disease.

LSVT BIG improves limb and body movement through a series of exercises. Adapted from the principles behind Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT)

for Parkinson’s patients, LSVT BIG was developed following extensive research funded by the National Institutes of Health. It can also benefit patients whose motor function has been affected by other neurological conditions, such as stroke, multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy.

“Parkinson’s disease is a progressive, neurological disorder that mainly affects movement, but also affects many different organ systems. It results from

the dysfunction of nerve cells in a part of the brain called the basal ganglia and a reduction in the production of dopamine,” said Jose A. Cardenas, M.D., neurologist, Tennova Neurology Group North. Dr. Cardenas specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of neurological conditions including Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, migraines and stroke.

“Persons with Parkinson’s disease often experience muscle stiffness, tremors of the arms and legs when resting, stooped posture, and balance and walking problems. The good news is physical and occupational therapy can help

to ease movement disorders and improve quality of life,” he said.

“LSVT BIG focuses on repetitive movements that reduce dopamine loss in the brain and are designed to recalibrate muscle function. This helps to counteract the slow movement that is one of the main motor symptoms of Parkinson’s disease,” said Rachel Richards, PT, physical therapist at North Knoxville Medical Center. Richards has received specialized training and certification in LSVT BIG.

The therapy program teaches those living with Parkinson’s disease how to avoid inactivity and ease movement

while engaged in everyday activities. Therapy often yields measurable results within the first few treatments. These improvements include faster walking with bigger steps, better posture, improved balance, and increased trunk rotation.

“BIG is intensive and complex, with many repetitions of core movements that are used in daily living. Over time, it not only helps patients to improve their movement, it also helps them to build confidence in themselves,” said Jenna Boring, OT, occupational therapist at North Knoxville Medical Center. Boring has also received training and

certification in LSVT BIG.

Treatment typically takes place over a single month. Patients attend four individual 60-minute sessions per week for four weeks. A physician’s written prescription is required.

Tennova Healthcare offers physical, occupational and speech therapy at eight convenient locations in East Tennessee. LSTV LOUD therapy, a speech therapy program for people with Parkinson’s disease, is also offered at both North Knoxville Medical Center and Lakeway Regional Hospital. To learn more, call 1-855-TENNOVA (836-6682) or visit Tennova.com.

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## Rosie's World

In 1915 a poem written by Moina Michael commemorates the day that everyone remembers as Memorial Day.

*We cherish too, the Poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor  
led,  
It seems to signal to the skies  
that blood of heroes never dies.*

The poem refers to the thousands who died so that we may be free. Every year we go through the same ritual of

remembrance and it is a ritual that will never grow old. She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during the World War 1.

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day, I remember that well from my childhood days. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. President Lyndon Johnson in May, 1966, officially declared Waterloo, N.Y. as the birthplace of Memorial Day, but it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of this holiday. It is not

important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. It is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.

Traditional observance of this holiday has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored, neglected. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the National Moment of Remembrance

resolution was passed in December, 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "to voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps". This is a step in the right direction to returning the meaning back to the day. What is needed is a full return to the original day of observance. Set aside one day out of the year for the nation to get together to remember, reflect and honor those who have given their all in service to their country. Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined

the very meaning of the day. Bills were referred to the committee on the Judiciary of Government Reform which proposes to restore the traditional date back to May 30th. To date there have been no further developments on that bill.

Whatever date Memorial Day falls on, it behooves us to never forget those who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom. Because of them we can be happy on Memorial Day.

Thought for the day: A day above ground is a good day.

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

# Speaking the truth in love

We live in a day when many Christians are becoming more and more concerned about the direction of this nation, me being one of them. How should Christians handle issues of the day that conscientiously they cannot believe in or embrace? Does one just let government decide moral issues and thus Christians should just keep their mouths shut for the sake of tolerance? The Bible points out that there is a time and place to share convictions, but how one communicates those is vital in one's witness for Christ.

Paul told the Ephesians to "speak the truth in love" (4:15). There is such a thing as truth and many sincere Christians and pastors/ministers do not share our culture's moral direction.



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

But let me offer some guidance from God's Word as you "speak the truth in love" about your convictions.

Some people think "speaking the truth in love" gives them permission to say anything they want. It doesn't. We must choose our words carefully and then speak them in a loving way. Too often words, being filled with passion, come out in a non-loving way. You may have heard a person after speaking truth to someone in an arrogant or harsh tone say, "Now I'm just saying this because I love you." Really. If you love, you will not demean. In fact, right before Paul told the Ephesians to speak the truth in love, he also told them: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one

another in love" (Eph. 4:2).

Humility demands a continual awareness of God, of our own sinfulness, and that others are equal to us as fellow image bearers of God. Our viewpoint may be important and even correct, but we are not to seek self-importance. We remain humble as we speak truth in love as a fellow sinner in need of God's grace.

Along with humility we need gentleness. This means we renounce harshness and violence that is so prevalent in our culture today. Some Christians are so hostile and defensive that they are difficult to be around. Gentleness conveys a desire not to harm. It is a valuing of the other person, even in disagreement.

Patience is mentioned next. This values others and allows them the room and time to fail, grow, and learn. Paul also mentions the importance of bearing

with one another in love. We speak the truth in love, but we don't attack, hate, or devalue a person for any belief they may have. But bearing in love does not mean accepting sin. Hating sin but loving the sinner is a delicate balancing act, but I don't know how else a disciple of Christ is to act, for this is what Jesus demonstrated for us. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. As Paul wrote the churches in Corinth and Galatia, you can read his strong, loving words to awaken them to truth, and thankfully they repented. So in your convictions, speak the truth, but make sure you do so in humility, gentleness, patience, and love.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Central High Reunion

The Central High School Class of 1955 will hold its 60th reunion at Beaverbrook Country Club on June 5. Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m.

## Faith United Methodist Church

Motorcycle ride to benefit Faith UMC Youth for Resurrection trip, Saturday, June 6, \$15 single or double. Registration starts at 9:00 at Faith UMC, 1120 Dry Gap Pike. Ride starts at 11:30 going through Clinton, Lake City, Norris Dam, returning at 1:00. Other activities include motorcycle games (slow ride, barrel roll and straw drop), corn hole tournament, basket auction, kids activities, BBQ lunch, vendor spaces, and music! For more info, please call Vicki Easterday at (865)216-1963.

## Halls High Class of 75 Reunion

The HHS Class of 1975 is holding its 40th Reunion on July 18 at the Bearden Banquet Hall from 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Numerous attempts have been made to contact all graduates of the Class of 1975. If you were in this class but haven't been contacted, it's not been intentional. The cost is \$30 per person which includes a buffet and entertainment by Phil Campbell. No alcohol will be served. Please call Lisa Hansard Davidson at 922-2817 for payment information. Casual attire is preferred.

## Judged art exhibit open to ALL ARTISTS!

Fountain City Art Center, Inc. is holding its 10th Annual FCAC Open Show, open to all 3-D and 2-D artists. Those interested in participating may bring in entries 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2015.

Opening reception for the exhibit will be Friday, June 12, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The show will be on exhibit for public viewing through July 9, 2015.

Fountain City Art Center is located at 213 Hotel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37918.

For more information, contact Director Sylvia Williams at [fcartcenter@knology.net](mailto:fcartcenter@knology.net) or (865)357-2787.

Entry forms are available at the Ftn. City Art Center, by email, and by mail.

## PK HOPE IS ALIVE meeting

PK HOPE IS ALIVE Parkinson Support Group of East Tennessee will meet on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. in Oak Ridge in the Family Life Center at Kern United Methodist Church, located at 451 East Tennessee Ave., Oak Ridge, TN. The speaker this month will be Dr. Aaron Bowman from Vanderbilt hospital in Nashville. He will be talking about "What's New with Parkinson Disease Research."

Please bring your own snack or light refreshment. For more information please contact Karen Sampson at (865) 482-4867 or by e-mail: [Pk\\_hopeisalive@bellsouth.net](mailto:Pk_hopeisalive@bellsouth.net). See our web: [www.pkhopeisalive.org](http://www.pkhopeisalive.org).

## Sock Hop

The Knox County Museum of Education is having a Sock Hop on Thursday, June 4 from 7-10 p.m. featuring 4 Dots & A Dash (music from the 50s and 60s) at the Sarah Simpson Professional Development and Technical Center (the old South High School) located at 801 Tipton Avenue in South Knoxville. All proceeds goes to Museum! Tickets are \$40 each which includes admission, photo package, sock-hop food and a \$10 credit toward Silent Auction. Check out the website: <http://knoxschools.org/museum>

## UT Hospice calls for Volunteers

UT Hospice, serving patients and families in Knox and 15 surrounding counties, conducts ongoing orientation sessions for adults (18 & older) interested in becoming volunteers with our program. No medical experience is required. Training is provided. For more information call Penny Sparks, Volunteer Coordinator at (865) 544-6279.

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