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## Board of Education Passes Budget

**Mayor Burchett's Budget Includes New Middle Schools for Gibbs and Hardin Valley Communities, Payraises For County Employees, NO TAX INCREASE!**

By Focus Staff

The Knox County Board of Education met last week and approved the Memorandum of Understanding brokered by Mayor Tim Burchett and approved by the County Commission, as well as a Capital Plan that will build new middle schools in the Gibbs and Hardin Valley communities.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) came out of a meeting with Burchett and school superintendent Jim McIntyre. Board of Education Vice Chair Doug Harris also went across the street to meet with Burchett and the mayor's staff to help hammer out the agreement. The end result was Burchett urged the County Commission to give the school system a one-time payment of \$3 million, which would be used to keep the bonus fund for teachers solvent. That allowed the school system to shift recurring dollars to give the teachers a 2% raise. Burchett's own budget gave county employees a 3% raise. Some made much of the fact Governor Bill Haslam's own state budget recommendation called for a 4% raise for teachers, but Knox County's school system employs 60% more teachers and personnel than what the state will pay for, causing a reduction in the amount parceled out to teachers.

Knox County Law Director Bud Armstrong and Chief Deputy David Buuck spent a sweltering Sunday **Continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

*Knox County Board of Education Chairman Mike McMillan signs the Memorandum of Understanding agreement between the school board, county commission and county mayor covering the construction of two new middle schools as well as future financial oversight and cooperation between the board, the mayor and the commission. Looking on, (seated) Knox County Board of Education Vice - Chairman Doug Harris, (standing) 8th District Knox County Commissioner Dave Wright, Knox County Law Director Bud Armstrong and Knox County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre.*

## Washington Pike project facing opposition

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville's plan to four-lane Washington Pike hit a barrier Tuesday afternoon as several citizens spoke up against the \$15M proposed project.

In the plan, proposed in 2001, updated in 2010 and now in the design phase, was sidetracked last year when about \$10 million was pulled from the funding for another project.

On Tuesday Tom Clabo, Chief Knoxville Engineer, and Jeff Mize with CDM Smith addressed the meeting at New Harvest Park and were quizzed by Washington Pike area citizens.

Mize said the most of preliminary plans have been completed and the next step is the right-of-way process. The project starts at the Washington Pike and Greenway Drive intersection and extends out to Murphy Road. The plans call for four lanes, curbs and gutters, sidewalks and bike lanes, and a connection to the greenway. The plan also entails a utility strip on both sides and stormwater protection with trenches, detention and catch basins.

Critics charge that the road won't serve the city homeowners as much as it will serve county residents. One citizen said the proposed stormwater solution won't work.

One critic said that the project "puts the cart before the horse" and said the money would be better spent by creating a "second chance" exit on I-640 to Knoxville Center Mall.

Justin Sterling, president of the East Towne Business Alliance, said the area's biggest asset is traffic along I-640. Sterling was leasing manager at the Knoxville Center Mall and has taken a new position

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Parents, students and teachers rally in support of Non-renewed teachers.

## Parents Rally for Non-Renewed Teachers

By Sally Absher  
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More than 50 parents, students, and teachers braved threats of thunderstorms to attend a rally outside the City County building prior to last Wednesday's Board of Education meeting. Most were dressed in red to show support for over 40 non-tenured teachers whose contracts were not renewed for the following school year.

While non-tenured teacher non-renewals are not uncommon in Knox County (KCS says that there were 55

non-renewals last year and approximately 45 this year), the non-renewal of Copper Ridge Kindergarten teacher Christina Graham struck a nerve in that community.

Last April, Graham spoke out against the use of the high stakes SAT-10 assessment for grades K-2. An administrator in her school questioned some of the statements she made during her speech, but she defended and backed up the statements, and thought that was the end of that.

Graham is just one of a number

of non-tenured, non-renewed teachers who had satisfactory (rock solid 3s, or above) evaluation scores, high leadership scores, and no indication that there was anything of concern about their performance as a teacher, prior to being told that their contract was not being renewed for the following year.

In Graham's case, she has yet to be told why she was being non-renewed. She was, as Jennifer Owen said in Public Forum on Wednesday, blindsided - "hit or attacked on the blind

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# THE CHALK BOARD

*Bits of News About Local Education*

## Washington Pike project facing opposition

**Cont. from page 1**

with Conversion Properties. Sterling told *The Focus* that the new job will actually help in his continuing efforts to boost development in East Knoxville.

"Who are we building this road for?" asked one audience member, adding that most of the land on both sides of Washington Pike belongs to the county, not the city. Even New Harvest Park, where the meeting took place, is in Knox County.

"It's a city street and it's congested," answered Jim Hagerman, Director of Knoxville City Engineering.

Only one neighborhood resident thanked the city for the proposed improvements.

"As a neighborhood association we are not in favor of it," said Ronnie Collins, President of the Alice Bell Springhill Neighborhood Association. He added the proposed changes would "draw people away from the area."

City Councilman Nick Della Volpe echoed Collins and urged the city to "take the money and build a second chance exit."

Collins said the city had promised improvements at the I-640 interchange near the mall for 15 years and added, "We still got nothing."

City plans call for the improvements to be the city's first "Complete Street" project.

The final request by those opposing the plan was to have another public hearing on the matter before right-of-way purchases get underway.

## Standardized Tests – the Good News.

Statewide TCAP (grades 3-8) and high school End of Course (EOC) results were released last week. District and School-level results will be released later this month. The

Department of Education touts the statewide 2014-2015 TCAP results:

- We continued to see strong gains in our high school End of Course exams. Students made gains in all high school subjects. This is particularly exciting given our state's goals around postsecondary transition and attainment.

- All individual grades made gains in math. We have nearly 22,000 more students on grade level in math than last year.

- Compared to 2011, **131,000** more students are on grade level in math.

- Students have continued to show strong growth in science as well. Nearly 60,000 more students are on grade level in science compared to 2011.

- 3-8 grade students made gains in 13 of 18 tests in math, reading, and science.

- This year students also made strong growth in English III, which resulted in more than 2,300 students on grade level than last year.

- Our historically underserved minority groups, black, Hispanic, Native American, and economically disadvantaged students, made gains in all high school subjects.

- Black, Hispanic, and Native American students also made gains in both 3-8 grade math and reading, narrowing the



By Sally Absher  
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achievement gap with their peers.

- Reading in the early grades continues to be a challenge. While high school students and seventh and eighth graders made gains in literacy, in grades 3-6, the state average in literacy declined.

## Standardized Tests – the Bad News.

If you are one of the few people who still believe that standardized test scores tell the whole story, the statewide 2014-2015 TCAP/EOC results are great news. But our kids are more than data points. The unintended consequences of the over-reliance on standardized tests was illustrated by Steven Rogers during last Wednesday's BOE Public Forum.

Rogers, who teaches music at South Doyle High and South Doyle Middle Schools, told the School Board about his middle school Jazz Band group, which met during the RTI2 intervention/Enrichment time at the beginning of the day. These kids are primarily honors students, taking advantage of the extra "enrichment" time to hone their music skills.

It was the end of the school year. There was one last round of standardized tests. The kids, who had voiced their burn-out and test fatigue, were told the test wouldn't be used against them. Since it wasn't going to be used against them, Rogers said, "they didn't take the test, they just filled in answers."

However, it was learned that this test is used to place kids in the Tier system for intervention. So a "whole slew of honors student, who are just burnt out, but otherwise absolutely honors students, are now scheduled for Tier

2 and Tier 3 (intervention) classes."

"But", Rogers said, "It gets better, because life is cruel." Because it takes eight data points to get out of the RTI2 Tier, and those data points have to be collected two weeks apart, these kids are going to be in that until CHRISTMAS.

Rogers pointed out that getting honors students out of the Tier 2/Tier 3 would allow a lower student to teacher ratio for the kids who genuinely need the intervention. Rogers implored the BOE to encourage principals to have the flexibility to make rational decisions, not just based on the results of one test at the end of the year, when students are feeling burned out and over-tested.

## Why Johnny Can't Read.

The TN DOE reported last week that TCAP scores in English/Language Arts were down for 2014-2015. There was an interesting letter written by a Rosemont High School (Minnesota) teacher in the 12/4/2014 Star Tribune, titled "Can Your School-Aged Child Read? The letter is printed in entirety below:

"I teach high school English, and I am begging you to please read to your children. Read everything. Read baby books when they are babies. Read picture books when they are older. Ask your middle-schoolers to read street signs, billboards and marquees during every car ride. Ask your teenagers to read your water bills, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, recipes and catalog descriptions. Read everything like your life depends on it.

Why? Because your children can't read.

We are in the midst of one of the greatest literacy crises ever

encountered, and we are fighting an uphill battle. Every day I experience firsthand what it means to be illiterate in a high school classroom. At best it means sleeping away a unit; at worst it means depression or aggression. Average students with average abilities can fervently text away, but they cannot read.

Recently, I gave a unit test where students could use all their notes and their short story on the test (not my standard practice). The results: abysmal. I didn't think the test was too difficult until I started doing some investigating and made a shocking discovery. They couldn't even read the test. Don't think it's your child? Ask your high school teenager to define the following: superior, ridicule, flippant or mundane. Now imagine your child taking the ACT or SAT. Now what?

I teach nearly 200 high school juniors each day. If we give them all the same book to read, they often do not read it. Ask them why, and they say: "It's boring." Translation? "It's too hard." They also may say they have no time. As educators, we can only do so much with the limited resources we have. I understand I have an obligation to teach in an exciting and rewarding way, but my tech-savvy students are beating me down, and I need your help.

What can you do? Model reading in the home. Visit the library. Go to the bookstore. Share your reading experiences with them. Encourage them to read their assigned work. Offer your help with comprehension. If you struggle with reading, please share how you face this difficult challenge with success. They need your help. I need your help. To succeed in school, students must read on their own. Our future depends on it."

KIM DALLAS, Rosemount

# Parents Rally for Non-Renewed Teachers

**Cont. from page 1**

side, or from where they are vulnerable." Many Copper Ridge parents believe her non-renewal was retaliation for her speech to the BOE.

Copper Ridge parent Kelly Wright helped organize the rally, using social media to get the message out. She created a Facebook event and used the hashtag #saveourteachers. She posted, "This rally isn't against an individual... It's against policy... If we got someone out and we didn't fix the policy, than you still have the same problems... We have got to fix the root of the problem, that is the policy, and how it is worded..."

School Board member Terry Hill agrees. During last Monday's Work Session, Hill discussed Knox County Board of Education Policy GBG "Non Tenure." The policy specifically deals

with non-renewal of non-tenured teachers.

The last two lines of the policy state, "The principal is responsible for discussing deficiencies with the non-tenured teacher and providing assistance for overcoming these deficiencies."

At issue with Ms. Graham and others is that no deficiencies were identified, or discussed. Hill said "We as a school system should never be put in the place of having a teacher who has been under our employ for three years...that has gotten satisfactory evaluations, even shown improvement from year to year, has scored at an exceptional level on rubrics for leadership, a teacher that for three years our system has invested time and money and energy in training this teacher, at the end of that third year, being told that they are non-renewed without some type

of explanation or documentation."

She said she would also extend this concern to non-tenured teachers who have been ruffed (laid off due to their position being eliminated through no fault of their own). She said "I have a real issue that we no longer have priority hiring for these teachers that have been let go through no fault of their own."

Hill said, "The message we are sending to our teachers when we do this is that we do not value them... It's very hard for a teacher, no matter how dedicated they are, to be that loyal employee if they know that regardless of what they might do, there is always the potential that they are going to have the rug ripped out from under them....not even given the consideration of a priority appointment in another school."

She suggested several improvements to Policy

GBG, including adding a requirement to protect both teacher and principal to document or keep a written log of all discussions pertaining to the teachers' performance; and adding the right for teachers with two or more years and satisfactory evaluations who are non-renewed to appeal to the Superintendent or the Board.

Lynne Fugate shared Hills concerns, saying, "It sounds to me like what we have is poor management if a teacher is being non-renewed and they had no idea because in good management you should be having those discussions." But she added, "It's important for our community to remember, we only non-renewed 44 teachers this year out of approximately 4000."

Patti Bounds said, "I don't deal in percentages – it's people's lives that are at stake, and their

careers... 55, 44, whatever the number, is too many in this county in a system this large... We need to look at not only this policy, and revise the policy, we need to look at our hiring practices, and human resources..."

Amber Rountree is also concerned about teachers being non-renewed with no prior discussion of deficiencies. She said that Hamilton County has an appeals process for non-tenured teachers who are not renewed. Non-renewed teachers from KCS are at a huge disadvantage when applying in surrounding counties, because those counties have a very clear definition of "non-renewed" based on the reasons listed in Tennessee Code: incompetence, inefficiency, neglect of duty, unprofessional conduct, and insubordination.

At Monday's Work Session, Bob Savery spoke

in support of Christina Graham. After seeking council from the Law Director and two BOE members prior to the meeting, he made an appeal to the Board's "ethical and moral side of what is right and what is wrong."

He asked the Board to "right this terrible wrong done to an amazing teacher." Citing TCA 49-2-203 b (8), he said the Board of Education has great power in decisions of non-renewal, or as TCA refers to it, "failure of re-election." He cited the need to revise BOE Policy GBG, as discussed previously.

Savery reiterated his appeal for Graham at Wednesday's meeting, quoting George Bernard Shaw, who said, "Progress is not possible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."



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**Guest Editorial: Perspectives of a Christian American**

# On the Supreme Court and same-sex marriage

By **Richie Beeler**

A great deal happened last month in America. Some of it was incredibly good news to one group of people, while simultaneously horrifying to others. Parts of it drew emotional outrage from some people, while inciting righteous indignation among those of a different opinion. At least one piece of it was unspeakably evil and inexpressibly tragic. All of it was enough to bring an amateur opinion columnist at least temporarily out of retirement.

For the purpose of brevity, I will limit this first column to one of those issues: the Supreme Court ruling on June 26 that effectively legalized same-sex marriage across America, and the polarized reactions that followed.

As a Christian who also happens to be an American citizen, my perspective on many issues is at least two-fold. Not that I mean to insinuate that my American citizenship is in any way at odds with my Christianity. I only mean that each of these (I believe compatible) allegiances elicit different responses to certain aspects of these events. I offer first, my response as a Christian.

My faith in Christ, and the doctrines of Christianity to which I ascribe, comprise the one great influence that guides my life and my beliefs. That means primarily two things. First, it means that the love of Jesus compels me to treat people - all people - with respect, dignity, and compassion. Most people, Christian or otherwise, can appreciate this aspect of my life. But second, my faith means that Scripture is my absolute authority on all matters of belief and practice. That is an aspect of my life to which many people, Christian or otherwise, simply cannot relate.

A fair number of people today, particularly outside the South, often find it puzzling that for many evangelicals, the Bible really does determine what we believe about

virtually everything. Religion is not merely a part of our lives; it is the over-arching influence that governs our entire lives. As a Bible-believing evangelical Christian, my primary response to the events of June 26 could best be described as grief tempered by love.

The Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage did not bring the kind of personal grief I felt for those slain while showing the love of Christ in Charleston, but a general sense of sadness over the moral condition of our nation. America chose to normalize something the Bible calls sin. And as a Bible-believing Christian, that grieves me. It does not outrage me. It does not even surprise me. This is by no means the first time it has happened in our culture. Our secular society - and in some cases even the church - has been normalizing sins for decades.

When I was in elementary school you whispered about the scant few kids whose parents were divorced. Your heart broke for them. It was unthinkable that it might happen to you. That was the culture's view of divorce 45 years ago. Now you would be hard-pressed to find such disdain for it even in the church. It has become so normalized by society that it almost feels normal to Christians. But that doesn't make it any less heartbreaking. The same could be said for a number of other behaviors discouraged or forbidden by Scripture but heartily embraced by our modern secular culture.

But, as in the case of the Charleston shootings, my grief over Friday's decision remains tempered by love. I do not grieve because I don't

want people to be happy. I do not grieve because I feel like 'my side' has lost a battle. I grieve because Scripture governs my thinking, and the message of Scripture is clear: sin destroys....and the path of sin is a slippery slope. Once a people, a culture, or a nation begins its slide down the steep embankment of moral decline, it quickly descends into depravity. And there is nothing to stop the snowball.

Nothing except the good news that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world so that depraved sinners like all of us might believe in him and inherit eternal life. And when the culture embraces yet another normalized sin, I am motivated all the more to spread that news. As a Christian, I am compelled, not to march on Washington, or circulate petitions, or become obsessed with preaching against society's 'sin of the moment' - but rather to speak the truth in love.

Many of those who disagree with my views would have us believe that issues like the normalization of same-sex marriage are always an end in and of themselves. In other words, moving one moral landmark never affects another. Not true. It bears remembering that this particular ruling required the redefinition of one of the most foundational pillars of human society. Such redefinition can never be without unintended consequence or ripple effect. To deny that reality is to mischaracterize the true nature of these types of issues.

It is that mischaracterization that brings out the American in me. And the American in me is angry. No, to use a more American word.... the American in me is

pissed. (Warning: change in tone forthcoming). Friday's Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage in the United States has to go down as one of the sorriest excuses of jurisprudence in American history. The majority of the Court based its decision largely on the premise that "the Constitution promises liberty to all within its reach." Wow.

What does that mean? It means whatever the heck the Supreme Court wants it to mean. Apparently it no longer matters whether something is actually contained in the Constitution. The Court can just use the "liberty to all" rule and write law straight from the bench, making up new "rights" as they go. Remember how it used to be handled when a really important issue came up that wasn't addressed in the Constitution? You know, issues like the abolition of slavery, citizenship for freed slaves, women's suffrage, and protecting civil rights for all races? These were things that needed to happen for the good of the country, but over which the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction because they were not covered by the Constitution.

So what did we do? Here's a shocker from history: WE AMENDED THE CONSTITUTION.

That's what you do. If there's an issue that's really important to you, and you don't like your state's laws that govern it, and you want help from on high (Washington, DC), but the United States Constitution doesn't address your issue.... you get a Constitutional Amendment passed that does address it, so the Supreme Court will have a basis on which to rule. It is a legislative process, a power vested solely in the elected Congress with approval by the states.

Now I'll warn you: Constitutional Amendments don't come easy. They aren't supposed to. They involve more than an argument in a courtroom or an opinion from five justices. They can take years, even decades of labor. They require sacrifice, courage, and true statesmanship. They also require a two-thirds majority of both houses of Congress, as well as approval by three-fourths of the states. That's the procedure our founders put in place for effecting major changes in America's governing document. And if you can't get an amendment passed, here's what you do: you admit that maybe America doesn't want what you want. Live with it.

For the record, there is nothing in the Constitution that says ANYTHING about

marriage. The issuance of marriage licenses and the sanctioning of marriages has always been a state issue, period. The Tenth Amendment to our Constitution, adopted as part of the Bill of Rights in 1791, effectively says that any power not specifically delegated to the United States by the Constitution is to be reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. In other words if the Constitution doesn't give the federal government the authority to deal with a particular issue, it's up to the states to deal with it, or to the people's elected representatives to change it.

But that's not how it works anymore. The people's elected representatives have very little say over such weighty matters these days. It's all up to lawyers and judges. There's no need for Congress to pass any amendments. In fact, what's the point of ever amending the Constitution again when the Supreme Court wields absolute power over it through their newly discovered "promise of liberty" clause? And your state legislature? Well it's pretty much a joke. Five people can flush anything it says down the toilet.

Pretty much like the paper the Constitution was written on.

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# Board of Education Passes Budget

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afternoon drafting the language in the City & County Building while the air conditioning was turned off. Armstrong won kudos from just about everybody for his professionalism and working with legislative bodies and department heads frequently at odds.

Mayor Tim Burchett and McIntyre have frequently been at odds since Burchett's election, usually over spending. It has been rare that the school system has not asked for more and more funding, but this year the system faced a \$6.5 million shortfall. Burchett made it clear he did not intend to make up the difference and economic growth has been so sluggish that revenue has not come pouring in to the school system's coffers. The MOU set out guidelines agreed to by the County Commission and the Board of Education for better fiscal restraint. The Commission quickly approved Burchett's budget recommendation, as well as the MOU. It was up to the Board of Education to either approve the MOU and Capital Plan or reject it

and potentially have to implement \$6.5 million worth of budget cuts.

The Capital Plan was also controversial with some members of the Board of Education as McIntyre had originally recommended a new Hardin Valley Middle School and a new Northwest Elementary School. The recommendation for the Northwest Elementary School caught some Board members by surprise as there had been very little conversation about the project. The Board voted 6 - 3 to add a new middle school for the Gibbs community to the Capital Plan.

The Northwest Elementary School didn't make the cut in the negotiations between Mayor Burchett and McIntyre, which upset Board member Tracie Sanger. Sanger has been a member of the Board of Education for just over six months, having won a special election to serve the balance of Indya Kincannon's term after she resigned. Sanger doesn't seem to have the charm or intelligence of South Knox representative Amber Rountree or the passion of Patti Bounds. At the regular meeting Sanger caught fire from both Karen

Carson and Rountree.

Carson, the longest serving incumbent on the Board of Education and an announced candidate for the Tennessee House of Representatives, pointed out Sanger had voted to add a new middle school for the Gibbs community to the Capital Plan originally and was unhappy with the current plan. Carson told Sanger bluntly that had Sanger not voted to add Gibbs to the Capital Plan, the Board would not likely have been put in the position it was in and told her it was not possible to have "things both ways."

Sanger tried to imply the County Commission was coercing the Board, noting she had heard the word "fear" used twice and "bullying" once. Amber Rountree clarified her remarks saying she did not intend to cast aspersions on the Commission, but felt the Board needed to realize the "reality" of its own situation. Rountree said superintendent McIntyre and the Board had likely not been as fiscally responsible as it could have and should have been. Rountree also said the Basic Education Plan designed by the State of Tennessee

was treating Knox County unfairly.

The MOU and Capital Plan were hotly debated by the Board at both its workshop and regular meetings. Board member Lynne Fugate groused that she could not support the plan as she felt the Board of Education was surrendering its independence. Fugate said the Board had tried to cooperate with the Commission in the past but the Board's pleas for more money and higher taxes had gone unheeded. Fugate, a banker, noted the local economy was not likely to get better any time soon, which means the schools could not expect new cash infusions.

At the workshop meeting, Vice Chair Doug Harris did an exceptionally fine job of fielding questions and fending off attacks on both the MOU and Capital Plan. Harris noted Knox County gives a higher percentage of its budget locally than most every other county in the state.

Karen Carson expressed the bottom line for many Board members that just about everybody on the Board of Education routinely said they were for teacher raises,

that the Board would make teacher raises a priority, but voting against the MOU and Capital Plan would mean teachers got nothing. Carson said she didn't believe the County Commission would send back another budget with more money. Carson made it very clear she did not believe the plan before the Board was perfect or even very good, but she said it was simply the best the Board could do for teachers, students, and the system.

Terry Hill made an impassioned plea to her colleagues, stating she understood the concerns of some of her colleagues who were not in favor of the MOU or the Capital Plan. Patti Bounds said her own decision was a difficult one, but was eloquent in sharing with her fellow Board members the needs of her own district.

In the end, the MOU and Capital Plan were approved 6 - 3 with Mike McMillan, Amber Rountree, Patti Bounds, Terry Hill and Karen Carson supporting it. Gloria Deathridge, Lynne Fugate, and Tracie Sanger voted against it.

## City Council to name park for Everly Brothers

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In their meeting Tuesday, July 7, the city council will apparently name the little pocket park at 4639 Kingston Pike the "Everly Brothers Park." The motion is being offered by Councilmen Marshall Stair and Duane Grieve.

The park has been a project by the Bearden Council and others, spearheaded on the council by Grieve, and plans are being made to design the park with a

possible statue, benches, permanent stage, and plaque. Don and Phil Everly attended West High School and performed on the Cas Walker television show. The duo is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The council may also look at upping Vaughn and Melton's contract for the Central Street Streetscape project by \$98,050 and entering into an agreement with Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon for the Magnolia Avenue

Streetscape Project not to exceed \$496,500.

Long-term disability insurance coverage for the next three years with Prudential Insurance Company will be on the agenda at \$190,000 for city employees. Life insurance is also on the agenda, with The Hartford Insurance Company, for \$140,000 annually.

Emergency funding may also be on the agenda with \$5,000 going to Greater Schools Partnership to benefit Northwest Middle School

initiatives, \$1,250 to Knoxville Area Urban League for Shoes for School annual outreach event, \$500 for the Community Action Committee as agenda for Mechanicsville Community Association, and \$300 to the Greater Smoky Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts for North and South area youth programs

Adjustments to the city employment classification and compensations plan may be discussed as well as authorizing the Public

Service Officer to authorize the boarding and securing of unoccupied and open buildings that are unfit or habitation or dangerous.

The council meeting may also be the first meeting of that body with the new Metropolitan Planning Commission Director, Gerald Green, who took office July 1.

The Community Action Committee may also receive a \$650,000 in a block grant for Emergency and Minor Home Repairs and the Weatherization Health and

Safety Program.

Neighborhood Housing, Inc. may be given \$100,000 in grants for the Minor Home Repair program called "Operation Backyard."

A grant available from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency for \$16,000 may be authorized for the mayor to apply, to improve technological and community capabilities of the Emergency Operation Center.

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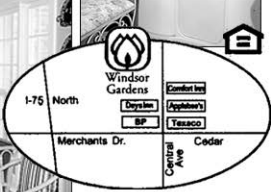
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**Our Neighborhoods**

# Lenior City is Booming

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

If you think Lenoir City as just a suburb of Knoxville you are underrating out neighbor community.

Like Alcoa, Maryville and Seymour, Lenoir City supplies workers and services to Knoxville just as Knox County and Farragut supply labor to the surrounding cities.

Lenoir City is much more than a suburb and dates back to the late 1700s when Judge David Campbell, a cousin of a man with the same name who was the founder of Campbell's Station, located there and built a log cabin and grist mill.

But Campbell's claim didn't hold up and what is now the town was part of a 5,000-acre grant to General

William Lenoir, a veteran of the Revolutionary War. The case ended in 1809 with Lenoir the winner and he established a large business trade there that included a mill and steamboat landing.

Several Civil War incidents happened in the city including some destruction from a raid by Union Cavalry forces. The mill was saved after a secret Masonic handshake between the commanding Union officer and the owner of the mill.

The city was the home of the Lenoir City Company and that building now serves as home of the Lenoir City Museum. By far, the most recognized landmarks are the Lenoir Cotton Mill and the iconic William Ballard House,

built in 1821. Lenoir City is also the home of Lenoir City Utilities Company which serves customers in Loudon County and West Knox County.

The Lenoir City Park, on the waters of Lake Loudon just above the dam, is a much used park and hosts events throughout the year.

As the largest city in Loudon County the town continues to prosper and has become a much traveled route for people going to the Smoky Mountains. The Loudon County Visitor Center, near I-75, is well staffed and offers much information about the county and East Tennessee.

The residents of nearby Tellico Village have added much to the Lenoir City and Loudon County economy. Other large residential developments also contribute to the growth including Tennessee National and Rarity Bay. Many Knoxville professionals reside along the lake and in upscale communities such as Avalon.

Lenoir City is the "Phoenix" of our area, rising twice from disasters. In 1994 a tornado struck the downtown. In 1998 the Lenoir Hotel caught fire and the entire block was destroyed. The block was rebuilt to house the Roane



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The remains of the Lenoir Cotton Mill, built by the founding family of Lenoir City, and one of the historic landmarks in the city.

State Community College, the Career Center and the Lenoir City Public Library.

Work is underway on construction of a new highway bridge over Fort Loudoun along Highway 321. The Highway 321 commercial district continues to grow and fill in from downtown to and beyond the intersection with Interstate 75.

"Our population since 2010 has grown by 50 percent," Amber Scott, Assistant City Administrator, told The Focus.

She said the Fort Loudoun bridge completion

date has been extended until the summer of 2017 and added that there's an effort in the state legislature to retain the current bridge as a pedestrian causeway.

She said the growth of commerce along Highway 321 and the increasing tourist traffic passing through Lenoir City have been very welcomed.

"We have a grant for downtown and we're planning a new streetscape that will include underground utilities, landscaping, brick pavers at the intersections, and more friendly downtown

parking," she said.

Phase One of that will start soon and the bids are being let. It will involve one block, from Kingston to A Street.

Upcoming events for Lenoir City include the "Cool Down Downtown" on August 13th at 6:30 that features an ice-cream social and contest at the First National Bank Parking Lot. The Downtown Street Festival is being planned for September 26th from noon until 4 p.m. and will feature arts, crafts, live music and classic cars.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBER SCOTT

Downtown Lenoir City is getting a new streetscape that includes underground utilities, new sidewalks, trees and brick pavers at the intersections.

# Taxi \$1 surcharge may be dropped

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Back in 2008, when the cost of fuel was at its highest in years, the Knoxville Transit Authority authorized a \$1 surcharge for each trip, giving taxi companies help in wrestling with increasing costs. The KTA is now discussing dropping the extra \$1 per fare and is talking with taxi companies to get comments.

The KTA heard from one taxi owner as well as Don Lindsey of AAA recently and Lindsey said there has been an 89 cent

drop in gasoline cost from last year. He said gas prices probably won't reach \$3 a gallon this year but added he has no crystal ball and really can't predict the cost.

Attorney John Lawhorn said that the \$1 was to help the taxi companies "through a rough time" and suggested a hearing be held, with adequate public notice, next month to get public input. KTA member Hubert Smith moved to hold the public hearing to discuss dropping the surcharge at the next scheduled

meeting on July 23.

Changes in the Substance Abuse Policy for employees involving minor wording changes as required by the Federal government were introduced by Dawn Distler, Director of Transit. KTA member Renee Hoyos said she'd like to see the entire policy but Lawhorn said the description of the policy would suffice and the board voted to accept the changes.

The KTA also heard of the addition of hours to some routes on Sunday, starting now at 8:15

a.m. and running until 8:15 p.m. and were told that new hires in the department are already covered in the budget.

Ridership on Knoxville's city buses and trolleys continues to increase, up more than 3.5 percent over last year and the finances are doing well, exceeding expenses. That was the news at the Transit Authority meeting Thursday.

Ridership on the Sequoyah Hills route was down but that may be due to offering the bus at peak times only. Ridership on

the new Lakeshore route is up and continues to grow.

The Authority heard from three citizens, one asking for route changes, another asking that the Route Numbers be posted at each stop, and another saying that he's had to stop the trolley to board. Lincoln Lincoln, a downtown resident who has stopped trolleys to get aboard, told the board that riders know more about the routes and system than the board or the drivers.

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# Backyard Critters



By Joe Rector  
joerector@comcast.net

I like the outside. Nothing depresses me more than being trapped in the house as the rain or snow falls. Working in the yard is a blessing to me, and I'd stay there all

the time were I given the opportunity. The only drawbacks to being in the yard or the wooded areas at the side of our house are the critters and creatures that I've encountered.

The first spring after we moved into the house we'd built was spent getting the yard in shape. I threw out grass seed after one snow covered the land in February, and to my surprise, I had a thick, lush stand of grass out back. When enough time had passed to give the grass a chance to take root, I pulled out the lawn mower and prepared to complete my first mowing.

The grass was high, and the mowing was slow to prevent the mower from bogging down. I watched

to make sure no roots or sticks were in the path. All of a sudden, I saw a wiggle in the grass. Such quick movement startled me, and I almost lost my left toes to the lawn mower

blade. The movement continued for a couple more feet and left no doubt that a snake was the creator.

I hate snakes with a passion. In fact, the only good snake is a dead one that has been squished flat by the wheels of a semi-truck. My first act was retrieving a hoe from the shed, and I stalked that critter and chopped him into several pieces. Then I went inside and replaced flimsy shoes with work boots. A person can never tell when one of those giant snakes will try to take a bite out of a foot or leg.

One evening a few years later, I met up with another of God's creatures. Our house has a one-car garage. My vehicle is parked under a carport at the end of a second driveway.

I used to smoke but wanted to hide

doing so from the children. (I convinced myself that the smell of smoke was easily hidden and that the kids would never know of my terrible smoking habit.) My favorite place to "burn one" was under that carport, and on a spring evening I exited the house to do that. Night had already arrived, and darkness swallowed up the carport and my car in which the cigarettes were placed.

I reached for the door of the car as my foot nudged something. I supposed it was a cat that cuddled around the car for warmth. Along with my cigarettes, I retrieved a flashlight and shined it on the creature below. Instead of a cat, a possum stood only a couple of feet from me, and it was not happy about being interrupted. I got a good look at those razor-sharp teeth and heard a warning hiss. I broke into a full run back to the house and suffered a nicotine fit the rest of the evening. There was no way I was going back out where that menacing little marsupial might attack.

Snoop was just a pup still, and he loved to go outside to walk the yard and

protect his territory. On this occasion, he began yipping before I could get the door open. I told him to relax until the door opened. With just a slit to get through, he shot outside and tore around the corner. I was behind him when I heard a yelp, not an attack bark, and immediately smelled the fragrance of a skunk that had been annoyed. I prayed that Snoop hadn't been sprayed, but he met me quickly with his tail between his legs and a yellowish substance on his face and back.

The skunk hit the dog dead center, and for the next two or more hours, I washed Snoop in shampoo and tomato juice. By the way, it's a lie that tomato juice kills skunk smell. Time does, not tomato juice. In about six weeks, my little dog was tolerable to be around.

My yard is my retreat. Evidently, it serves the same purpose for critters in the Ball Camp area. I'll tolerate the four-legged ones, but snakes will have to find another place to nest unless they want me to cultivate them with a hoe.

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## Small Space Gardening



By Mike Cruze, Master Gardener

As many of us "Baby Boomers" are reaching retirement age and thinking of downsizing our homes, having low maintenance or no maintenance...moving into condos...we still have considerations on gardening. Gardeners love gardening and are

each plant.

As I said, you can have a productive small space garden and provide an abundance of vegetables, fruit and herbs. Apples grafted onto dwarfing rootstocks and most strawberry varieties will grow well in pots. Also espaliered apple trees can be used on a wall taking up minimal space and increasing fruit yield significantly. Also try tomatoes, potatoes, zucchini, sweet peppers, and salad vegetables, among other crops. Think vertical. Consider using stacking pots with planting holes in their sides, hanging baskets, and strawberry jars with tiered planting holes that make maximum use of precious floor space to produce a cascade of fruit. You can grow vertically on trellises, on walls, on wigwams, etc.etc. There are other advantages of growing up (other than space saving). Harvesting is easier because there is no stooping or hunching over. Vertical gardens increase accessibility for gardeners with disabilities because they can tend or pick from a chair or garden seat. Climbing vegetables, such as lima beans, pole beans and peas are ideal to grow on trellises.

always gardeners. Even when moving into a condominium or townhome, you can still have a garden of sorts and enjoy gardening!

There are many options available. Most condos or townhomes offer a balcony, patio, small lawn area and sunrooms. There may be certain restrictions...check with your Homeowners Association before beginning your small space garden. Small space gardening presents a few more challenges but certainly you can plant and have an abundance of flowers, herbs and vegetables, even fruit trees. Container gardening and vertical gardening are the trick to growing it in less space than you think. The idea is to utilize the space you have in order to reap more rewards.

With some sun and imagination, you can make your small space garden beautiful as well as productive. By choosing container gardening, you can open up many new possibilities. Maximize the options open to you with a selection of plants of differing heights growing in containers of varying shape and size. They can introduce color, foliage interest, scent and food. The beauty of container gardening is that you can create, and then control, your planting environment to an extent that land-bound gardeners can only dream about. You can move your containers from place to place giving you an opportunity to try out several different arrangements until you discover the optimum position for

Don't forget herbs for culinary purposes, fragrance purposes and even medicinal purposes. Herbs are perfect for containers. Container herb gardens allow any gardener with only a little time and space to enjoy the incomparable flavor of fresh basil, the invigorating fragrance of mint and the frilly beauty of parsley picked within steps of the kitchen door. Some herbs are best grown in containers even if you have space to spare. Invasive ones that spread everywhere, such as mint, oregano and some types of thyme are best restrained by pots.

Herbs also combine well with flowers and vegetables for container bouquets. As an example, a clump of garlic chives paired with a colorful lavender bell pepper and trailing yellow lantern makes a useful and decorative display for any patio, deck or balcony. You can soften hard or stark building or landscape surfaces by camouflaging with living green walls and other vertical design features.

So, my dear friends, those of you who are gardeners yet downsizing to condo living, small spaces, urban spaces, don't despair. There is much gardening that can be done using container gardening, vertical gardening and imagination. Garden on!

"The Walls enriched with Fruit-trees and faced with a covering of their leafy extensions; I should rather have said hung with different pieces of Nature's noblest Tapestry."--James Hervey

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# Congressman Robert A. "Fats" Everett

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Long forgotten by most, the late Congressman Robert Ashton "Fats" Everett was one of the more colorful from the political pages of Tennessee's history. Everett was by any measure a political professional well before he ever was elected to Congress.

Tall and weighing in at over three-hundred pounds, most everyone called the genial Bob Everett "Fats." Former Congressman John Tanner recalls Everett's father, "Mr. Charlie," as saying about his son, "Why, Fats don't mind hard work. He'll lie down right beside it and go to sleep!" One young man who got his political start driving Everett around his district was a young Ned McWherter.

Born on a farm near Union City, Tennessee on February 24, 1915, Bob Everett attended public schools before heading to Murray State College. Everett graduated from college in 1936 and that same year made his official political debut, winning election to the Obion County Court, the forerunner of the County Commission. Everett was only twenty-one years old at the time. Four years later, Everett was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Like many other young men of the time, "Fats" Everett's career was interrupted by World War II. Everett served in the U. S. Army for three years, from 1942 until 1945, when he was discharged. Bob Everett did not immediately return to Obion County after the war, but found a job in the nation's Capitol. Everett became the Secretary, or Chief of Staff, to Senator Tom Stewart of Tennessee.

Stewart, Tennessee's junior senator, was an amiable and unassuming man, who worked hard to do things for Tennessee and Tennesseans. Senator Stewart was largely overshadowed by Tennessee's more colorful and powerful senior senator, Kenneth D. McKellar. Fortunately, the two got along rather well and Stewart seemed not to mind deferring to the influential McKellar.

"Fats" Everett enjoyed Washington, D. C., which had to be quite a change from Obion County. Everett enjoyed taking a drink and liked the social life of the Capitol, although he remained a life-long bachelor.

An announcement in December of 1947 turned Tennessee politics upside down. E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political machine, had been mortified when

Tom Stewart had run for reelection in 1942 and actually needed the votes from Shelby County to win renomination in the Democratic primary. Some of those closest to Crump plied the Memphis Boss with a running commentary on Senator Stewart's supposed deficiencies. Crump issued a statement in December of 1947 that he would not support Stewart for another term in 1948. Instead, Crump would back an obscure judge from Cookeville, John A. Mitchell, whom he had never even met. The Memphis Boss thought his pronouncement would be the last word on the subject, but a stubborn Senator Stewart declared he was running again, with or without Crump's support.

Senator K. D. McKellar, who liked Stewart very much personally, was anguished by Crump's decision and tried to change the Memphis Boss's mind. Very reluctantly, McKellar agreed to back Judge Mitchell and sadly noted since that time, his colleague had little to do with him.

McKellar and Crump had dominated Tennessee politics almost completely since 1932 and Crump's capricious decision to dump Senator Stewart proved to be the worst single mistake of his long political career. It opened the door for Chattanooga Congressman Estes Kefauver to win the 1948 Democratic primary. Senator McKellar had flatly told Crump he didn't believe Mitchell could win the election and he proved to be right. Had Crump listened and supported Senator Stewart again, there is every reason to believe he would have been reelected. As it was, Crump's candidate ran a poor third and Congressman Kefauver won the nomination with a plurality of the vote.

Senator Stewart carried Obion County by a better than two-to-one majority, a sign of "Fats" Everett's political potency in his home area. With the defeat of Senator Stewart, "Fats" was out of a job, but not for long.

Gordon Browning, a former governor, was challenging incumbent Jim Nance McCord for the Democratic nomination in 1948. Browning had left office in 1939 largely discredited, after having suffered a devastating defeat in one of the hardest fought political contests in Tennessee history. Browning had returned to Tennessee after having served in World War II and Governor



PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

**Congressman Robert A. "Fats" Everett celebrates his election to Congress on the steps of the Capitol with friends and family. Everett is in the center, waving his hat.**

McCord's popularity had plummeted due to his support for the sales tax, which had been implemented to give Tennessee school children free textbooks. Tennesseans disliked the sales tax more than they appreciated the free textbooks for their children.

Browning won a decisive victory over Jim McCord, despite the strong backing of both Senator McKellar and E. H. Crump. As Browning put together his administration, he asked "Fats" Everett to become his chief administrative aide. "Fats" was off to Nashville and served under Browning for four years.

Governor Browning had thought of running for the United States Senate in 1952; Browning had longed to go to the Senate, which had been his ultimate political goal throughout his long career in Tennessee politics. Senator McKellar, eighty-three years old and ailing, chose to seek reelection to a then unprecedented seventh term. Browning was irked when Congressman Albert Gore opted to challenge McKellar, but the governor still did not think well of a campaign against the formidable McKellar and decided to seek reelection instead.

Browning encountered tough opposition in the person of Frank Clement, a thirty-two year old who possessed a charismatic personality and remarkable speaking ability. By the conclusion of the 1952 Democratic primary, "Fats" Everett was out of a job again.

Demonstrating an ability to land on his feet, "Fats" was hired as the first Executive Secretary of the Tennessee County Services Association. The TCSA was the lobbying arm of the county governments in Tennessee and hiring "Fats" Everett was a

masterful move. The amiable Everett, despite his outsized appearance, carried a virtual political encyclopedia inside his head. Everett knew just about everybody worth knowing in the state and in his capacity as an assistant to Senator Stewart and Governor Browning had done a passel of favors for folks all across the state.

Everett remained as Executive Secretary of the Tennessee Counties Services Association until 1956 when he decided to become a candidate for Congress. Everett's opponent in the Democratic primary was Congressman Jere Cooper, then the sitting Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. Cooper had been in Congress since 1929 and was well liked inside his district.

"Fats" Everett's campaign for Congress in 1956 demonstrated both his shrewdness as a politician and his popular appeal. Congressman Cooper only barely beat back the challenge from Everett.

As it turned out, Bob Everett's return to Washington, D. C. was merely delayed. Jere Cooper died of a heart attack on December 18, 1957. A special election was called and "Fats" Everett, after having run such a strong race against a popular and powerful incumbent, was well positioned to win the Democratic primary. Everett drew two opponents, yet won the primary contest with a majority of the vote. Everett took his seat in Congress on February 1, 1958.

"Fats" Everett would remain in Congress for the rest of his life.

Representing a largely rural district, Congressman Everett was a more traditional, conservative Southern Democrat. Everett excelled at constituent service and took care of his people quite well.

Touring the district in a baggy suit to fit his large frame comfortably and oftentimes wearing a string tie, Bob Everett was highly popular.

Despite not having the seniority of many other Southern Democrats, "Fats" Everett understood both politics and the institution. Everett quickly gained more influence than others might have under the circumstances. When Congressman Everett became irritated with a game warden in his district, a Johnson administration official hurriedly wrote the Interior Department to remind them of the "indispensability of Everett to this Administration in Congress."

Part of Everett's charm was his self-deprecating humor. The Congressman frequently said he weighed "one pound less than a ton". Muckraking columnist Drew Pearson related that Everett tried to have "Robert A. 'Fats' Everett" put on the name plate of his suite of offices, but there wasn't enough room and he had to be content with "Robert A. Everett". One constituent complained and wrote the Congressman to say, "Dear Fats: I've never changed the name of a mule, and I'm not going to start calling you by another name either since you've moved to Washington."

Politically, "Fats" Everett missed few tricks. He moved around his district frequently and remained highly popular. Congressman Everett faced no opposition inside the Democratic primary in his 1960 reelection campaign. Everett did draw an opponent in the 1962, but crushed his challenger, winning 41,158 votes to a paltry 3,293 votes. Everett faced slightly more serious opposition in the 1966 Democratic primary from a candidate named

for his late predecessor, but won once again handsomely.

When President Lyndon B. Johnson came to Tennessee to campaign in Nashville in 1964, Congressman Everett was on the platform, along with most every other important Democrat in the state. Republican strength in Tennessee was beginning to surge and Democrats were united that year. LBJ, a meticulous organizer, even had all the former living governors of Tennessee at the War Memorial Building that year. Prentice Cooper, Gordon Browning, and Jim McCord were all in attendance, vestiges of a time that had long gone by.

Young Ned McWherter learned much from "Fats" Everett and even as a youngster, he was admitted into the Congressman's circle of political and personal friends. There are those who were close to the late governor who believed McWherter actually patterned his own political career after that of "Fats" Everett. The Congressman kept his campaign headquarters at the David Crockett Hotel in Union City. There young Ned McWherter would join Everett and his friends to socialize and plan out their politicking. The hotel was owned by the parents of Bette Jean Beck, who was McWherter's wife. McWherter himself later said he licked stamps and drove Everett around the district during campaigns. Everett, at 6'4 and three hundred pounds or more, was a colorful role model.

Congressman Everett had once again had no opposition in the Democratic primary in 1968. It was a year of bitter political strife and Richard Nixon, George Wallace, and Hubert Humphrey all competed for the presidency. Wallace received a surprisingly large vote inside Everett's Congressional district. Despite having navigated the political pitfalls in his own district, "Fats" Everett was ailing. Only fifty-three years old, Everett was admitted to a Nashville hospital and died from pneumonia on January 26, 1969.

Being a bachelor, "Fats" Everett left no widow or children. Many others served in Congress much longer than the twelve years Everett served in Congress, but few attained the kind of influence he did so quickly. Less interested in foreign affairs than doing favors for his constituents and taking care of his people, "Fats" Everett was both well-liked and respected by his home folks.

Those same folks erected a statue that stands outside the Obion County Courthouse. "Fats" is shown in full regalia, hat and bow tie and all. The statue bears an inscription of a quote from Congressman Everett that Ned McWherter often repeated himself: "If a man don't want to work, he hadn't ought to hire out."

# Four Generations

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

When winter's wrath paralyzed our nation last February with weeks of snow and ice, ninety-degree days and summer holidays seemed so distant. By the time this column is printed, we will have celebrated our nation's independence. "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "The Star Spangled Banner" can send a chill even in tepid temperatures. A photo by Dale Hall captures one family that symbolizes so much of what makes America great—faith, family, and freedom.

Four generations of the McGinnis Family are shown on the lawn of Clapp's Chapel United Methodist Church for the special Memorial Day service this year: the first, Perry and Carol McGinnis; second, Roland, younger son of Carol and Perry, and husband of Linda; third, Joshua Perry McGinnis, grandson of Carol and Perry, and son of Roland and Linda; and fourth, Parker Perry McGinnis, son of Joshua and Alyson McGinnis, grandson of Roland and Linda, and great grandson



**Picture of the McGinnis Family (left to right): Linda McGinnis; Parker Perry McGinnis held by his father, Joshua Perry McGinnis; Carol McGinnis; Perry McGinnis (in uniform of prior U.S. Army Reserve service), and Roland McGinnis. Not pictured, Parker's mother, Mrs. Joshua (Alyson) McGinnis. Photo by Dale Hall.**

of Carol and Perry. Little Parker will not remember the day, but he will have the picture as a treasured keepsake. He will learn the importance of family, of the church as a spiritual compass in life, and of those like his great grandfather who served our country. Though his mother was not present due to job commitments, she will surely beam with pride at the sight of her young son surrounded by family on a day marked with so many memories and the creation of new ones.

On the Fourth of July and always, may Americans

never forget those who fought for our nation, those like Perry McGinnis who have protected her through the generations, and those who are defending her today. To them, we owe our utmost gratitude. May God continue to bless America, keep her safe, and make her strong. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)



**Rosie's World**

## Who Are The Pennsylvania Dutch?

William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania (which, by the way, means Penn's Woods) was born in London, England in 1644. In his twenties he converted to the Quaker religion and was jailed several times for his resistance to the church of England. In 1681 he received a charter to form a new colony in America.

The area he chose was filled with rich soil and it wasn't long until immigrants from Europe settled in that part of the country, which included the Pennsylvania Dutch, which is a misnomer. The proper name is Pennsylvania German because Pennsylvania Dutch have nothing to do with Holland, the Netherlands, or the Dutch language. They originally came from German-speaking areas of Europe and speak a dialect of German they refer to as Deutsch that has led to the misconception about the origin of the term Pennsylvania Dutch. English-speaking Pennsylvanians simply confused the word Deutsch for Dutch. The Amish and Mennonites sects have spoken Pennsylvania Dutch for over three centuries but it slowly dying out.

But I am digressing here. What I really want to talk about is when one drives on the curvy roads and among the rolling hills of Lancaster, Pennsylvania in the summertime, one will see many vegetable and fruit stands offering colorful vegetables like, corn, eggplants, tomatoes,

cucumbers, zucchini, squash, lima beans and so many others. Also strawberries, blackberries, quinces, apples and other fruits are in season. They grow all these foods and preserve them but they always have a lot left over which they sell for a minimal price to the tourists who pass by their stands. I know we have vegetable markets in the surrounding areas but I miss the vegetable stands along the roads up there.

I am including a Pennsylvania Dutch recipe you can make for a summer picnic. This recipe shows the old-fashioned Pennsylvania Dutch way to make pickled red beet eggs. Enjoy!

**Pickled Eggs and Red Beets:**  
2 c. (about one pound) young beets  
1/4 c. brown sugar  
1/2 c. vinegar  
1/2 c. cold water  
1/2 tsp. salt  
small piece stick cinnamon  
3 or 4 whole cloves  
6 hard-cooked eggs.

Wash beets. Cut off leaves and stems, leaving on about one inch of the root end. Cook until tender. Drain and skin. Boil together for ten minutes all remaining ingredients except the eggs. Let beets stand in this liquid for several days. Add whole hard-cooked shelled eggs to the liquid and let stand in the refrigerator for two days.

Thought for the day: Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. Rachel Carson

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

# Hosting a foreign exchange high school student

By **Mike Steely**  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Are you interested in broadening your life and hosting a teenager from a foreign country? You can and there's an organization you can contact.

The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE USA) helps host families immerse students so they learn about life in our nation. Students from more than 55 nations are available to live with an American host family each year and have been doing so through CIEE USA for more than 60 years.

"I have been a coordinator with the CIEE USA High School Program since 2008 and have worked with some amazing students," Andrea Wallace, the program's local coordinator, told t

"I hosted a 15-year-old student from Fayoum, Egypt, in 2010 and it was the best experience I have had. I earned not only a new family member for 10 months but created lifelong friendship," she said, adding, "We are still in touch and he refers to me as his 'American Mom.'"

"This is our placement season for 2015-2016 and I think this would be a great opportunity for awareness in Knoxville," Wallace said.

Students arrive in August for a 5 or 10 month stay and most are on a scholarship.

Families wishing to host them can go online to [www.ciee.org/highschool](http://www.ciee.org/highschool) and apply. It doesn't cost anything and inquiring families will be contacted. The program requires that the family include two adults or one single person (with approval) 25 years old or older. The host family must agree to a background check, be financially sound, and provide a bedroom and 3 meals a day.

The family and the student will be set up with a local consultant that will work to get the student enrolled in the local high school, check to see how they are doing in school, and supervise the student and work with the family. Every student comes to the United States with at least 3 years of English language study. Each year there is an average of 50 students placed in East Tennessee homes.

Scholarship students receive a stipend for spending money and other students receive an average of \$200 per month. All students have medical insurance and CIEE also provides 24/7 support.

CIEE is designated by the U. S. State Department as a sponsor of Work & Travel, Trainee and Secondary Student Programs. Kelli Jo Wright is Regional Director of the CIEE program for East Tennessee and Georgia and is available by calling 423-201-8407.

## Fountain City Florist retiring

By **Mike Steely**  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Mrs. Sue Kennard, owner of Fountain City Florist, is retiring and the store furnishings, some 75 years of items, will be auctioned on July 11th at 10 a.m. The Kennards and the florist shop go back to 1939 when her relatives, the Babley and Stormer family, operated the shop.

The auction will be at

the store, at 5410 North Broadway and a preview of the items is Friday, July 10th from noon until 6 p.m.

John Coker, Ltd. of "antiquesonline" told *The Focus* that some of the items date back to the 1880s and include mantles, loveseats, chairs, dining tables, secretaries, desks, chests, and vases. Lots of items including silk flowers and arrangements, window

displays and a fully operational floral workshop will be auctioned.

There's a 15% buyers premium and you can get more information about the auction by contacting Coker at 475-5163 or view the items at [www.antiquesonline.com](http://www.antiquesonline.com).

The sale even includes the florist shop's 2006 delivery van, display cases, a floral cooler, and much more.

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# 'Really Smart' Campus Lights wins hoop title

By Ken Lay

Brent Watts said that he'd have a new favorite college football team when the 2015-16 season tips off in November.

"I have a new favorite college basketball team and it's King University," Watts said after his Campus Lights team routed Tillman Companies 127-112 to win the 2015 Pilot Rocky Top Basketball League Championship Wednesday night before a packed house at Catholic High School.

Watts, a veteran coach in the summer hoops league, certainly has good reason

to begin cheering for King. Three of the team's players carried the coach and his summer squad to its second consecutive championship.

Drew Standifer, and Hunter Leveau combined to score 65 points and Calvin Walker made some significant contributions in a game that Campus Lights won handily. Furthermore, the final score didn't tell the whole story. Campus Lights led 65-49 at halftime and led by as many as 25 points at one point.

"My kids are really smart and they play well together," Watts said. "I had Hunter

[who scored a game-high 44 points], Walker and Drew Standifer [who finished with 19 points].

"Then, I got to coach Sam Watson and he's a Farragut guy. And then I had [former Austin-East standout and Tennessee player] Brandon Lopez and [former Old Dominion star] Jonathan Adams and those guys are class acts."

Watts, like Watson played his high school ball with the Admirals. Lopez, who missed his senior season with the Volunteers due to a knee injury, scored 18 points while Adams had 30.

For Lopez, the win was a big one.

"It always feels good to win," he said. "I missed my senior season with a torn ACL.

"But things happen for a reason. I'm through with basketball and I'm going to graduate school."

Walker, a West High graduate and rising senior in Bristol, agreed.

"It was good for me to hoist that [wrestling] belt [which is awarded to the league champions] because I played for it and lost two years ago," Walker said.

**Continue on page 3**



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Campus Lights coach Brent Watts (left) celebrates a Pilot Rocky Top League Championship with players Sam Watson and Jonathan Adams. It was the second straight summer that Watts and Campus Lights won the coveted wrestling belt.

## A SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE

# Bearden honoree Ashley Seltzer keeps bouncing back



Bearden graduate Ashley Seltzer, competing for Marshall University in a spring exhibition soccer game, takes a shot against the University of Charleston (W. Va.) in March. Seltzer was the Lady Bulldogs' Student-Athlete of the Year.

By Steve Williams

Injuries sidelined Ashley Seltzer, Bearden High's standout soccer player, in her senior year, but she finished the season supporting her teammates, and then began her comeback as a January enrollee at Marshall University.

Despite her misfortune, Seltzer, who made the All-American Watch List final cut, was named Bearden's female Student-Athlete of the Year.

"I didn't expect to have these injuries cut my senior season short, so when they did, I was very upset," recalled

Seltzer last week via e-mail. "All I wanted was to be able to finish my senior season, but I couldn't so I had to keep cheering on the girls and look forward to my first semester at Marshall."

Seltzer took a hit in the back in a match against Hardin Valley Academy midway through the season in late September. Unaware she had a fractured L4 vertebrae, Seltzer played the next game at Oak Ridge and suffered a broken ankle.

"Her mom (Pam) was trying to get to her to give her the

MRI results about her back, but Ashley had already forced the news out of me over the phone," recalled Rick Seltzer, Ashley's father.

"Her mom later told me, 'There she was, wearing a back brace and an orthopedic boot on her foot on her way to the practice field, with tears streaming down her face.' She said it was the saddest thing she'd ever seen."

After not having any physical activity for three months, Seltzer admitted she was concerned about how long it would take for her to recover,

but she came back strong and was a big scorer for the Thundering Herd in the spring exhibition season.

"Ashley quickly became addicted to weight training," recalled her father, pointing out she was eventually squatting 215 pounds.

"By the time we traveled to campus to watch the first pre-season game, we almost didn't recognize her. She is solid muscle from head to toe. The addiction has continued into the summer."

Seltzer, now 5-5, 125

**Cont. on page 2**

### ATHLETIC DIRECTORS FROM LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS NAMED THE FOLLOWING AS STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR FOR 2014-15:

- Alcoa:** Cassidy Anderson and Kyle Mitchell.
- Austin-East:** Jitu Booker and Ahjanai Stephens.
- Bearden:** Ashley Seltzer and Hayden Burns.
- Berean Christian:** Noah Jordan.
- Central:** Chloe Padilla and Cedric Washington.
- Christian Academy of Knoxville:** Anna Hammaker and Ryan Long.
- Clinton:** Jordan Whitt and Aaron Watson.
- Farragut:** Sue Yun Kim and Patrick Raby.
- Fulton:** Elicia Faulkner and Domonique Williams.
- Gibbs:** Brittany Cavalaris and Brendan Wilson.
- Grace Christian:** D'Anna Johnson and Kobe Kelley.
- Knoxville Catholic:** Gabriella Prevost and Jordan Anderson.
- Halls:** Daniele Beeler and Colby Jones.
- Hardin Valley Academy:** Tamia Crockett and Weldon Wright.
- Heritage:** Leah Thomas and Devon Gardner.
- L&N STEM Academy:** Emily Bretscher and James Bretscher.
- Maryville:** Kayla Tillie and Chad Solomon.
- Powell:** Tori Lentz and Cody Reed.
- Seymour:** Cheyenne King and JJ Jerman.
- South-Doyle:** Brody Rollins.
- Tennessee School for the Deaf:** Michaela Evans and Rashard Witherspoon.
- The King's Academy:** Niamh Schumacher and Zane Sutherland.
- Webb School:** Peighton Meske and Brant Mitchell.
- West:** Keeghan Francis and Nathan Cottrell.
- William Blount:** Lindsey Roddy.

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*Cantrell's Cares*

# HVA, Farragut have four on all-KIL team

By Ken Lay

Hardin Valley Academy's soccer team entered the Class AAA State Tournament with an undefeated record. The Hawks had their eyes on a second State Title but came up short.

HVA might've had an early exit in Murfreesboro but that didn't ruin a 2015 campaign that saw the Hawks post a 19-1-2 record and win district and regional championships.

Hardin Valley, which was simply dominant throughout the season, had four players named to the all-

Knoxville Interscholastic League recently.

Forward Cameron Schneider, midfielder Shawn Foster and defenders Kai Zao and Logan Kington all received all-county honors.

In all, 11 players from District 4-AAA were named to the team. Farragut also had four selections, including Ethan Snow, John Totten, Alex Schupp and Dami Omitaomu.

Bearden's Kelvin Garcia and Gabe Alvarez made the squad along with West High's Desmond Thompson, who was one of

Knoxville's top goalkeepers.

Another area netminder who had a stellar 2015 season was South-Doyle's Connor Kirk. He was named to the team after being named District 2-AAA Goalkeeper of the Year and leading the Cherokees to a second-place finish in the district.

Christian Academy of Knoxville reached the Class A/AA State Championship match in 2015 and the Warriors had three players named to the squad in Jon Creel, Dallas Dunn and Matt Zaczyk.

Webb, which won its second State Championship, was represented by goalkeeper Elo Wittig and Carter Jung.

Halls High School reached the Region 2-AAA Tournament. The Red Devils' Zach Dossett and Jared Johnson were named to the all-KIL team after Halls had its best season in recent memory.

Catholic's Alec McKenzie and Berean Christian's Noah Jordan were also selected to the team.

# Coaches honor all-KIL baseball players

By Ken Lay

Hardin Valley Academy's baseball team made its first-ever trip to the State Tournament in 2016 and when the dust had settled, the Hawks left Murfreesboro with a title.

The Hawks, who finished 31-15, made a habit of winning elimination games on the road and went undefeated in the Midstate en route to claiming the Class AAA State Championship. HVA, which finished third in the District 4-AAA standings, won it all by knocking off Farragut in the title game.

The Hawks had three players named to the all-Knoxville Interscholastic League Team by Knox County's coaches recently. HVA ace pitcher Will Neely, a University of Tennessee commitment, was named to the squad along with Dylan Harris and Zach Sears.

Neely was one of five top pitchers to make the squad. He was joined by Farragut's Patrick Raby, Catholic's Ethan Elliott, Karns High's Chase McAllister and Christian Academy of Knoxville's Spencer Strider. Powell's Peyton Alford, who also

played first base for the Panthers, made the squad as a utility player after leading his team to a District 3-AAA Tournament Championship.

Farragut junior center fielder and leadoff hitter Cole Morgan was selected along with Admirals infielders Chase Fullington and Duncan Pence.

Other infielders named to the team included Grace Christian Academy's Chandler Adkins and CAK's Colton Norrod, who was District 4-AA's Offensive Player of the Year.

Bearden sophomore David Beam was the other outfielder named to the squad.

Other standouts selected as all-KIL utility players included Grace's Tanner Fee, who tossed a no-hitter this season, CAK's Josh Johnson and Webb's Brock Beeler.

Catholic's Kole Cottam was selected as the team's catcher. The University of Kentucky commitment led the Irish to their second consecutive State Championship Game appearance and was also named Class AA Mr. Baseball.

## A SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE

# Bretscher kids 'all have chlorine in their blood'

By Steve Williams

Debbie Bretscher said it was "a very special year" for her family.

Two of her children, James and Emily Bretscher, were named the male and female Student-Athletes of the Year at L&N STEM Academy. They were among 47 such honorees named by athletic directors from 26 high schools in the local area.

James Bretscher, the oldest of five children, signed a swimming scholarship with North Carolina State. Emily will be a junior at L&N this coming school year and is one of the top prep divers in the nation. Both were state champions this past season.

Nathan and Debbie Bretscher also have a son, Paul, who dove in the state high school meet and is

also a SR. Elite trampolinist.

Ninth grader Laura also was on the swim team. Although she did not make the state meet, she was its "number one cheerleader," and also runs cross country, said her mom.

The Bretschers' youngest, Matthew, was in the sixth grade at West Valley Middle School and participates in diving and trampoline.

"We feel blessed to have such great kids," said Debbie. "Both my husband and I were collegiate athletes and have always felt that being part of a collegiate team and involved in sports played an important role in our lives."

"My husband was a swimmer at The Ohio State University and I was a diver there. We knew each other in

undergrad but were reunited when we both went back to graduate school. He was the assistant swim coach and I was the assistant diving coach at OSU.

"So our kids all have chlorine in their blood."

"We have encouraged our kids to be active and involved in sports since they were little. We are extremely proud and excited to see what the future holds for James and all our children."

Debbie currently coaches diving for L&N STEM and teaches dive lessons for TN diving at UT. Nathan helped part time coaching the swim team this year for L&N STEM.

# Keeping busy in athletics helped A-E's Stephens stay focused

Ahjanai Stephens picked participation over specialization in her high school athletic career at Austin-East.

The Lady Roadrunners' Student-Athlete of the Year participated in three sports plus band her senior year.

I think that's great. It may not be for everybody, but it fit Ahjanai's needs. It also led to the first question I had for her in an on-line interview.

How did you do so much plus your academic work?

"Well, I participated in sports as well as band to stay focused," she answered. "In order to keep up everything I've done, you have to have good grades and great time management."

"I would split times for different practices if needed, and academic-wise, I would finish homework during class, right after school if I had late practice or just wait until I got home."

Stephens was a "dancing doll" in the band and on the soccer, basketball and track and field teams.

"One sport wasn't enough for me," she said "I wanted to try everything, every sport and I succeeded. The



By Steve Williams

sports that I participated in I tried my best, because you never know who's watching."

"People would say, 'It's too much. She will get tired of it' or they'll ask, 'How was it possible,' but I say, as long as you put your mind to it and have self-motivation, anything is possible."

I also heard Ahjanai played on a co-ed softball team with her mom and dad, Robin and Charles, at Caswell Park this past spring. That was neat, and I wanted to hear more about that.

"Playing on a co-ed softball team is very fun," she said. "One day the team just needed an extra person or they'd have to forfeit. My dad called me and asked, 'Hey, can you come play this one game with us, so we won't have to forfeit our game? If we do forfeit, it'll end our season.' So of course, I agreed to play this ONE game."

"After game one, I was welcomed to the team as a permanent player. I didn't have a problem with it though, because I feel like it brought me closer to my parents. We had a funny story to tell each other after every game and just seeing us out there

playing was nothing but smiles, and that's what I enjoyed the most."

Your favorite number must be 22, I told Ahjanai. I saw that on your basketball uniform and in your e-mail address. But then I also saw No. 2 on your soccer uniform. Any story behind 22 or 2?

"There's many stories behind the No. 22 and 2," she replied. "When I was younger, in the majority of my pictures, I held up the peace sign on both hands. I have no clue why I did it so much - maybe I thought it was fun and cool. After seeing those pictures, I feel like it was a sign to get No. 22."

"Another story about that - I was planning on changing my number from 22 to something else until my grandma Jackie bought this jersey. My grandma is a great supporter and she bought a jersey with the number 22 on it."

"She said, 'Now that I've paid a good price for this, you better not change your number. It should be 22 for every sport.'"

"So I had no choice but to keep it. We had a great laugh after that. I said, 'Well, I can't change it now. She laughed, 'Oh well!'"

"When it came to soccer, the team

**Continue on page 4**



Talented soccer forward Ashley Seltzer, Bearden's female Student-Athlete of the Year, was a January enrollee at Marshall University.

# Bearden honoree Ashley Seltzer keeps bouncing back

Cont. from page 1

The wear and tear of tumbling and soccer led to both ankles being operated on, said her dad.

In the eighth grade, Ashley suffered a stress fracture of the L5 vertebrae while soccer training, forcing her out of action for 10 months.

Seltzer also has had a knee injury and she endured a broken wrist in club soccer prior to her senior year.

"Another trait," added her father, "that has served Ashley well is that she truly seems to get as much, if not more of a thrill, out of seeing her teammates succeed as she does in succeeding herself."

The humble Seltzer noted, "My goals for soccer are to enjoy the sport while I can and to become a better player in college."

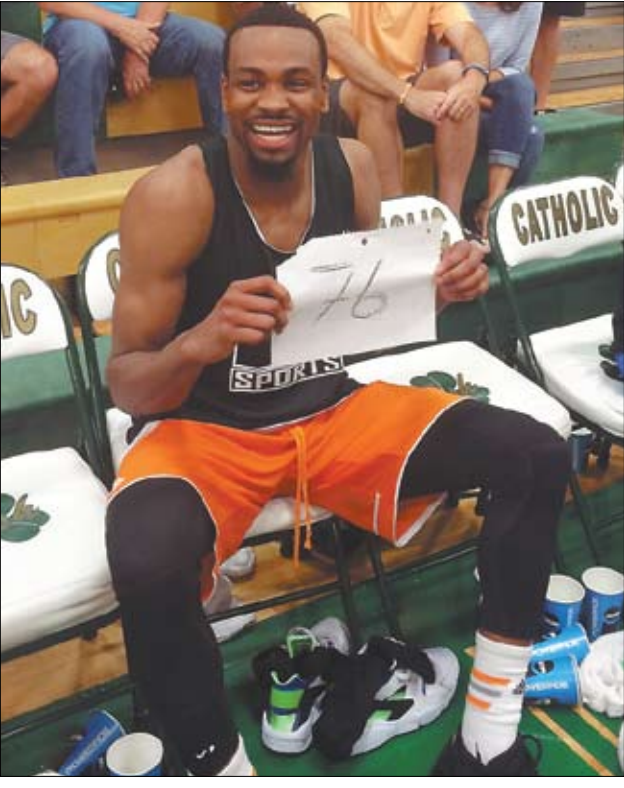
As for academics and career goals, Ashley added, "I have not declared a major yet. I have many different interests so I am taking a few classes in the fall to help me explore some of my options."

Seltzer started kicking a soccer ball when she was 2 or 3 years old, got into AYSO at age 5 and club soccer at age 8. She also competed in tumbling for around four years up to age 10.

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# Punter scores record 76 points to lead H3 Sports



Record Night: Tennessee star Kevin Punter scored a single-game record 76 points to lead H3 Sports to a 138-134 overtime victory in Wednesday night's Pilot Rocky Top League's third-place game.

By Ken Lay

A third-place finish was anything but meaningless for Kevin Punter. Punter had a record-setting night in the third-place game of the Pilot Rocky Top Basketball League Wednesday night at Catholic High School.

Punter, Tennessee's sophomore guard, scored 76 points to lead H3 Sports to a 138-134 overtime victory over The Knoxville News-Sentinel.

Punter, who has been one of the league's most potent offensive weapons over the past two summers, closed out the season Wednesday by shattering Jordan McRae's previous single-game record. McRae, a former Tennessee star scored 65 points in a game in 2014.

In addition to going

down in the Pilot Rocky Top League record book, Punter made a pair of late free throws to put the game away with 7.7 remaining in the overtime period.

After the game, he sat calmly on the sideline, held a roughly-sketched sign bearing the number 76 (similar to former NBA great Wilt Chamberlain's 100 sign after surpassing the century mark in a professional game) and signed autographs for young basketball fans.

He also had a cat-walker dunk and dazzled Big Orange basketball fans with slam dunks. He also showed off his 3-point shooting skills with some tremendous outside shots.

He impressed everybody including H3 coach Scott Barron.

"He's a man of few words. He never says anything but everybody knows that he comes in here to take care of business," Barron said of Punter. "This is just absolutely unbelievable."

"His game speaks volumes. In 16 years of coaching basketball, I've never seen anything like this and I've never had so much fun."

Punter had plenty of fun on this night too.

"This feels good," he said. "It's always fun to come in here to play and it's great to play for these kids."

Punter seemed to enjoy signing autographs as well and he had plenty of fans after his signature.

"It's great to come in here and see all these kids and this will be the only chance for some of these kids to see us play," Punter said.

The Vols star had plenty of help from his supporting cast on this night.

Admiral Schofield, Punter's Tennessee teammate, scored 23 points and Maryville's Jaumonee Byrd had 14 points. Addison Flynn had 10 points and Central High School boys basketball coach and former Volunteer Jon Higgins finished with eight points.

The night belonged to Punter but the Knoxville News-Sentinel squad got a spark from Miami Heat player and former Kansas State star Michael Beasley scored 43 points and helped spark a second-half comeback. Tennessee's Devon Baukman added 41 and former Vol Bobby Maze finished with 14 points.

# Rest in Peace, Lady Vols

By Alex Norman

Well, that's it... the Lady Vols as we know them are gone...

The University of Tennessee, the University of Tennessee Athletic Department, the UT Board of Trustees... they found a way to greatly diminish something that has put the University of Tennessee in a positive light for decades.

The decision to eliminate the use of the name "Lady Vols" for all women's sports but basketball as of July 1st isn't the greatest tragedy in the grand scheme of things, but it will forever change the way that Tennessee is perceived across the country.

Current Tennessee athletes and coaches certainly can't make their true opinions known on this topic for fear of punishment from athletic director Dave Hart, but those that have graduated have been making their voices heard on social media, including the website, savetheladyvols.com.

Fans are making their voices heard as well. Over 8500 have signed an online petition in opposition to the changes. Lady Vols season ticket holder Susan Whitlow says that she has sent UT President Joe DiPietro a petition with over 16,000 signatures.

Dozens protested inside and outside the UT Board of Trustees meeting on June 25th, even though the BOT refused to put the issue up for discussion. 45 state legislators signed a letter asking the BOT to talk about this topic.

Instead, DiPietro simply responded with an email.

"We understand and respect your opinion and that of your colleagues, but we continue to hold that the decision in this matter

rests with the Knoxville campus administration."

In essence, DiPietro is saying that this was a UT-Knoxville decision and wants nothing to do with it. Not exactly the best show of leadership but pickers can't be choosers...

So what have UT-Knoxville Chancellor Jimmy Cheek and Tennessee Athletic Director said about this controversial issue? Cheek wrote a letter printed in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on June 21st, and said the decision to consolidate things wasn't rushed.

"Today, our Athletic Department is moving hand in hand with the university toward greater brand clarity and unity with the Power T and One Tennessee. Everyone at UT values the history and traditions that are foundations of our academic and athletics programs. We believe the Power T enhances these lifelong connecting points... We know these decisions and this direction are right for our athletics program, our student-athletes and coaches, and the university."

Hart has stayed out of the public eye for most of the past few months, and has seemed to stick with media that he knows and trusts. Back in February Hart spoke with UT athletics friendly VolQuest.com, and gave an interview to "The Nation," a Vol Network radio show.

"It will be good," Hart said. "I can assure you. It will be good when all

is said and done. When we're in the transition with Nike, when all the new uniforms begin to roll out, it will be good for all parties concerned and we will not forget and we will continue to honor the tradition of Lady Vols."

Ah yes. Nike. As luck would have it, the Nike contract kicked off on July 1st, the same day the Lady Vols name went away. Because at the end of the day, the amount of merchandize sold is the most important thing for an athletic department.

But how can it be "One Tennessee" when the women's basketball team is allowed to use the name "Lady Vols" while the women's track team, the softball team, the rowing team, etc. are forced to switch the "Vols?" All 18 Tennessee teams should have the same name if it is "One Tennessee," right?

Cheek's answer... "For those who have questioned our decision to stay with the Lady Vol logo for women's basketball, the answer is quite clear. It is a tribute to Pat Summitt, her eight national titles and her national legacy."

Sure. Tennessee realized from the beginning that there would be considerably more public upheaval if they took the Lady Vols name from Summitt's program only three years after she was forced to step down from the position as women's basketball coach due to her fight against Alzheimer's.

That doesn't mean they won't go for that name as well a few

# 'Really Smart' Campus Lights wins hoop title

Cont. from page 1

Campus Lights, which finished with a 5-1 record, was in control from the outset thanks to some early hot shooting.

"I don't think you can shoot the ball any better than they did tonight," Tillman coach Rick Campbell said. "They had those three King College guys who are familiar with each other on the court and that showed tonight."

They also had

Jonathan Adams. He's played for me for two or three years and he's a great player. Jonathan Adams is a pro."

Tillman (4-2) got 37 points from Robert Hubbs and 32 from Fulton alum Jalen Steele (who now plays at Lincoln Memorial University after a previous stop at Mississippi State).

Josh Murray (Carson-Newman) had 11 points for the league runner-up.

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# Fountain City native mentors Dobbs during internship

By Steve Williams

Butch Jones may be Joshua Dobbs' head football coach, but Fountain City native David Fisher was his mentor this past May.

The University of Tennessee quarterback and aerospace engineering major spent the month as an intern with Pratt & Whitney-United Technologies in West Palm Beach, Fla., where Fisher is Senior Test Engineer.

The company produces jet engines for the United States Department of Defense for use in fighter jets.

Fisher, a UT graduate and longtime Vol football fan, not only got the opportunity to mentor Dobbs, he got to bring him into his home to meet and spend time with his family.

"Josh Dobbs is a very intelligent young man with great possibilities other than football," said Fisher, a graduate of Knoxville Central High, Class of 1982. "He is a well-mannered person with a kind, pleasant demeanor."

Fisher, who has been with Pratt & Whitney since 1987, graduated with honors from the UT College of Engineering with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He has had UT season football tickets for decades, and kept them

even after he moved to Florida last year.

Fisher's parents and sister (John, Barbara and Angel) still live in Fountain City. His first cousin, Scott Galyon, was a standout at UT (1992-95) and also played in the NFL.

Barbara Fisher, also a fan of "Astro," Joshua's nickname, kept up with the goings on involving the Vols' QB and her son.

"Josh came to David's house for dinner," she reported. "The whole family was impressed with him."

That included David's wife, Julie, and daughters, Alison (17), Lizzie (14) and Caroline (9), who all "fell in love with him and took lots of 'selfie' pictures with him."

Caroline spread the news, too.

"The youngest daughter was so impressed and excited to have a 'famous' football player from Tennessee coming to dinner, she invited all the neighborhood children to meet him and play football," noted Barbara. "They came with plenty of footballs for him to autograph, and he was kind and patient with all of them and signed them all."

"After dinner, Josh tossed football with them and swung them around and played with them. He impressed them all.



Longtime time Tennessee football fan and Knoxville Central grad David Fisher (left) was UT quarterback Joshua Dobbs' mentor during the aerospace engineering major's internship in Florida in May.

He also loved their dog, a Sheltie named Titan."

When Dobbs prepared to leave after dinner, there was an emotional moment Barbara heard about and shares.

"David's wife, Julie, started to shake Josh's hand and thank him for coming. He said 'Oh no' and hugged her. She almost cried."

A couple of weeks later, after returning to Knoxville, Dobbs touched his mentor, too.

"David received a text

from Josh, wishing him a Happy Father's Day," Barbara heard. "Josh has made a friend for life."

David called mentoring and meeting the talented UT quarterback and bright young gentleman "an opportunity of a lifetime, and an experience he will cherish forever."

Coach Jones may have Dobbs back, but the Fisher family feels close to him, too.



Ahjanai Stephens said "making good grades and time management" were keys to her being in the band and on three sports teams her senior year at Austin-East.

## Keeping busy in athletics helped A-E's Stephens stay focused

**Cont. from page 2**

didn't have big numbers, so I settled for number 2. Grandma was fine with that."

Stephens, who had a 2.9 GPA, will be leaving Aug. 18 to begin her freshman year at Tennessee State University in Nashville.

She said she will go into nursing for two years, "but that might change. I'm still

kind of undecided.

"My career goal is to be an athletic trainer, physical therapist or a massage therapist. I really enjoy helping others get back on their feet from injuries."

Stephens said she most likely will get involved in a sport at TSU but will focus on academics her first year.

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

**Dependence Day**

I can claim only partial credit that this week's essay is timely. Actually, the Focus editor called my attention to the abbreviated schedule for the 4th of July holiday. Otherwise, I would, as usual, be out of synch with calendar events. (Some might say I'm out of synch with politically correct events). By the time you read this Independence Day will have passed, subsumed by America's "dependence days."

Our country has certainly "traveled" farther than the two hundred and thirty-nine years since the American colonies declared independence from the tyranny of Great Britain. After winning our freedom, spreading from sea to sea and after winning two 20th century world wars and defeating Soviet Communism, we have embraced the nanny state and are in the process of becoming irrelevant, and lost on the

sands of time just like Shelley's "Ozymandias" (Google it).

A Republic is a system of government based upon the rule of law. Laws are written with words. Last week we learned that "Words no longer have meaning," according to Justice Antonin Scalia of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). In his vehement minority rebuttal of Chief Justice Robert's Supreme Court validation of Obama-care, Scalia implies that our Representative Republic of the United States is void because "words no longer have meaning," and are now subject to reinterpretation by nine old lawyers. After two centuries we discover that our Representative Republic stands on shifting sand, soon to be washed away in the deluge of oligarchy and tyranny.

If Chief Justice Robert's

redefinition of the word "state" confuses you, you aren't alone, because he subsequently argues in another decision that the people in the various states and their elected officials should be the arbiters of marriage licenses. If marriage is now redefined I ask why I shouldn't be allowed to marry my goat or for that matter the Bobbsey Twins. We have laws against bestiality and polygamy, but laws are made of words and we've learned that "words no longer have meaning."

A few additional examples demonstrate my point. The Affordable Care Act is not "affordable" unless Washington gives you money from the pockets of someone else. And a "fine" for not having healthcare has been deemed a "tax" by Chief Justice Roberts and SCOTUS. Furthermore, "full-time employment" is now defined as thirty hours a week. This allows an employer to reduce hours and to avoid the responsibility of providing health care benefits. His employees then obtain health insurance from Obama-care, paid for with money from someone else's pocket. If the word "state" (used seven times in the Obama-care law) doesn't mean state and marriage doesn't have civilization's five thousand year definition, why

can't I elope with my goat?

A friend of mine who opposes the destructive policies of progressive-liberal-Democrats, recently told me he's tired. His business is being destroyed by thirty-somethings with MBAs, just as Democrats have destroyed every city where they govern. California, Illinois and New Jersey are broke. Democrat financial and cultural ruination and lawlessness are rampant in Detroit, Philadelphia and Chicago. Even smaller towns haven't escaped fifty years of liberalism and are going bankrupt. But don't worry folks, we're in "economic recovery" since the summer of 2009 according to Obama and Joe Biden. Someone should tell Uncle Joe that 93 million Americans are out of work, and many others are underemployed or have just quit looking for a job. And food stamps...ah... EBT cards are at historical highs. (It would be useless to try and reason with "the One.")

Another friend of mine asked me to do a presentation at church on Obama-care "now that it's the law of the land." I declined and told him I can no longer be objective after more than six years of lies about Benghazi, the IRS, the VA, the Arab Spring, and the "JV" organization known as ISIS.

I've lived long enough to

understand that each of us has three options when confronted with danger, dishonesty or moral turpitude (depravity). You can oppose evil. You can compromise and go along to get along. Or you can flee. Historically, people have run away from corrupt societies to monasteries, to communes and even to the New World, as did the Pilgrims. Unfortunately, there's nowhere to escape; I know, because I've searched the world for a place of refuge. Like my friend I've become weary of America's newest civil war, though we know that neither of us can compromise with evil and retain our souls.

King Solomon was purported to be the wisest man who ever lived. He succeeded his father, King David, to the throne of ancient Israel, and in a dream was asked by God what was his coronation wish. He asked God for wisdom to serve his people wisely. God granted Solomon's wish and more. We should be so fortunate.

Recently I read that the absence of religion leads to a "moral vacuum." We see this in Europe and specifically Britain, who embraced a secular nanny state after WW II. Britain renounced God and passed the world leadership baton to the United States, its former colony. Europe is now a secular

society whose churches are empty of parishioners. God has been replaced by State. And we are on track to do the same in America. God help the world if the horrors of ISIS, the tyranny of Islam or the amorality of the secular state is the replacement of the City on the Hill.

A man named Epictetus once said that your thoughts are your only true freedom. Will my friend and I retreat into our thoughts? My minister recently preached on the Jordon River faith of the ancient Hebrews who escaped slavery in Egypt, wandered in the desert for forty years, but finally trusted God and crossed the Jordon River to fulfill their destiny.

Each election I have hope that our people will see that America must return to its founding principles. On this Independence Day I know that Americans, and all the rest of humanity, would be better off and closer to the truth if God were our leader instead of what we have. These are not new thoughts. The Chronicler said the same thing 2500 years ago (2 Chronicles 7:14).

It is my Jordon River hope that America is not doomed to repeat the mistakes of history and end up on the sands of time.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)

**Don't Punish your child! Get them to do what you want!**

I'm sure that most people would think I was crazy if I advised them to NOT punish their child. Many people these days think that society has become too complacent with punishment and children are being allowed to control their parents and homes. While that might be true in some cases, punishing your child is not always the best way to get them to do what you want them to do. Punishment will always be a form of control and a way to "teach a lesson" to children (and to some adults) and may be necessary; however discipline is almost always more effective.

So...what is the difference between punishment and discipline? These two words are generally used as if they had the same meaning. Although they



By Debra B. Robinson, Director Christ Victor Early Childhood Development Center

do overlap, they are not the same.

Common punishments are...

- 1) Taking away a desired item (dessert, toy, TV, etc.)
- 2) Spanking or yelling / lecturing
- 3) Making a child do a chore
- 4) Sending them to their room

Punishments are usually a quick fix but don't really teach the child anything about the undesired behavior. Punishments are usually threats, causing physical harm, or taking something away that is meaningful to the child. The goal of punishment is usually to stop an unwanted behavior.

Discipline will guide the child to the acceptable behavior and allow for teaching moments. Discipline usually takes longer than punishment. As part of the word suggests, you want to make a

"disciple" of your child and have them follow your lead. The goal of discipline is to help your child learn self control.

Effective Discipline Strategies

- 1) Give your child many choices: The choices given should have answers that are acceptable to the adult. For instance, if you want them to eat vegetables, ask them "Do you want green beans or spinach?" NOT..."Do you want green beans or ice cream?" or "Eat your vegetables because I told you so!" Children need to make safe choices to feel empowered. When they are able to make the decision, they are more apt to, in this case, eat the vegetables. In a situation where your child won't do what you ask of them, give them a choice of HOW to do it. Example: You can hop on one foot to your room or skip to your room.
- 2) Be a role model: If you don't want your child to sit on

the table, don't sit on the table. If you want your child to try new foods, try new foods. If you don't want your child to use "not so nice" four letter words, don't use them and don't allow your child to be around those that do.

3) Redirection: Be mindful of your child's tendencies and aware of what sets your child off and re-direct them by offering other items or choices. Be ready to step in, to shift their attention.

4) Tell your child what to do: You might say, "I do tell them what to do but they won't listen." Most adults will tell children what NOT to do. This focuses on the unwanted behavior. Tell children WHAT TO DO; not what not to do. Sound confusing?

- Here's some examples:
- "Use your crayons and write on the paper." vs. "Don't write on the table!"
  - "Walk inside the house." vs. "Stop running in the house!"
  - "Use your fork." vs. "Don't use

your fingers."

See the difference? Once you begin to re-train your way of talking to your child and see results, it will get easier to come up with positive ways to guide your child's behavior.

Other strategies include ignoring inappropriate behavior (this is a hard one but can work), acknowledge acceptable behavior, and as last resort, the ever popular "time out" however that's a topic for another blog. Remember the old saying that your Mom probably told you a million times, "Do as I say and not as I do." Well, that doesn't work. Children will learn what they see, hear, and live. Discipline should set examples, teach, and not belittle the child. So the next time your child's behavior is unacceptable, respond with a disciple technique and be consistent and don't expect miracles.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Civil War Roundtable meeting announcement

The Knoxville Civil War Roundtable July Roundtable will held on Tuesday, July 14 at Buddy's Banquet Hall, 5806 Kingston Pike. The speaker will be Stephen M. (Sam) Hood Historian and author who will speak on "John Bell Hood, the rise, fall and resurrection of a Confederate General." Dinner is at 7 p.m. with a cost of \$15 for members and \$17 for nonmembers. There is a lecture cost of \$3. Reservations MUST be made by Monday, July 13 by calling 865-671-9001.

## Fulton High School Class Of 1960

Fulton High School Class of 1960 will be having their 55th class reunion on Friday,

July 10th from 4-9 p.m. at New Harvest Park. Please remit cost of \$15.00 to Lynda Wyatt, 3219 Godfrey St., Knoxville, TN 37917. For more information, contact Doris, (865) 689-2893; Teddi, (865) 525-9113; Lynda, (865) 687-3672; or Larry, (865) 216-1065.

## Heiskell Seniors

The Heiskell Community Center, located at 9420 Heiskell Road in Heiskell, TN, will hold its monthly Seniors meeting on Thursday, July 9 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Join us for our Summer BBQ Party. Lunch at noon, bingo at 1 p.m. Bring a dessert and a friend. For more information, call Janice White at (865) 548-0326.

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