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ARMSTRONG ELECTED TO LEAD TENNESSEE COUNTY ATTORNEYS

Knox County Law Director Richard "Bud" Armstrong has been elected President of the Tennessee County Attorneys Association (TCAA) at its Spring Conference held April 29-30, 2016 in Chattanooga. The TCAA consists of County Attorneys and their deputies from both urban and rural counties across the state of Tennessee. It provides an opportunity for County Attorneys to network and to share their research and experiences. In addition it provides

continuing legal education opportunities specifically designed to address those issues faced by County Attorneys. Many topics of interest include civil rights and employment litigation, open meetings and open records requirements, ethics education, American with Disabilities Act (ADA), blighted properties and jail overcrowding to name a few.

"It is a great honor to be selected by my peers to lead this organization," Armstrong said. "This group

represents the best of government lawyers from across the state of Tennessee, and I am humbled to represent them."

As President, Armstrong will provide leadership to the Association and ensure that County Attorneys across the state receive quality education and training, by conducting seminars as well as promoting the Association as a clearinghouse for information and exchange of ideas of concern. Through these efforts Tennessee County

attorneys will provide continued excellence and quality service to their governmental clients.

Armstrong has served on the Board of the TCAA since 2013. He has held the offices of vice-president and president-elect. He will be in charge of the TCAA annual spring conference and meeting to be held in Knoxville in 2017. He will also be responsible for their training activities for the coming year.



Knox County Law Director Richard "Bud" Armstrong

Karns High School AVID Students Launch 'Little Free Library'



Above, Karns AVID students Katie Kenner, Dallas Drummond, Autumn Brown and Tayveon Crowley work on the Little Library.

The Karns Little Free Library was installed last week thanks to a grant from the Junior League of Knoxville, AVID students at Karns, and AVID Coordinator and English teacher Debra Kender Hall of Karns High School. The "take a book, return a book" library is located outside "We're Cooking" in Karns at 7664 Oak Ridge Highway. There is a growing number of the little free library boxes in our county and this one was built and painted as just one of the AVID students projects this year. AVID stands for Advancement via Individual Determination in preparation for college. (Photos Courtesy of Casey Robison and Debra Hall)

DAV to hold Memorial Service, calls for wheel chairs

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 24, will hold a Memorial Service for Veterans Thursday at 5:30 p.m. with a meal prepared by the Auxiliary and a 6:30 service with Chaplain Harold Wilson. The DAV post is located at 2600 Holbrook Avenue, above the Fountain City Park.

The Knoxville Chapter of DAV needs your help. The organization, with about 900 members, has several programs for veterans, especially for the disabled due to service injuries.

Commander Larry Long and past commander Rick Lynch, told The Knoxville Focus that the DAV loans equipment such as scooters, walkers, powered and regular wheelchairs, and adjustable

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Rick Lynch and Larry Long stand outside the DAV post in Fountain City preparing to deliver a wheel chair to a veteran in need. The Disabled American Veteran local organization needs more equipment such as powered wheel chairs, scooters, adjustable beds and walkers. You can help by calling 689-7789 or contacting Commander Long at daddyoo42@aol.com

City Council

City moves to restrict quick cash stores

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Aside from a first reading of the mayor's budget proposal and approving wine applications for twenty-one Weigel's stores and Earth Fare markets, the Knoxville City Council will also consider approving the planning commission's proposed One Year Plan during their meeting Tuesday.

The agenda also includes an initial discussion on the "Alternative Financial Services" zoning regulations. Quick-cash businesses have grown considerably within the city over the past few years and have generated many complaints from neighboring businesses and residents. The new regulations restrict the businesses to certain zones and limits the distance between the "alternative" cash stores for new establishments.

The Department of Community Development is asking the council to approve \$34,525 in Neighborhood Small Grants for community building activities planned by 15 neighborhood organizations. The funding would go to projects like neighborhood sign and picnic table upgrades to a Fifty Year Celebration.

The recommended grants within the proposal include awards to Adair Gardens, the Carriage Lane Condominium Association, the Fountaincrest Neighborhood Association, the Green Hills Residents Association, the Historic Holston Hills Community Club, the Inskip Community Association, the Lindbergh Forest Neighborhood Association, Our Community Organization, the Timbercrest Neighborhood Association, the Morningside Heights Homeowners Association, the Oakwood-Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, Old North Knoxville, Inc., the Parkridge Community Organization and the RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association.

Updating the city's traffic control system for almost \$9 million in an agreement with the state and with \$1.4 million from the city will also be discussed. Updating the traffic control system on Chapman Highway is also on the agenda in an agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates for \$335,000.

The mayor may also be authorized to apply for a \$200,000 grant from the federal government for Knoxville Area Transit's "Rides to Wellness Assistance" with a city match of \$50,000. Another grant application may be considered with the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice for \$106,500 for an advocate position at the Family Justice Center.

A \$25,000 agreement with Stellar Visions and Sound will be discussed to provide sound equipment at events on Market Square and "Oh Wind, Inc." could get \$77,968 for a portable ice rink to be used in the Christmas in the City celebration. A discussion on standards for electrical codes to include Mobile Food Trucks will also be discussed.

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Mothers

It is still one of the most celebrated holidays. The day our nation has set aside to honor mothers is appropriate for the month of May when springtime is at her best.



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

unique place in our lives. These days, cell phones, e-mails, and text messages combine with traditional greeting cards and long-distance calls to give us more ways to keep in

The weather is warming, and flowers are blooming. As in years before, this season is also seeing its share of natural disasters from the deadly Texas floods to the raging wildfires in neighboring Canada. Even hearing about one catastrophe tends to make us cherish our days with loved ones just a little bit more.

touch with those special mothers. I hope Focus readers had a blessed Mother's Day celebrating with those they love and remembering the loved ones who have passed on. A favorite scripture in Proverbs 31:28 (KJV) helps us to honor our mothers: "Her children arise up, and call her blessed."

It is the sacrifice and dedication of our mothers who have strengthened the fabric of this great land. Mothers touch our lives in so many ways through the years, and no one can take their

Piddle Diddle Update: Thanks to the Red Hat ladies in Farragut for inviting me to share our story and our book recently. It was such great fun!

The simple beauty of a single petunia, by Ralphine Major



DAV

Cont. from page 1

beds out to disabled veterans as long as needed and asks that the equipment be returned after use. They said the powered chairs and scooters need extensive maintenance but so much of the equipment is loaned and some of it not returned that more is needed.

interested in the schedule and two pickup locations should call (865)694-7101.

The DAV also has an ongoing fundraising drive at Sam's Club West this Friday and Saturday and is working with the Ben Atchley Veterans Home in providing a 5-foot by 60-foot raised-garden box there so residents can grow their vegetables.

"We are certainly in need," said Lynch. Long explained that the DAV picks up or loans more than 500 pieces of equipment each year, including more than 100 power chairs and scooters, and the inventory of power equipment is down to five units.

They are also involved in the Free Meal for Veterans on Veterans Day at Golden Corral and take part in the Knoxville Veterans Day Parade and host a luncheon after the parade.

All of the loaned equipment has a DAV sticker and anyone with equipment not being used, or equipment to donate, is urged to call the DAV at (865) 689-7789 or contact Long at daddyoo42@aol.com.

Long thanked the Junior ROTC program at Central High School for all their help.

The DAV offers the volunteer-driven Volunteer Shuttle service that is available to any veteran needing to go from Knoxville to the VA hospital in Johnson City. Anyone

"We also have emergency assistance to disabled veterans and have a service officer that can help any veteran in preparing requests and appeals to the Veterans Administration," Lynch said.

The DAV post, founded 80 years ago, meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and information is available at (865)689-7789.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Interim Superintendent appointee Buzz Thomas conversing with Board member Mike McMillan during Wednesday's BOE meeting

Board of Education Approves Contract for Interim Superintendent

The main focus of last week's Board of Education meetings was the approval of a contract for incoming Interim Superintendent, Buzz Thomas, with a proposed salary of \$195,000.



By **Sally Absher**
sallyabsher@knoxfocus.com

Thomas will be starting in his role as Interim Superintendent on June 15, allowing several weeks of transition with outgoing Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre, who is resigning effective July 8. McIntyre described this time by saying, "The analogy we've been using is at that point in the transition, I would sort of be the licensed flight instructor in the co-pilot seat, and Buzz would be flying the plane."

one way or another, Mr. Harris. I mean really. I'm talking about how this appears to the public out here." McMillan said he thought \$235,000 was "too much for an interim position."

Gloria Deatridge also asked about benefits, reminding the Board that when they went through the process recently in renewing the superintendent's contract, the law director said the benefits needed to be the same as or similar with the teachers' benefits. She asked if the benefits in Thomas' contract were the same as the teachers'.

Amber Rountree asked about the benefits package, specifically what benefits were included in the \$3,350/month package. Mr. Dupler of the Law Department confirmed this included health and life insurance, disability, and retirement, but added the law department advised against specifically listing the benefits in the contract.

Dupler explained, "Benefits are not just based on the dollar amount, but on what is available based on salary and several other factors. With regard to the affordable care act, the Director or a high level executive cannot have benefits that are completely different."

Mike McMillan asked if the benefits were in addition to the proposed \$195,000 salary. Doug Harris said that on an annual basis, the benefits are about \$40,000, so the "total package would be about \$235,000."

During this discussion, Thomas came to the front of the assembly room and engaged in a brief conversation with McMillan.

McMillan said, "That's not too far from what the director gets now." Harris confirmed the total with benefits for McIntyre is about \$270,000. McMillan replied, "well when you get close to a quarter of a million dollars, what is \$15,000

Lynn Fugate called him out on it: "Mr. Thomas, would you please share with all of us the side bar conversation you had with Mr. McMillan?... I hate to put you on the spot but in the interest of transparency if you would share with us that conversation I would appreciate it."

Thomas cordially agreed, thanking the Board for the opportunity to do that and thanking McMillan for his candor.

He said the discussion

with McMillan was about his salary. He explained that the salary determination was based on his current GSP salary of \$183,000 per year plus an average \$12,000 performance-based-bonus. But, he said, this is still \$32,000 less than the current superintendent's salary. His benefit package is also less, as he did not accept the \$700/month car allowance. He said the intent of the proposed salary was to pay him roughly the same salary he makes now at GSP.

"But," he said, "If it helps this Board make a decision and move forward I will be happy - what I just said to Mike was, do you want me to take it back down to \$185,000? Because I don't want you all to feel that you are being nickel and dimed by me. You are not. I am honored to be asked to serve, and I will gladly do that work whether the pay is \$195,000 or \$185,000... The amount of money I make is not the point. So if \$185,000 or \$183,000 or \$180,000 is what you need to be able to do to bring the board together and feel good about this, and feel like you're not going to get criticism from your constituents, then that is what I would like to happen."

Fugate said she felt comfortable with \$195,000, pointing out that KCS is the 75th largest school system in the U.S., and that the person in charge is responsible for more students and more facilities than any college president in the state, and they make a lot more money.

Karen Carson took the opportunity to rebuke Thomas, saying, "Buzz, I

appreciate you coming up and sharing that... but I frankly was appalled to see you, during a vote, go up and speak to an individual, and I know you know, but what will be glaringly obvious to you, is that you are under a microscope in this job the entire time."

She then said, "If a board member wants to change and make an amendment for a lower salary, let's go for it and see if it passes... But I think we could make it \$180,000 and the same people who complained that \$195,000 was too much will complain that \$180,000 is too much because the average person is making \$40,000 per year."

Regarding benefits, Carson said, "When we were attempting to renew the Superintendent's contract, the big sticking point, what made it legal to form or not, related to benefits and the wording 'upon same terms and conditions as other employees of Knox County Schools.' The fact that we are going away from that just seems like we are trying to hide something."

Harris said, "The reason for that is because we don't know how long the interim job is going to be in place... It makes it easier for him to make this transition from this job back to his other job."

McMillan once more made the case for the person in his district, who says, "I'm making \$30,000, this guys is making several times what I make, yet I pay my taxes to pay his salary."

No amendments were offered. A roll call vote was held, and the contract passed 9 to 0.

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Publisher's Position

Who's Minding the Store?



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
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The Nashville Tennessee has performed a real public service by detailing the hemorrhage of money that has flowed out of Tennessee's Department of Human Services. Comptroller Justin Wilson has released information about shocking abuses that not only boggle the mind, but confound the imagination. The Tennessee DHS presides over an \$80 million program designed to feed needy and hungry children. Wilson told a legislative panel the DHS is in "denial" and refuses to acknowledge the problems inside the

department. Wilson said the DHS doesn't "acknowledge there is a problem." Comptroller Wilson was gentlemanly; his Chief of Staff, Jason Mumpower was quite plainspoken when he said, "I think that if we were to describe them in their best light we would describe them as unresponsive, and if we were to describe them in a worse light we could describe them as misleading or false."

Wilson identified \$11.4 million in two programs spending state and federal tax dollars rife with fraud and abuse. One Nashville daycare filed documents that were falsified in order to receive federal tax dollars for the food program; the state Comptroller's office has questioned payments totaling \$84,000 to the center. The executive director of an allegedly nonprofit center in Clarksville was discovered to have diverted federal tax dollars for her own benefit, including the construction of a \$38,000 gazebo for her home. The Chief Executive

Officer of a Camden, Tennessee "charity" has been charged after it came to light she and her daughter received more than \$700,000 in payments; the CEO also gave herself and her daughter "bonuses" of about \$100,000. While she was at it, the Camden woman built a new deck on her home, remodeled a home office, paid for "meals, hotel movies, late credit card fees, and cable and internet services."

One of the most egregious examples is that of Jeannette Jives-Nealy who describes herself as a "pastor-prophetess" of the Kingdom Dominion World Ministries, Inc. in Memphis. Pastor-prophetess Jives-Nealy allegedly stole \$162,000 from a state program that was supposed to feed hungry children. As it turns out, it would have been more fitting to have referred to her as a pastor-profitess.

The Profitess received a grant to feed children through her ministry, supposedly to provide free

meals for needy kids. Ms. Jives-Nealy swore up and down she had fed thousands of hungry young'uns, but the investigation indicated every penny she received was converted to her personal use. Not only did Ms. Nealy never provide the DHS with any kind of credentials (except maybe that she was a profitess) or any documentation. That means she never demonstrated she was buying, preparing and serving food to anyone. When asked about her efforts, the Profitess nimbly replied her records had been destroyed by a timely flood that very day. Of course investigators found not even a wet spot when looking for the alleged flash flood that evidently struck only the Profitess's building in Memphis. The Prophetess/Profitess, attired in royal purple and sporting three inch long fingernails had gotten her money up front from the State of Tennessee. Worse, this wasn't Ms. Nealy's first time at the rodeo, as she had apparently defrauded

another government program in Florida and served time in prison.

Clearly the Tennessee DHS did not bother to send staffers to check on the recipients of all these tax dollars to see if anybody was fixing food and feeding hungry kids. It is also readily apparent the department wasn't doing background checks on the folks seeking the money to begin with. I think it should be a requirement to do a background check on any person heading an organization that claims it exists solely for the benefit of children. Obviously, there needs to be a tightening of the criteria for those receiving state grants, as well as someone checking occasionally to actually see that the taxpayer's money is being spent as it was intended. Satire Alert: Why in the world is the state giving cash advances? Why not just give these people an ATM card?

This episode shows both the best and worst of government in action. The

worst is clearly the Tennessee Department of Human Services; the best is the vigilance and honesty of Comptroller Justin Wilson and his office. When any governmental agency, just like a private business, grows lazy and complacent, things begin to fall apart. Delivery of services is an important part of government and people have come to be rightly suspicious of bloated social programs and the do-gooders, who are usually preoccupied with tearing down business, merely murmur some vague excuse. There is no excuse for this sort of abuse and fraud and one really good question is why does Commissioner Raquel Hatter, head of the Tennessee DHS, still have a job? The governor ought to take swift action and streamline a few simple things to make sure your tax dollars aren't spit into the wind.

Ultimately the buck stops with Bill Haslam and we need to do a better job of minding the store.

THE CHALK BOARD

Bits of News About Local Education

By Sally Absher
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Knox County Schools Summer Transfer Window Now Open

The KCS summer transfer window began Monday, May 2016 and concludes Wednesday, July 1, 2016 at 4 pm. The summer transfer window provides an opportunity for parents and/or legal guardians to request transfers for their students who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Students who are new to KCS, including Kindergarten students;
- Students who have had a change in family circumstances such as custody/guardianship since February 16, 2016;
- Students with a change of address since February 16, 2016; or
- Students seeking to transfer to a magnet program where space is available.

You can apply for transfers for you student in one of four ways:

1. complete a transfer application form in person at 912 Gay Street, Suite 103;
2. Fax an application to 865-594-1504;

3. Mail an application to Supervisor of Enrollment, Knox County Schools, P.O. Box 2188, Knoxville TN 37901; or

4. apply online at knoxschools.org.

More information on criteria and the application process can be found at knoxschools.org.

Hardin Valley AP US History Students Participate in Blount Scholars Program

Ms. Guy's AP US History students at Hardin Valley Academy are partnering with the Blount Mansion for a series of hands-on experiential learning seminars in which students learn from experts in the fields of history, archaeology, and anthropology.

Ms. Guy reports, "Student participation is optional, but most of my students have been attending. Thus far, students have loved the program and look forward to it as a break in all of their studying and the related stress of AP Exams."

Ms. Gus teaches AP US History, AP Government and Politics, US Government, and Americans

at War to sophomores and juniors at HVA. Ms. Guy partnered with the Blount Mansion to create the Blount Scholars Program.

She is quoted on the Bill of Rights Institute Spotlight on Success website, "This program enables my AP History Students to engage in history in a way that is just not possible during the traditional school day with its restraints and the limitations put on us by testing and curriculum."

Leadership Academy Announces 2016-2017 Cohort

The Leadership Academy, a collaborative venture between the University of Tennessee and Knox County Schools, has announced its 7th Cohort of Fellows. These individuals were introduced at the Board of Education Work Session last Monday and include:

Zachary Brewer - Technology Pedagogy and Content Knowledge (TPaCK) Coach at Corryton Elementary; Jennifer Garrett, TPaCK Coach at Sterchi Elementary; Jason Harris, assistant principal at A.L. Lotts; Sara Harris, Instructional Coach at Bonny Kate Elementary; Nathan

Lynn, athletic director and administrative assistant, Bearden High; Binta McClendon, Early Literacy Instructional Coach at Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Academy; Megan Miller, Numeracy Coach at Green Magnet Academy; Jennifer Morrell, seventh grade math teacher at Karnes Middle; James Slay, fifth grade teacher at Inskip Elementary; and Denise Watts, TPaCK Coach at Austin-East Magnet School.

Note that six of the 10 Cohorts for 2016-2017 are currently "coaches." With soon-to-be former KCS Superintendent Jim McIntyre headed over to head up the Leadership Academy at UT, watch for more payback for his loyal supporters.

L&N STEM Academy Robotics Team Wins International Award

Students from the L&N STEM Academy in Knoxville were recognized this weekend at the FIRST® Championship in St. Louis, Missouri as the winners of the Media and Technology Innovation Award sponsored by Comcast NBCUniversal. Out of 3,000 FIRST® Robotics Competition teams around the world and over 180 submissions

from 7 countries, the L&N STEMpunks team took home this international level award.

The award judges a team's online presence and marketing strategy, through channels such as their website, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. This is the first time the team has attended the Championship. Daniel Bueckman, team captain of the L&N STEMpunks, said: "I'm so excited that our Communications team is being recognized for their hard work. We're very grateful to Comcast NBCUniversal for bringing us to the Championships and selecting our team!"

This is the fifth competition season for the L&N STEMpunks. During this season, they were able to win the Entrepreneurship Award in March at a competition in Huntsville, Alabama and additionally competed at the local competition at Thompson-Boling Arena. The team thanks their multiple sponsors, who have provided them space, funding, and more. It would not have been possible for them to compete and win another award this season without their endless support. They are always looking for more support from the community.

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USS Tennessee survivors gather

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The USS Tennessee floated along Battleship Row, next to the Arizona and the West Virginia, in Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked. The ship was struck twice by bombs as its crew fought back. But she stayed afloat.

After repairs and upgrades the USS Tennessee served out the rest of World War II seeing action in the South Pacific. After the war, in 1947, the ship was decommissioned and was inactive until, in 1959, her name was taken off the naval register and she was sold to the Bethlehem Steel Company for scrapping.

On Tuesday, May 18th, eight of the estimated 18 to 20 survivors will arrive in Knoxville, spend the night and on Wednesday travel to Huntsville in Scott County to take part in the final reunion of the ship's crew.

A lot of fanfare will happen at the Scott County History Museum, and some of those attending will be the East Tennessee Sea Cadets.

"The cadets, from high schools across the region, will be in uniform. Although we're not officially taking part I want them to experience the event as audience members," said retired Navy Chief Todd Johnson. He explained that the Sea Cadets are separate from the Junior ROTC and meet one weekend a month.

"On the 21st we will be having a dinner and Appreciation Awards at 6 p.m. featuring the cadets, the Color Guard, and we will be promoting one of the students



The bell of the USS Tennessee hangs outside the Scott County Museum in Huntsville. The arrival of the bell prompted the creation of the USS Tennessee Museum which houses the world's largest collection of artifacts from the ship, which survived Pearl Harbor and served throughout the war. (Photo courtesy of the Scott County Museum)

to Cadet Chief. It's for cadets and members of their families," Chief Johnson told The Focus. The dinner will be at the Naval Reserve Center on Alcoa Highway.

The USS Tennessee Reunion will feature the Volunteer State Honor Guard and Scott County Sessions Judge Jamie Cotton will speak. Local and regional veterans and the region's congressmen have been invited to attend.

How did a memorial to the USS Tennessee end up in Huntsville?

The ship's museum is part of the Scott County Museum, which was built without taxpayer dollars by high school students there. The Museum also features exhibits of local history in three museums and has 14 buildings on 3.5 acres according to Gary Sexton. Sexton is a high school teacher and museum director.

The connection with the USS Tennessee started when Senator Howard Baker,

a Scott County native, suggested that the ship's bell, which was in Nashville, be moved to his home town. The bell went to the courthouse there and then to the county museum at Scott County High School.

"The USS Tennessee Museum and collection was originally outside Columbus, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dawson wanted to move it to Nashville but there was no room there. Dawson saw our museum on the internet and learned that the ship's bell was now in Huntsville," Sexton said.

"He said that if we built (a place) for his items he'd move the museum here," the director explained.

"We started in 2003 and it opened in 2005. The grand opening was that year and more than 100 survivors and their families attended," he said.

The Tennessee was unique. It was launched in 1919 and it held 57 officers and more than 1,000 enlisted sailors. Eighty-five

percent of the men were Tennesseans in a program the Navy introduced to promote harmony.

"In our 2005 anniversary the oldest Tennessee survivor was 94 and the youngest was 76 years old," Sexton said.

The museum holds the largest collection of USS Tennessee artifacts in the world. Aside from the ship's bell the museum also has a 5-foot model of the ship built by the Navy in 1943, a 6.5-foot model built by local historian Cliff Simons, a large collection that includes thousands of artifacts.

The event takes place during the National Armed Forces Week and ceremonies begin at noon. The Scott County High School and Museum is located on Scott High School Drive, just off Highway 295 west of downtown Huntsville. Highway 249 is at the Royal Blue exit on Interstate 75 north of Caryville.

Central inducts 44 into National Honor Society

By Ken Lay

The Central High School chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 44 rising juniors and seniors on Monday, May 2 in the CHS auditorium.

The new inductees earned their way into the National Honor Society by exhibiting excellence in the fields of scholarship, service and leadership.

Central High School principal Michael Reynolds concluded the brief induction ceremony with words of high praise for the organization's new members from the school.

"It's an honor for me to be here this evening and recognizing the achievements of these young people," Reynolds said.

Reynolds also highlighted each of the four areas beginning with character.

"When you talk about character, it's who are you and what's inside you? With service, you have to be a server before you can be a leader," Reynolds said. "The best leader that I know served people. He washed people's feet. If you give, you will receive back 10 times more."

"A man I worked for, a man that I was laying bricks for asked me if I liked what I was doing and I told him that I liked to do a lot of things better and he told me, 'I'm doing the thinking for you. Unless you learn to think, you won't be worth more than minimum wage. You must continue to challenge yourself and continue to learn.'"

Central's chapter of the National Honor Society participates in numerous community service projects throughout the school year and Reynolds said he would strive to make the academic environment at Central more challenging.

"I want to challenge you and make things harder, so that things will come more easily for you when you leave here," he said.

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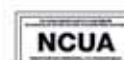
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Our Neighborhoods

Festive Harriman

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Our neighbor to the west is full of surprises. Roane County, named for Tennessee's second governor Archibald Roane, has four cities that are totally different from each other.

Maybe the oddest or most original of these is Harriman. The busy little city is home to two upcoming festivals that are unique and different. It's also the proud home of the restored Princess Theater. Located just off of Interstate 40 Harriman began as a Temperance Town in 1889 by Minister Frederick Gates. He and fellow prohibitionists founded the East Tennessee Land Company that included the plantation of Union Army Colonel and state Senator Robert K. Byrd.

For a while the non-drinking town prospered due to the many businesses created by the Land Company and included mining, coal and iron railroad, manufacturing, etc. The Panic of 1893 forced the closing of the company.

Harriman is named for Walter Harriman, governor of New Hampshire, whose son managed the Land Company. Col. Walter Harriman marched through the area during the Civil War and suggested the location of the town along the oxbow bend of the Emory River.

The town grew in spurts and, in 1992, shed its



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

The historic Harriman landmark, The Princess Theatre, was saved through the efforts of many local organizations and a TVA donation. The city owns the building now and Roane State, with support of the Princess Theatre Foundation, operates it for special events, movies, etc.

abstinence and allowed alcoholic beverages.

Every Saturday there's a farmers market at the downtown waterfront park.

The Princess Theatre

The Princess Theatre is the downtown icon that was built in 1926 as one of the largest theatres in a small town. The two buildings on each side of the theatre were incorporated and used as dressing rooms, restrooms, storage and an elevator.

It continued to operate

until the last manager passed away in 1999. Five years later the city, Roane State, the Technology Center, County Schools and business and community leaders got together and organized the Princess Theatre Foundation to raise money.

Today the restored theatre has more than movies; it features concerts, dance performances, community events and much more. It is a music and education center and includes the Channel 15 TV station. The stage has doubled in size and the 1930's art décor interior has been restored.

The Medieval Faire

For three consecutive weekends beginning May 14, Harriman will be the site of the Tennessee Medieval Faire at 550 Fiske Road. The second annual gathering hopes to draw people interested in the period and was formerly called the East Tennessee Renaissance Festival.

Re-enactors will be present and will feature live jousting, warriors chess, comedy shows, Celtic music, folk dance and even an artisan village where merchants make and sell items. Food and beverages

will be available in a setting designed for the festival. Times are 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day and admission is \$16.95 for adults and \$8.95 for children. You can get more information at TNFaire.com or call (865)248-8414.

The Polk Salad Festival

The Annual Polk Salad Festival will be held in Harriman June 11th from 9-4 at the David Webb Waterfront Park on the Emory River. Becky Brunton, Special Events coordinator for the Arts Council of

Roane County, told The Focus that the "Polk" is actually wild poke, explaining that the man who started the festival spelled it that way.

The current festival is in its third year. There's no admission fee and vendor wares are very affordable. The gazebo in the park will feature performers, a dance troop and other entertainment. There are 16 vendors so far including woodworkers, artists and artisans.

"We promote locally made products," Brunton said.

She said that Dian Sutton, who prepares the poke salad, gathers poke this time a year when it's young and tender, flash freezes it, and prepares it at the festival.

"We work with the Ladies Auxiliary of Roane County and it is an annual fundraiser for veterans," she said.

"This is Tennessee's Official Poke Salad Festival. There's lots of kids activity, public arts events, and this year we'll have a chicken wire fence where people can create a tissue paper mosaic," Brunton said, adding, "We'll also have a mini-train for adults and kids."

"We'll also feature the Knoxville Academy of Blade sword fighting group," she said.

You can google Tennessee Polk Festival or find the festival on Facebook.

Albert Malini Our almost forgotten Marble artist

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

One of the nation's best known marble sculptors, Albert Malini, is almost forgotten in Knoxville although the Italian immigrant worked here for many years. His home is now occupied by Hallmark Realty in Pond Gap at 3723 Sutherland and the dwelling still has the markings of the great artist.

Jack and Dorothy Crabtree, who are both real estate brokers and property managers,

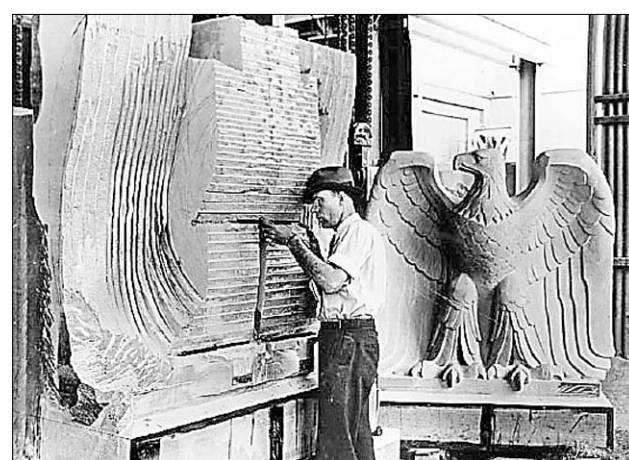
are semi-retired now but have run their business there for many years. The home, now used as the realty office, still contains the marble fireplace that Malini built; the façade is of black marble with the Malini family crest, other designs, and a prominent "M" carved into the front.

Pond Gap President David Williams told The Focus that the artist is remembered by the neighborhood with a banner on the street nearby.

"Growing up I remember that Malini had bee hives and made his own wine from a vineyard he kept," Williams said, adding, "He raised goats and my parents said I consumed a lot of goat milk. His workshop was torn down but the little cottage in back served as his studio at times."

"He came to America in 1907 at 15 years old and, while he worked for Candoro Marble, he was allowed to

Continue on page 2



Albert Malini at work on a marble sculpture beside one of the eagles that adorn the Old Knoxville Post Office. The famed national artist built a house and lived on Sutherland Avenue.



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State Historian speaks at Historical Society annual meeting

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Hundreds of people gathered at the Foundry at the World's Fair Park Tuesday for the Annual Meeting of the East Tennessee Historical Society for a presentation of awards and to hear the Tennessee State Historian, Dr. Carroll Van West, speak.

Van West said he had traveled the state and that Knoxville's East Tennessee History Museum is "impressive and a model for the state."

Accompanied by a slideshow Van West spoke of various projects he's been involved with, all originating from local efforts to preserve history. He praised the Historical Society, its staff, members and board for their outstanding example of what can be achieved by working together and with the community.

He also addressed controversial issues like slavery and the Civil Rights Movement saying that historians have a duty to the true facts in history and not "run away from the story, try to understand it." He mentioned the proposed National Park in Oak Ridge and called the World War II town's creation as creating "a very different town immediately."

Van West said that for last year's state-wide recognition of the end of the Civil War there were 430 historic markers dedicated and urged the audience to talk of the war as it really happened.

Many of the awards were presented to organizations and people from various East Tennessee Counties.

Ms. Benna van Vuuren and the Knox County Museum of Education received two awards for collecting and preserving the history of local schools. The museum, staffed with volunteers, welcomes both researchers and anyone wanting to relive their school days.

Other Knox County residents and institutions honored were Dr. John R. Finger, Belle Morris Elementary, Johnson Architecture, Norman C. Shaw, the Girl Scout Museum at Daisy's Place, the Daughters of Union Veterans, Sons of Union Volunteers, David H. McReynolds, Nolpix Media, Tennessee Living History,



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Ms. Benna van Vuuren was honored during the annual Knox County Historical Society's membership meeting Tuesday evening for her work at the Knox County Museum of Education. Several other Knox County people and organizations were among the various award winners from several East Tennessee Counties.

and the Tennessee Association of Vintage Baseball.

State Senator Richard Briggs was honored for his efforts in Nashville on behalf of East Tennessee History. President Joe Emert recognized Briggs and his effort in securing a \$ 500,000 grant from the state for the creation of a Children's Gallery and other projects at the History Museum.

The society also elected officers for the coming year including incumbent President Emert. Remarks were presented by Cheryl B. Henderson, director, and Dr. Ernie Freeberg, head of the UT History Department.

Ms. Henderson said the society and museum now have a state-wide touring exhibit and conduct teacher's workshops around Tennessee.

The state historian told the crowd about the upcoming new State Historical Museum in Nashville and urged his fellow historians in "Telling the Tough Stories" about how Tennessee helped shape the nation and touched the world.

"We are growing as a state, the narrative has gotten richer," he said.



Rosie's World

Did you ever get a chain letter? I did many years ago. I would read them out of curiosity then throw them away. The way my life was going as far as luck was concerned, no way was a letter going to change it!

There are two types of chain letters. A hoax, an attempt to trick or defraud users, is one type. It can be malicious or also a scam that convinces users to send money or personal information. Phishing attacks could fall into this. The second type is urban legends, which are designed to be redistributed and usually warn users of a

Chain Letters

threat or claim to be notifying them of important or urgent information.

It didn't take long for this form of hoax make its appearance on our personal computer. Make Money Fast is a modern-day user-net chain letter. It is read by thousands of people daily. It is basically the same scheme in which the reader sends one dollar to each of the five people on the list, then moves his name onto the bottom of the list. Typically they hook you in by telling a joke, promising good fortune or popularity, threatening you with bad luck, informing you of another

person's tragedy or misfortune--anything to grab your interest Or they will request that you send the chain letter on to 3-5 friends and ask you to do this within a quick time frame, like 24-72 hours.

Shun those impossible dreams. Someone once said, "I hate it when I don't forward a chain letter and I die the next day!"

Thought for the day: Troubles are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things.

Henry Ward Beecher
Send comments to
rosemerrie@att.net.
Thank you.

Albert Malini

Cont. from page 1

work on his own projects," Williams said.

"Malini passed away in 1977 and is buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery," the neighborhood group president said.

Malini was said to be of noble blood and, once in the United States, was ordered back to Italy but refused to return. He traveled about the country as a young marble artist, at first following his artist father, and then on his own.

His trade brought him to Knoxville around 1911 where he married Lurley Lee Hickman and the couple had four children. She died in 1931, the same year that Malini became an American citizen. Three years later he married Thelma Margaret Hodges and raised two more children.

In Knoxville Malini also worked for Craig Day Marble Company. The marble artist made several of his own tools, served as the local Air Raid Warden during WWII and worked checking the quality of shell thickness in a munitions plant.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Dorothy and Jack Crabtree stand at the beautiful Malini fireplace in the former home of the nationally known marble artist. The Sutherland Avenue home is now the office of Hallmark Realty and Always In Bloom.

Malini retired at age 75 from Candoro Marble Company and moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, where he passed away.

His sculptures are spread across the world including the Pete Kries Memorial at the Indianapolis 500 Speedway, a monolith in Guatemala, a memorial in Bohana, NY, and numerous memorials in Arlington National Cemetery.

Locally probably the best known works by Malini are the eagle sculptures that adorn the Old Knoxville Post Office. Other known works

by the artist in our area include pieces at Candoro Marble Company, the ornamental entrance at the former Baptist Hospital, the Methodist Church Emblem on Washington Pike, a Grecian Cross at Highland Memorial Cemetery, the Senator Norris drinking fountain at Norris Dam, a heart urn in Greenwood Cemetery, Bill Major's bust at the University of Tennessee, and a bust of Betty Henson in Strawberry Plains.

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Senator Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Unlike many Southern states, Oklahoma did not continuously reelect incumbent United States senators, yet John William Elmer Thomas was one of the longest serving senators from the Sooner State. When he first entered the U.S. Senate, Elmer Thomas could have come straight from central casting; tall, prematurely white haired, with a classic profile that became a bit grim with age.

Born September 8, 1876 in Indiana, Thomas went all through school in his native state before earning a law degree in 1897. Elmer Thomas had his first taste of politics while still a teenager; he made some twenty-eight speeches in Indiana for the presidential candidacy of William Jennings Bryan.

Three years later, Elmer Thomas had moved to Oklahoma and opened a law practice in Oklahoma City. Thomas did not remain in Oklahoma City for long before moving to Lawton in Comanche County. Years later, Thomas recalled, "Lawton was just a name and a prairie when I arrived here July 29, 1901."

After Oklahoma was admitted to the union, Elmer Thomas was elected a member of the Sooner State's first Senate. Thomas was continually reelected until 1920 when he felt the time was right to run for a congressional seat. Thomas's timing could not have been worse. Oklahoma had been a solidly Democratic state and he had expected to be elected after winning the primary, but it was a heavily Republican year nationally and in Oklahoma. Thomas lost to GOP candidate L. M. Gensman by a mere 857 votes.

Feeling that his loss was an aberration, Thomas never stopped campaigning. He won the Democratic nomination in 1922 and beat Congressman Gensman easily. Gensman sought a rematch with Thomas in 1926, but lost by an almost identical margin. By 1926, Elmer Thomas had decided to challenge Republican John W. Harreld for his seat in the United States Senate. Harreld had won in the 1920 Republican landslide and to the horror of Oklahoma Democrats, yet another Republican had won Oklahoma's other seat in the U. S. Senate in 1924. Thomas faced Governor Jack Walton in the primary, but won by a decisive margin. The Sooner State was returning to its Democratic roots and Elmer Thomas won the general election with more than 55% of the vote.

Elmer Thomas had become a member of the world's most exclusive club and would remain in office for the next twenty-four years. Senator Thomas, as both a freshman member and a Democrat wielded little influence as the GOP held the presidency and his Republican colleague, W. B.

Pine, controlled the patronage and appointments in Oklahoma. Pine was a wealthy oilman and personally popular with many Sooners. While he ran a strong campaign for reelection in 1930, Pine could not overcome the dissatisfaction with Oklahomans over the advent of the Great Depression. Oklahomans suffered as acutely from the effects of the Depression and the Dust Bowl as much as, if not more, than most Americans. Pine was beaten by Thomas P. Gore, who had been completely blind since the age of twelve. A powerful and magnetic orator, Gore had been one of Oklahoma's first two United States senators immediately after statehood. Senator Gore had lost his Senate seat in 1920, largely due to his differences with President Woodrow Wilson and lack of enthusiasm for American participation in World War I.

Like most every Democrat in the country, Elmer Thomas longed to see his party once again occupy the White House. Oklahoma's intelligent, but highly eccentric governor, William "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, ran a quixotic bid for the Democratic nomination while Senator Thomas quietly did what he could to advance the political fortunes of Franklin D. Roosevelt. FDR swept Oklahoma, carrying every county in the state. Thomas became a reliable vote for Roosevelt's New Deal in the Senate, save on the issue of silver, as the senator was an avid inflationist. Much to Elmer Thomas's dismay, his colleague, Thomas P. Gore, found almost every aspect of Franklin Roosevelt's program objectionable. Outside of the "unreconstructed rebel," Senator Carter Glass of Virginia, no Democrat in the Senate, more consistently opposed the New Deal. Gore's stubborn opposition to Roosevelt left Elmer Thomas in an enviable political position, as the senior senator controlled most of the federal patronage and jobs flowing into Oklahoma. Yet, Elmer Thomas was frequently frustrated not only by Senator Gore, but by Governor William H. Murray, who was also profoundly opposed to Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal. Oklahoma likely received less federal largesse than it would have otherwise, due to the intransigence of Governor Murray and Senator Gore. Still, Elmer Thomas worked diligently to bring federal dollars and projects back home to his people.

Gore's attitude must have vexed Elmer Thomas beyond description, especially considering it was Thomas who had nominated Gore to serve as one of Oklahoma's first U. S. senators while a member of the state senate. Thomas made a florid and impressive oration on Gore's behalf.

Thomas pointed out



W9-12/18-WASHINGTON: Sen. Elmer Thomas (D., Okla.) packs in his office as he prepares to leave his last Senate session. Sen. Thomas was

FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

The close of a career. Oklahoma Senator packs up his Senate office in 1950 after his defeat.

Collier's Weekly had noted that Oklahoma was preparing to send an Indian and a blind man to represent her in the United States Senate. "It may be true," Thomas said, "that the other of these gentlemen has been deprived of the priceless blessing of sight, it may be true that before his eyes has been drawn the veil of darkness forever, but if it is, he is a man who can and will see more in the interests of the people of this state and nation than could or would the trust-hobbled senators of the East had they ten thousand eyes."

Elmer Thomas could only look back and wonder what had happened to his friend Thomas P. Gore.

Thomas had faced a challenge in the Democratic primary in 1932 from Gomer Smith, a highly successful trial lawyer and an accomplished speaker. Smith would frequently be a candidate for high office in Oklahoma, but managed to win only one election, winning a seat in Congress in a 1937 special election. Smith was an avowed liberal and Thomas beat back Smith's challenge with relative ease.

After winning a second term, Elmer Thomas concentrated on helping Oklahomans and began climbing up the Senate's seniority ladder. Thomas won especially good committee assignments, which benefitted his home state. Senator Thomas served on the Appropriations and Agriculture Committees and used both to bring money and projects to Oklahoma. Eventually, Thomas would serve as chairman of the Senate's Agriculture Committee, a powerful post for the Oklahoman.

Thomas won affection from his constituents for being an advocate for farmers, veterans, working people, and even the Indians of the state. Still, for a long serving senator, Elmer

Thomas never seemed to go without serious opposition. In the 1938 Democratic primary, he faced two formidable challengers: Gomer Smith and Governor E. W. Marland. All three of the candidates were liberal Democrats and Thomas benefitted from a visit from President Roosevelt who said a few kind words about the senator. Thomas led by more than 66,000 votes, but could not claim a majority in the primary.

By 1944, Thomas succeeded to the chairmanship of the Agriculture Committee following the death of South Carolina's E.D. "Cotton Ed" Smith. It was fortuitous as Thomas once again faced the voters of Oklahoma. Senator Thomas was challenged by conservative Congressman Wesley Disney, as well as a host of lesser candidates, which included popular Lieutenant Governor James E. Berry. Thomas won the primary election by over 21,000 votes, but won only 36% of the vote.

Senator Thomas's chairmanship of the Agriculture Committee became a double edged sword, as he attracted the attention of muckraking national columnist Drew Pearson. Pearson had a weekly radio program as well as a widely read syndicated column, which appeared in a plethora of daily newspapers across the country. In 1946, Pearson reported that Senator Thomas and Alabama Senator John H. Bankhead had an "arrangement" with a broker to buy cotton commodities. That would have hardly been news save for the fact, according to Pearson, both senators made speeches on the floor of the Senate urging the removal of wartime cotton controls. Cotton was a scarce commodity at the time and the speeches helped to raise the price of cotton. Senator Bankhead died shortly after the Pearson revelations and

the family always blamed Pearson for his death.

The Senate began a half-hearted probe of such speculation and the Oklahoma senator snapped he did not care to be "bothered" with any further inquiries about his "private activities." Senator Thomas sent a letter to a subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee informing committee members that he did not expect the operation of his Senate office to be hampered in any way, otherwise it would be "an insult to the sovereign State of Oklahoma."

At least some of the accounts were held in the senator's wife's name. When questioned about the accounts held for his spouse, Edith Thomas, the senator sharply replied he had no idea what his wife did with her money, although he finally did admit to some speculation of his own.

Elmer Thomas's own reputation never entirely recovered.

The allegations ensured Thomas would once again have a serious opponent inside the Democratic primary in 1950. That opponent was Congressman A.S. "Mike" Monroney. Tall, handsome, and youthful, Monroney reminded voters of the senator's cotton speculation, as well as Thomas's ties to power companies. Senator Thomas reminded Oklahomans of the money and projects he had brought to the state, both of which were considerable. Thomas stressed his seniority, pointing out that should he be defeated, no Oklahoman would be chairing any important committee in the U. S. Senate.

Well financed, Thomas ran slightly behind Congressman Monroney, necessitating a run off election. Thomas fought as hard as he could, but lost to Monroney by almost 28,000 votes. After twenty-eight years on Capitol Hill, Elmer Thomas's legislative career had come

to an end.

Thomas opened a law office in Washington, D. C., which provided him with a nice income and he retired in 1957 and returned to his home in Lawton, Oklahoma. A park in Lawton was named in his honor the same year, which helped to take some of the sting out of his defeat.

Thomas made headlines in 1962 when he announced that after having voted the straight Democratic ticket for sixty years, he was voting for Republican Hayden Crawford, who was running against the former senator's old nemesis Mike Monroney. Crawford made a good showing, a portent of things to come and the Republicans won the governorship that same year.

The Thomas home was a modest, modern ranch style home. Well into his eighties, neighbors could observe the white haired former senator mowing his own lawn. Thomas remained remarkably hale and hearty in his old age. The former senator deeply mourned the loss of his wife, who died in 1964.

The eighty-nine year old Thomas went to the hospital for a prostate gland operation and seemed to be doing well, when he took a turn for the worse and began to fade. Elmer Thomas died September 19, 1965.

Thomas had explained his longevity by saying he had never smoked, always skipped lunch and when he felt like having a drink, "I take it."

After his death, an editorial in the Lawton Constitution summed up Thomas's life and career. Scandal and political posturing was forgotten and the editor noted, "Senator Thomas was the last of three political giants who helped to establish Lawton in 1901..." The editorial detailed the many good things Elmer Thomas had done for his state, friends and neighbors.

The Right Stuff: The KPD Explorer Post

By Dan Andrews
andrewsd@knoxfocus.com

As Chief Rausch handed the Explorer of the Year award to Hayden Marshall on April 22, 2016, he smiled, which was significant because it was the first time he had smiled in days. Before the awards ceremony an impromptu press conference outside the dining hall had taken place with media pressing for answers involving a senseless gang-related shooting. However, this moment was not about everything that is not wrong with our youth.

Instead, this was a moment where a Chief could beam with pride at the hard work and dedication of Explorer Marshall, who had donated over 334 hours to the Knoxville Police Department and the community.

The Knoxville Police Department Explorer Post has very strict rules and regulations. The young members are held to the same moral code as sworn officers. In addition to the moral code, they also must maintain good grades in school and have a good attendance record for

training and meetings.

In addition to maintaining the professional demeanor and attitude, young men and women, aged 14-20, must maintain an academic average of 2.0 or higher, be physically fit and have no criminal record. The goal of the program is to prepare individuals to become police officers through its training, education and experience.

The Explorer Unit is an amazing opportunity to allow young individuals to see a side of Knoxville that few people have the opportunity to see.

From police ride-alongs at night checking empty back alleys, to being on the field game day performing crowd control, from helping the marine unit on our wide open lakes, to directing traffic when roads become overly congested, these young individuals make a profound difference in our community.

But above all, with all the negative headlines that we have seen involving our youth, these individuals give us all something to smile about and be proud of.

“I think the most important thing is it teaches kids to come together from all sorts of different backgrounds, races, genders, and creeds. We come together and form our own type of brotherhood. We have each other's backs. We learn what to do and what not to do. We train with each other, we learn and become really good friends.”

Hayden Marshall
High School Senior, L&N Stem Academy,
2015 KPD Explorer of the Year.

Persistence in Prayer



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

Prayer involves persistence. God's timing is different from our timing. God might answer prayer immediately, or He may answer in twenty years. There are plenty of examples in Scripture as to those who trusted

in God's timing, as well as those who grew impatient. King Saul is an example of someone who grew impatient. Because of this, he took matters into his own hands and paid a price (1 Samuel 13:8-14).

An example of someone who was patient in prayer is Zechariah, the priest. He and his wife were barren for decades, yet he showed patience in waiting for a child and was delighted when the Angel of the Lord told him he would have a son. This

was after no doubt decades of prayer (Luke 1:5-13).

When it comes to prayer, we don't pray one time for needs and then quit when our prayer is not immediately answered. Again, God works on His timetable.

So don't get discouraged in prayer. The problem is that in our current culture, we are used to immediate responses. We like fast-food meals for our fast-paced lives. We can send and receive text messages in a matter of seconds. We can upload a picture we just took in a matter of a few seconds for the whole world to see. We like things fast and faster.

But God doesn't work with a stopwatch in hand. He can answer immediately, but usually He waits for the

perfect time, and His timing is better than ours. Elijah is a good case study when it comes to persistence in prayer. When he faced the false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Elijah prayed once, and fire from heaven fell (1 Kings 18:37-38). Earlier, when he was praying for God to bring back to life the son of a widow, he prayed three times before God answered that prayer (1 Kings 17:21-22). Later, when he asked God to send rain, he ended up praying seven times (18:41-44).

The point is that we don't know how soon God's answer will come. God often waits, yet sometimes He answers even before we pray.

“Even before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear” (Isaiah 65:24).

Consider these verses as encouragement to you as you pray with patience: “Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him” (Ps. 37:7). “Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord” (Ps. 27:14). “I wait for the

Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope” (Ps. 130:5). “Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Trust God's perfect timing and pray and not give up (Luke 18:1).

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Follow the Rules

Yes, I know that the world is filled with rules. We have plenty of guidelines that tell us what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. Many folks rebel when demands become too much or too harsh. I get that, but what I don't understand is why so many people ignore the simplest rules of getting along in this world.

All of us enjoy a leisurely stroll, especially with someone whom we love. Amy and I recently traveled to Biltmore to see the gardens. We arrived at the azalea trail, a mile-long walk filled with beautiful shrubs and flowers. We walked and stopped every so often to take a picture. Some folks wanted to walk three or four abreast on the trail, thereby causing others to step to the side to let them pass. I don't do that. Instead, I stood in the middle of the path and forced them to divide. There's an unwritten rule that says people may take only half of the sidewalk or path.

Drivers would do well to follow some simple rules. One is to move to the right if they aren't passing. Being oblivious to everyone else on the road causes traffic back-ups and raging drivers. At the same time, drivers should never place their vehicles in no-parking zones. Traffic snarls when inconsiderate motorists pull into fire lanes at the grocery store or department store. The common excuse is, “I was just stopped while my wife ran in for a minute.”

Nothing raises blood pressure as quickly as drivers who cut line. The recent traffic delays because of bridge work in Kingston is a prime example. Most drivers obey the signs and merge into one lane. A minority are jerks who zip past the line and then cut in. If you're one of those who does so, realize that you are no more special than anyone else. Get in the line and wait your turn. It's only fair.

The most important rule these days is on texting while driving. Unfortunately, too many drivers refuse to obey the rule. Cars zip by, and operators shift their eyes from the road to the phone screens. All of



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

us know the dangers, but some just must believe that they're invincible. Perhaps they are, but my family and I aren't, and I don't want to be a casualty as the result of some nitwit's need to text.

While we're on the subject, how about turning cell phones off before entering a concert or church gathering or business meeting. Parents shouldn't text while their children are performing in school programs or recitals. In other words, put the phone in a purse or pocket, or better yet, leave the thing in the car. You can live without it for a couple of hours, and it won't ring and irritate others attending the event.

Hey, parents, here's another rule. You're supposed to control your children when they are in public. No one wants to sit in a restaurant and listen to unruly children as they scream and cry and fuss. Nor do folks enjoy shopping in stores where little ones are running through the aisles or having meltdowns in the checkout line. Maybe the better plan is to leave children at home when it's time to shop or wait until another adult can stay with them in the car.

Covering mouths when yawning or coughing should be no-brainers. Too, keeping a finger out of the nose in public is another personal rule. The biggest of these deals with the restroom. Men, unless you suffer from some disability, it is incumbent that you raise the toilet seat before taking care of business. Men and women, common decency demands that you push the magic handle and flush the toilet. Failing to do so proves that you are a depraved human who has never been taught basic manners.

I'm sure that many other simple rules can be listed, and I'm sure I've left out some important ones. However, these are a few that quickly came to mind. Maybe the best guideline is one that says if something feels wrong, it probably is. Let's all be a bit more considerate of those who are around us.

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HVA hires longtime assistant to lead boys basketball team

By Ken Lay

When the 2016-17 high school basketball season begins, Hardin Valley Academy's boys basketball team will have plenty of new faces.

The next coach, however, is no stranger to the Hawks basketball program or to HVA.

Longtime assistant Shane Chambers was tapped to replace his mentor Keith Galloway, who resigned in April to spend more time with his family. Galloway's wife, Jennifer coaches the Lady Hawks and the couple has three small children.

Keith Galloway was Hardin Valley's first boys basketball coach. He started the program when the school opened its doors in 2008. Chambers has also been in the program since it began. He's also been the school's golf coach for the past seven seasons.

Chambers, 30, graduated from Jefferson County High School before going on to the University of Tennessee. He was first on Galloway's staff as an intern and later coached the freshman team. He also coached the junior varsity squad in addition to serving as a varsity

assistant.

"I was with Keith for eight years and I learned a lot from him," Chambers said. "That's an advantage."

"We'll be a little different because we'll have a new roster. We lost six seniors off of last year's team."

Chambers may hail from Dandridge but he found a home at Hardin Valley quickly and expressed his gratitude to the school's administration for giving him the chance to succeed Galloway as the boys basketball coach.

"It sounds cliché to say, but this is home," Chambers said. "I love being at

Hardin Valley and I love going over to check out a baseball game when I can. I love being around HVA athletics."

"I'm grateful to [principal Sallee] Reynolds and [athletic director George] Ashe for giving me this opportunity."

While at Jefferson County, Chambers played for Rick Sinard (who now coaches the Lady Patriots) and Tony Patterson (the current golf coach at Central High School). He continues to be close to both men.

"I played for coach Sinard and coach Patterson at

Jefferson County High School," Chambers said. "I can always pick up the phone and call them. They're always there."

"When I got the job, I got phone calls from both the basketball and golf communities congratulating me."

Chambers is one of two new coaches in District 4-AAA. Bearden recently hired former Cherokee coach Jeremy Parrott to replace the legendary Mark Blevins who resigned as that school's all-time wins leader.

Blevins is now a coach in Alabama.

The Man in the Middle for Tennessee

By Alex Norman

He's become the main man on the Tennessee defense. Darrin Kirkland Jr. collected 66 tackles as a true freshman in 2015... and he's just getting started.

"Coming into year two I have more confidence and my teammates have more confidence in me so that's the biggest thing from year 1-2," said Kirkland.

The Indianapolis native hadn't even turned 19 years old when he was named the Vols starter at middle linebacker early last season. Kirkland proved what he was capable of in those final 10 games, exceeding the high expectations that were already in place before he ever set foot on the Tennessee campus.

"I felt that I was ready. I knew what I could bring to the team. Overall as I learned more, I got better and hopefully that will carry over to this season," said Kirkland.

"Really being leader of the defense, the 'Mike' linebacker is the leader of the defense... so really just coming into that role, as I get older I'm putting more trust in my teammates as they put more trust in me."

It's pretty good odds that Darrin Kirkland Jr. will be there in center of the action for the Tennessee defense for at least the next two seasons.

"I like being in the middle of the defense, not necessarily as a coverage guy or a pass rusher, you get to do both," said Kirkland. "It's just fun to show the different aspects of being a football player on defense."

Having a steady force in the heart of the defense gives Tennessee head coach Butch Jones, and new defensive coordinator Bob Shoop one less thing to stress over. Shoop hasn't been

Story enjoys the rain in KIL meet and lowers 1600 and 800 times

By Steve Williams

Even in the rain, Rebecca Story's sophomore track season continues to produce personal records.

Christian Academy of Knoxville's outstanding distance runner had two more "PRs" in the KIL Track and Field meet Wednesday night at Hardin Valley Academy when she posted a time of 4:52.66 in the 1600-meter run and a 2:15.41 in the 800.

"I came into the (1600) race obviously wanting to go for the win because that's what championships are all about and I would worry about the time later once I crossed the finish line," said Story. "I was pleasantly surprised because I won and got a nice time."

Story's previous best time in the 1600 was a 4:56.2, set last season in the KIL meet. In her career she also has run a 4:54 in the mile run, which actually is a little longer distance than 1600 meters.

Story set a new TSSAA state record in the 3200 when she was clocked at 10:16.72 at the Arcadia Invitational in California on April 9. The previous record of 10:26.28 had been held by Kathy Kroeger of Independence since 2008.

The current TSSAA state record in the girls' 1600 is 4:45.44, set by Margaret Groos of Harpeth Hall in 1977. It is the oldest TSSAA record in girls track.



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

West High freshman Caroline Lewis (left) has a slight lead over Rebekah Hampton of Hardin Valley Academy in the KIL girls 100-meter hurdles. Lewis got the win -- one of three she had in the meet.

The TSSAA state record in the girls' 800 is 2:09.44, set by Tania Wells of Memphis Melrose in 1978.

While the wet and cool weather conditions bothered some of the KIL competitors, Story liked it.

"I actually enjoy the rain," she said. "I like running in cooler temperatures and I feel the rain is refreshing and clears the air, so it really didn't have any effect on

me."

For the second straight year, Story did not run in the 3200 at the KIL meet.

"I'm going to be running the 3200 for the next three weeks," she said. "I've run the 1600 and 800 the past two KILs, so I'm keeping up the tradition."

Meanwhile, the Hardin Valley Academy girls pulled away from the field and captured their fifth

straight KIL meet crown as they prevailed in seven events.

The Lady Hawks swept all four relay races, starting with the 4x200 which had Gia Faoro, Neyasha Honorable, Lainee Griffin and Regan Goins combining efforts for a time of 1:45.66.

HVA's 4x800 relay followed with a 10:04.23 as Kensi Gray, Jenna

Cont. on page 3

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Reynolds, C-N signee, deemed special even beyond her track honors

By Steve Williams

Derek Witt said he has never worked with a kid who is as “physically driven” as Carter High’s Shelby Reynolds.

Jeff McMillan called her “the most versatile female track athlete I’ve seen in 30-plus years of coaching track. She can run, jump, throw. She can do it all.”

And on a day when Reynolds signed scholarship papers with Carson-Newman University, Carter athletic director John Anderson’s compliment praised the person that Shelby is.

“Being involved with our special needs children and Special Olympics have always been a big interest for Shelby,” said Anderson Thursday afternoon in the school library, where family members, classmates and teammates, and teachers and coaches had gathered to watch the signing.

“She takes pride in working with our kids and it’s just something that she has done for awhile now. She truly enjoys it and they love her. That makes her special.

“Shelby has a loving spirit and a loving heart,” added Anderson, “and that’s part of what makes

her special even beyond her accomplishments on the track and field.”

Mike Story is the teacher of the Comprehensive Development Classroom Adaptive program at Carter, and Reynolds started out as a peer tutor in the CDCA “special ed” class.

“We work with students who are moderately to severely handicapped,” said Story. “Intellectually disabled students basically are who we work with. She’s been involved in it two years.”

In a word, Shelby, said Story, has been “excellent” in the program.

“She has great rapport with the students. She goes beyond what you ask her to do. The students absolutely worship her. They think the world of her. You can’t ask for a better peer tutor. She’s done a remarkable job.”

Special education students also were present for the signing.

“They make me real happy,” said Shelby when asked about her students. “The biggest thing is giving them the attention they deserve.

“It bothers me when people talk down to them when they are just as

normal as we are. They just have something wrong with them, but there’s nothing they can do about it. So the biggest thing is making them feel as normal as possible. To treat them and take them to ball games and things like that. Let them be like normal high school kids.”

Reynolds will major in special education at Carson-Newman. After four years at C-N, her plans are to transfer to ETSU’s occupational therapy school.

In the meantime, Reynolds will be a multi-athlete at Carson-Newman, competing in the pentathlon and heptathlon, plus the triple jump, long jump and high jump, and the hurdles.

Reynolds’ versatility was on display recently when she placed second in the Class A-AA East sectional to qualify for the TSSAA state pentathlon later this month.

Shelby had to overcome adversity in her prep career. She missed most of her junior track season at Carter when an “extra bone” was discovered on the side of her right foot during an examination after she had rolled her ankle. She underwent foot surgery to



Shelby Reynolds of Carter High signs scholarship papers with Carson-Newman University Thursday as parents Carrie and Jeremy and brother Colby look on.

have the bone removed.

“After surgery she came the next week and was in the weight room and didn’t miss a day,” recalled Witt, an assistant track coach who has worked closely with Reynolds over the past year and a half, including her rehabbing with flex exercises and weight training. “She was in there in her cast doing everything she could possibly do to keep herself in shape.

“They took that cast off and she was on the runway for the long jump at the KIL meet last year. It was painful for her but she jumped.”

Reynolds said she was back to 100 percent physically this past mid-December.

“When it first happened

I thought I was done and never going to get to run in college,” recalled Reynolds. “The biggest satisfaction for me was the first time when I could actually get up on my toes and sprint. As soon as I could do that, it was like everything was going to be alright.”

Witt said Reynolds is the strongest girl he’s ever worked with and has made impressive gains in the weight room, which has helped her be able to take on different events in track and field.

“She’s put on about 20 pounds of muscle from the first day that I saw her to where she is right now,” he said.

Reynolds also received offers from Tennessee Tech, King, Tennessee

Wesleyan and Milligan.

Shelby said she chose Carson-Newman because it was only 30 minutes away from home and she wanted to be close enough to come and see her brother, Colby, who is 13, compete in athletics. She also has friends at C-N, including some Carter graduates.

“I like the smallness of it, and it felt just like a family there,” she said. “The coaches also were a perfect match for me.”

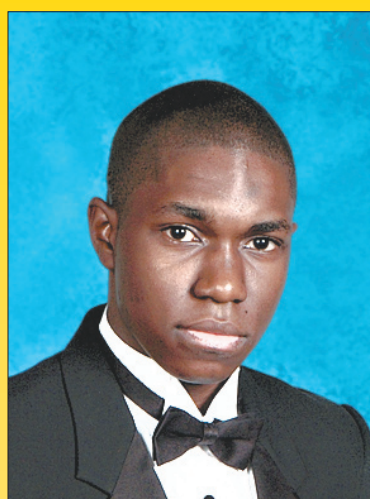
“I think she made a great decision in signing with Carson-Newman,” said Witt.

At times, Shelby may even have her own very special cheering section. That would make her real happy.

Austin-East



Stephanie Spidell,
Valedictorian



Darrell Willis,
Valedictorian



Kiara Blain,
Salutatorian

Hardin Valley



Zoe Antonas,
Valedictorian



Ally White,
Salutatorian

Eagles have to ‘hold on’ at Central 2-1

By Ken Lay

Gibbs High School boys soccer coach Jason French had to breathe a huge sigh of relief after his team closed out the District 3-AAA portion of its schedule Tuesday.

“We scored those first two goals and we had to hold on,” French said after the Eagles outlasted Central 2-1 before a spirited crowd at CHS’s Dan Y. Boring Stadium. “Central is a good team. They have some great players.

“They’re one of the best teams in our district and there’s no doubt about that.”

Despite getting off to a fast start, the Bobcats (6-6 overall, 4-3 in District 3-AAA) concluded the league portion of its schedule with two consecutive losses. Central lost to Halls on April 26 before

falling to Gibbs (9-6-2, 5-2) earlier this week.

Central, the Eagles and the second-seeded Red Devils will all host second-round district tournament matches today (May 9). Game times and opponents weren’t set at press time.

Gibbs will be the No. 3 seed. The Eagles clinched that spot with the win over the Bobcats and French said the win was huge for his squad because it can now avoid top-seeded Oak Ridge until the district finals. Central is seeded fourth thanks to its late season losses to Gibbs and Halls.

“This is big for us because we can stay away from Oak Ridge [in the semifinals],” French said. “We played Oak Ridge once and I didn’t want to have to play them [early] again.”

The Wildcats beat the Eagles 6-0 in Corryton during the regular-season. Now Gibbs must advance to the championship match to play the Wildcats. Both district finalists will advance to the Region 2-AAA Tournament.

The Eagles never trailed in Fountain City Tuesday night. They took a 1-0 lead in the fifth minute when senior forward Gary Capps scored.

Gibbs withstood a furious comeback effort from the Bobcats in the first half. Senior goalkeeper Robbie Kincaid made some stellar saves and also got a little help from the goalpost during the opening 40 minutes.

The Bobcats also had a goal wiped out by an offside call.

Gibbs took a 2-0 lead when junior Josh James converted a penalty kick in the 44th minute.

The Bobcats finally got on the board when midfielder Kalulu Bamba tallied in the 68th minute.

Central missed some late scoring chances thanks to Kincaid’s effort in the net.

Bobcats coach Tobin Walton couldn’t fault his side’s effort on this night.

“We played well tonight,” Walton said. “This was a good game and we did some things well that people probably didn’t see. We did well on some things that we had been working on in practice.

“We had chances and we played well, but all that being said, when you don’t put the ball in the back of the net, you don’t win. That’s the curse of this game but that’s why we love it.”



Bulldogs 'step it up' and dethrone HVA for KIL track title

By Steve Williams

Bearden has snapped Hardin Valley Academy's string of three straight boys team titles in the KIL Track and Field meet.

Versatile junior Jacob Sobota took first place in the pole vault and long jump and piled up 30 points overall to lead the Bulldogs, who finished with a nine-point margin over the defending champion Hawks Wednesday night at HVA.

The annual meet was held in the rain and unseasonably cool temperatures for the most part, with the sun coming out for a few of the events.

Sobota cleared 12 feet, 6 inches in the pole vault and leaped 20-8½ in the long jump. Shawn Stacy got Bearden's only other first-place finish as he won the high jump (6-0).

The key to the Bulldogs' title was a team effort.

"I think it was a lot of boys doing what they needed to do to come together and win," said Patty Thewes, who is in her third season as Bearden head coach.

"They all knew they needed to move up in each spot. We shared with them in advance, 'Hey, here's where you're at, here's where you need to go,' and they all just did what they needed to do."



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Shawn Stacy of Bearden eyes the bar as he wins the high jump event and helps the Bulldogs capture the KIL boys team championship.

Bearden took advantage of some surprises, too.

"Ty Chandler took second in the pole vault," pointed out Coach Thewes. "We weren't expecting that and he did very well. Joshua Sobota came back. He was all-state last year and he's been injured all season. He took two second places (shot put and discus) and we were really happy with that."

Joshua, a sophomore,

is Jacob's brother.

Thewes noted there are 87 boys and girls combined on Bearden's track teams this year with only six graduating seniors.

Even with the future outlook looking bright, the Bearden coach admitted winning the boys' title this season was the goal.

"We talked about it," said Thewes. "Hardin Valley is such a great team. They bring a good fight. We said we can beat

Hardin Valley. We just said we all need to step it up and we can do that."

As for the Bulldogs' potential for the remainder of the season, their coach said, "We'll see. I think if they do their best, they can do very well. It's so hard to predict what's going to happen. There's potential to do very well."

Bearden totaled 116 points and Hardin Valley 107. Rounding out the top five were

West 62, Catholic 60 and Austin-East 57.

West senior Adam Johnston looked strong as he won the 1600-meter run in 4 minutes, 18.55 seconds. He also took the 800 in 1:57.02, nipping HVA's Kenton Bachmann by three-hundredths of a second. GCA's Timothy Thacker took top honors in the 3200 (9:53.53).

In the sprints, A-E's Kashif Warren spoiled Colt Treischmann's bid

for a sweep. The Grace Christian senior, who signed with Montreat College (N.C.) earlier in the day, won the 100 in 11.21 and the 400 in 51.66, but Warren (22.40) nosed out Treischmann in the 200 by one-hundredth of a second.

Hardin Valley's Riley Honken swept the hurdles, winning the 100 in 15.46 and the 300 in 41.98.

Austin-East turned in a winning time of 1:32.53 in the 4x200 relay with its team of Coby Colquitt, KaJuan Hale, Jahson Jackson and Martest Forbes. The Roadrunners' 4x100 quartet of Colquitt, Warren, Gedarian Mobley and Hale also prevailed in 43.55.

Farragut's 4x800 relay won in a time of 8:14.21 as Wilson Ekern, Mathew Saunders, Spencer Flint and Louis Morris carried the baton.

The Hawks finished first in the meet's final track event, the 4x400 relay, as Robert Taylor, Alex Laggis, Miguel Parrilla and Bachmann combined for a 3:30.85.

In other field events, Halls' Cole Patterson doubled in the shot put (59-0¼) and discus (162-11) and L&N STEM Academy's Jaylen Foster won the triple jump (43-0½).

Story enjoys the rain in KIL meet and lowers 1600 and 800 times

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Wall, Emily Readett and Maddie Christian won by almost 10 seconds.

The 4x100 team of Faoro, Kiara Inman, Griffin and Goins covered the lap in 49.25.

Hardin Valley's 4x400 relay capped the night with a 4:09.70 time as Faoro ran the leadoff leg for the third time followed by Lizzy Davis, Gray and Honorable.

The Lady Hawks also got wins from Goins in the 100 (12.31), Davis in the high jump (5-0) and Rebekah Hampton in the triple jump (34-2½).

Hardin Valley finished with 173 points. West was a distant second with 104. Completing the top five were CAK 72, Bearden 70 and Farragut 63.

West freshman Caroline Lewis was a triple winner, taking the long jump in 16-7½ and sweeping the 100 and 300 hurdles with times of 16.83 and 47.66.

"I'm very pleased with my performance overall," said Lewis. "The weather was a little difficult at the beginning, but it cleared up and I just pushed through it."

"I felt equally strong in all of my events."

Other winners on the track included Kristen Blevins of West in the 200 dash (26.15) and Jasmine Jefferson of Webb in the 400 (58.52).

Farragut's Destiny Carey doubled in the discus (105-3) and shot put (40-2¾). Molly Calhoun of Bearden won the pole vault at 10-0.

The Man in the Middle for Tennessee

Cont. from page 1

on campus very long. He was hired to replace John Jancek back in early January. But even in that short period of time, he and Kirkland appear to have a solid partnership.

"He (Shoop) is a smart individual," said Kirkland. "He has helped our defense with communication, installing his ideas with our personnel, and has really helped our defense. He helps with pressure, our communication... and he offers more (in terms of) learning the game overall and

learning situational things.

Kirkland is just one of a large number of talented players that will take the field for the Vols defense in 2016. One player in particular that stood out to Kirkland is sophomore tackle Khalil McKenzie.

"From year one to year two his body has changed a lot," said Kirkland. "Khalil lost some weight... gained some muscle, and has been more explosive this spring. That helped his game and helped our defensive line with the more reps he has gotten this spring."



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Halls



Kayla Arnsdorff,
Valedictorian



Morgan Duff,
Valedictorian



Blakely Griffin,
Salutatorian

Central



Elizabeth Smiddy,
Valedictorian



Sarah Burton,
Salutatorian

Grace Christian



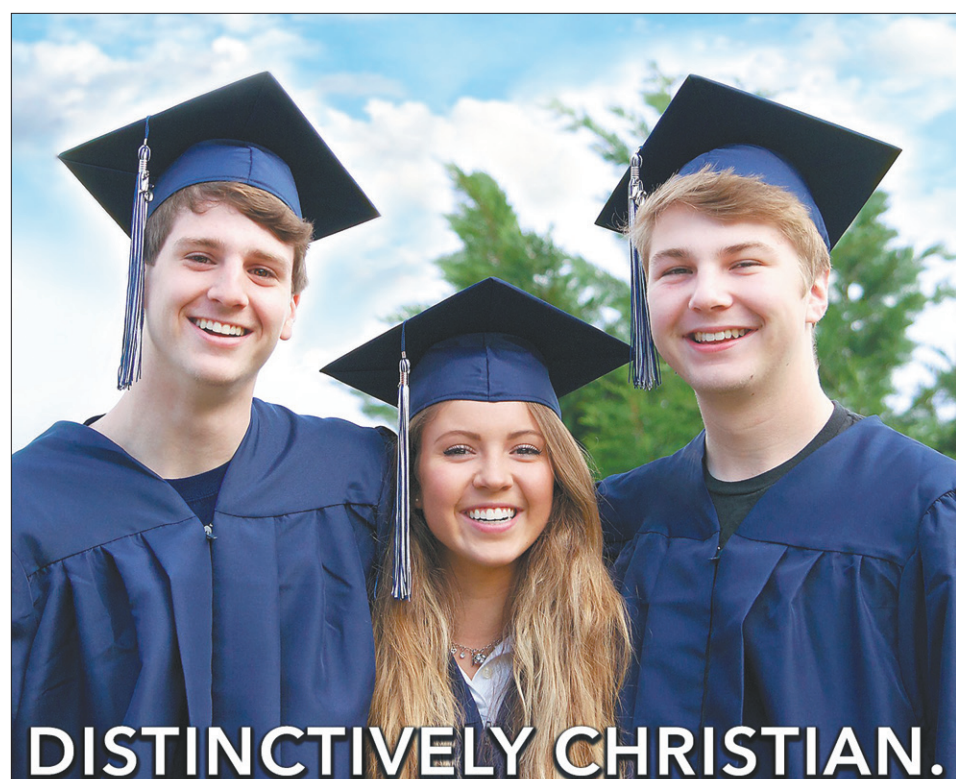
John Ryan Holland,
Valedictorian



Ryan Albert Randles,
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The Doctor is in
 a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Coming Home

It was a momentous day for my friends and their entire family. Their son came home from war. He's a naval aviator like my father seventy years ago, and had been deployed in the Persian Gulf for the last seven months. Our servicemen are exceptional people and they give me hope for our country. My contributions seem so small by comparison to the heroic deeds of these warriors which keep us safe.

Legend has it that the Gospeler, Luke, was a physician. Actually, I believe he was an internist at heart, though there would be no actual doctors of internal medicine for 1900 years. If you doubt my observation of Luke, read the first four verses of chapter one in his Gospel. What we do know about Luke is that he was a Christian and a traveling partner

of Paul who referred to him as a physician.

One of the most famous stories in Western culture is the parable of the Lost Son recorded by Luke in the 15th chapter of his gospel account. Some know this story as that of the Prodigal Son who squanders his inheritance in riotous living, but finally realizes his error and "comes home." Jesus tells this parable sequentially with two others: the parable of the Lost Sheep, where the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to seek his lost one, and the parable of the woman who lost one of her ten valuable coins and searches diligently before finding the lost one. As most know, the Prodigal's father had two sons, one was faithful and one was not. However, the father must have kept looking for the lost son because he saw

him in the distance, returning from that far country of lost souls.

After perhaps one of the worst weeks in politics, with disgusting verbiage that I would not deem worthy of the term rhetoric, I need a hopeful homecoming story. After listening to Trump and Cruz, I can now understand why it took a dozen years for Thomas Jefferson and John Adams to reconnect after the scandalous vituperations of their 1800 presidential contest. I pray there is redemption for America, even though it remains over the horizon from my view. In a sense we are all prodigals. I just hope our Father will still be searching the horizon for us if and when we come to our senses and turn for "home."

Excluding those who renounce God and choose to live in the "far country," the rest of us naturally attach human attributes to God, even though this is a fallacy. I recently wrote of Moses' encounter with "The Great, I Am" at the burning bush. The message is clear, God is beyond our understanding, and that is as far as we can go. Or is it?

Science can't take us to a place beyond our universe defined by three dimensions and time.

None the less, quantum mechanics describes ten dimensions at the creation of the universe. To comprehend this is understandably difficult because we exist in a three dimensional reality aligned with time. I once wrote a paper imagining that heaven exists as a higher dimensional plane than our universe.

The movie Interstellar caused me to reconsider this notion of long ago. It's my opinion that the movie is too long and the basic premise is hackneyed. However, the last thirty minutes artfully depict the relationship of our universe, seen through the eyes of the astronaut protagonist, and the alien sphere of a "fifth dimensional" reality (not to be confused with the Motown group!). For those who want more, read a review of the novel "Flatland" by Edwin A. Abbott in Wikipedia. The book itself is not worth your time.

In my opinion the take home message from Interstellar transcends arcane dimensional concepts, cinematic techno eye candy or an otherwise average science fiction yarn. In the story salvation is made possible by love. Love allowed the astronaut played by Matthew McConaughey to bridge interstellar space, alternative dimensions

and time to communicate with his physicist daughter and send her the scientific solution to save the earth.

I've written previously about the theological virtues of faith, hope and love as articulated by Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 13:13). Humans are imbued with the capacity to love and to reason. The Bible sees these as attributes shared with God. In antiquity a name was used to describe a person's nature. Although we comprehend little of the mysterious and majestic, I Am, we do know about the human and divine concept of love which is transformative and transcendent.

These days what amazes me is that people renounce spiritual considerations as well as reason, noted in my recent essay "Dogma." Furthermore, people worship false gods of government, money, power, fame and sex. The media, self-described elitists and intellectuals, as well as humanists, secularists and adherents of nominalism, call those with a faith perspective fools. The Christian writer Philip Yancey observed some years ago that our postmodern culture is the first in history attempting to live without a sense of the sacred.

Obviously, this doesn't apply to everyone. And as our culture devolves the "remnant" must by necessity remain in the world, but as the early Christians did, we must not be of the world. We must adhere to faith and hope while trusting love to bridge the void.

Shakespeare once said, "Once a man, twice a child." As I watch and care for my grandchildren, I see them become more and more independent. We grow up to be self sufficient and no longer need our parents' daily care. Like the Prodigal we often wander off into the world to seek our fortune or be deceived. As a parent I know I must let my children go, hoping and praying they will find their way and someday come home.

By necessity we conceptualize God as a Father, even to the point of assigning "Him" white robes and a long white beard. I believe this is woefully inaccurate and incomplete. If we know anything about God, it is that God is love. And for some inexplicable reason He loves us and yearns for us to come home to Him just like the Prodigal. We should start the journey.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at fergusonj@knoxfocus.com

Rural Metro Offering Free CPR Training

If a person crumpled to the ground near you, would you know what to do? If that person was unconscious, what would you do next?

On May 18 and 21, in observation of National Emergency Medical Services Week, Rural Metro, the Knox County Emergency responder and its parent company, American Medical Response (AMR) and its operations across the country will train thousands of people to save lives through compression-only CPR. Compression-only CPR is easy to learn and has the ability to keep a cardiac arrest victim alive until paramedics arrive.

Everyone in Knox County has

an opportunity to receive this important training absolutely free. It takes only 15 minutes or so and is being offered at locations across Knoxville and Knox County. Everyone is invited to attend. No reservations are needed; people can just stop by.

"While our paramedics often get to an emergency quickly, during cardiac arrest immediate action can make the difference," said Chris Blach, Vice President of Operations for Rural Metro of East Tennessee. "Compression-only CPR can help save lives and is easy to perform. We hope that schools, businesses and other groups will take this opportunity to get trained in compression-

only CPR at no cost, making our community an even safer place to live. Our primary goal is to save as many lives as possible, and we hope we can get more people excited about learning CPR by being part of a nationwide event."

Compression-only CPR allows bystanders to keep blood flowing through a victim's body just by pressing on the chest in a hard, fast rhythm. It has proven to be effective in saving lives.

Those attending will also be taught how to use an Automated External Defibrillator which are increasingly available in public locations. Just this year the Tennessee Legislature passed a law requiring both faculty and

students at schools with AEDs to receive such training.

In Knox County, the training will be offered from 10-2 p.m. on both days at the following locations:

- MAY 18:
 - West Town Mall
 - Farragut Town Hall
 - Women's Basketball Hall of Fame
 - Hallsdale Powell Utility District Community Room
 - Ijams Nature Center
 - New Harvest Park
- MAY 21:
 - Pellissippi State-Hardin Valley Road
 - Pellissippi State-Magnolia Avenue

- Pellissippi State-Strawberry Plains Pike

To find out more about compression-only CPR and find out how your group can be part of this event, please visit www.amr.net/cpr or call Christopher McClain at (865)978-1224.

"This might help you save a life," said Blach. "We're the volunteer state, so in that spirit I hope people turn out in bigger numbers here than anywhere else across the country and get this free and important training."

Last year the nationwide effort trained more than 67,000 people. This is the first year Knox County is participating.

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Come tour this 130-year-old church from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. **SATURDAY, May 14, 2016**

Sunday Worship-10:00 a.m.

The church is recently being offered as a wedding venue. Information will be available at the open house.

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Dog Bite Prevention Week



Try the Zesty Chile Poblano, Cheese Enchilada and Mexican Rice at El Paso!

Striking oro at El Paso



By Rose Davidson

As a preamble, I'm a native Southern California gal, who recently transplanted herself here in Sevierville. (Just want to brag though, and say that I'm the product of parents who were both born and raised in the south: Texas

so run, don't walk, to El Paso. This is hands-down the best Mexican place in this area. There is nothing cliché nor stereotypical about this restaurant. How refreshing is that? The decor is beautiful, unique and tastefully executed.

The servers absolutely couldn't be friendlier. And I can't express that enough. You will be treated as if you are the most important person in the restaurant. The prices cannot be quarreled with! This is a restaurant with value. I was subjected to highly overpriced restaurants where I used to live. I promise that you will leave El Paso satisfied with not just your taste buds, but with your wallet feeling pleased as well.

To begin with, they have nightly specials, including drink specials, which often include some sort of margarita. Make certain that you read the specials board upon entering. The complimentary basket of freshly made chips comes with not only fresh salsa, but also a bowl of their refried bean cheese dip. Yum!!!

I ordered some tacos of course. It's kind of a baseline dish that we gauge Mexican restaurants by, right? In Southern California, taco meat tends to be highly seasoned, especially with cumin and chili powder, but not here. However, it's still nicely cooked and easy to zest up with the salsa or bean cheese dip, if you're so inclined. I do!

I experienced some confusion when looking at the menu and had to ask the difference between Chile Rellenos and Chile Poblano. You see, an interesting thing to note is that in California, and other locales in the USA, is that if one wants a cheese-stuffed poblano chili, one orders Chile Rellenos. At this restaurant, that is a completely different dish. It is more like a bowl of ground beef topped with onions, cheese, and chilis. (But it isn't chili) A Stuffed Poblano (Chile Poblano) is what you want to ask for here if you want a stuffed chili. And it IS zingy and tasty with a delicious sauce. No augmentation needed!!!

Cheese enchiladas are a Mexican-American staple, and also a good thing to order to test the prowess of a good Mexican restaurant as far as basics. They do a wonderful job at El Paso, making them so delicious that you'll want another. Another simple but satiating and tasty entrée is the Burrito El Paso, which is a fresh, soft, flour tortilla generously filled with tender pork chunks, sautéed bell pepper and onion and topped with a white nacho cheese sauce. On the side was lettuce, tomatoes and fresh guacamole.

There is something here for everybody, from the basics to authentic Mexican dishes: an array of seafood, steak, chicken and vegetarian entrees to entrees served with Nopales (Cactus-very indigenous to the Mexican culture) and more. I should mention this is one of the few places in Sevierville that has a full bar.

I consider myself lucky to have grown up with a menagerie of pets ranging from gerbils to horses. I have many memories and scars of those happy pet challenges of bites and kicks in fleeting moments when my life became one



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

with nature. Anything with a mind of its own and mouth full of teeth has the potential to inflict a little pain and suffering. As a young boy I found a neighbor's cat with a death grip on a mouse. In a moment as fast as a blink I jumped to the aid of the helpless mouse and saved it from a certain death in the jaws of the cat. What I didn't anticipate was the mouse biting me. I am not sure what happened next. All I can remember are screams of confusion as my mother sprung into action. With my eyes big as saucers, sounds of a broom cut through the air and whipped about my head. Within seconds my mother had beaten the little mouse to death and scooped its limp body into a brown paper bag with one hand while she yanked me away with the other as if I were a rag doll. What I learned from this cat and mouse story was this: Never interfere with nature, and never, never underestimate the powers of a mother where her babies are concerned.

The benefits of pet ownership are well documented, and I believe our health interrelates with the animal kingdom on many levels. As we begin the summer season and start spending more time outdoors, we increase our opportunities to come in contact with nature. Since most dog bites occur during the summer, and since May 15-21st is National Dog Bite Prevention Week, it's a perfect time to review ways to protect ourselves and our children from injury and possible death.

Thirty-seven percent of households in America own at least one dog, and an estimated 70 million dogs live among us (2012 U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook). Obviously, the mere numbers increase the likelihood we will interact with dogs. Many of us would never reach down to pet a snake slithering across the

lawn but wouldn't hesitate to reach out and pet a cute, cuddly dog loping down the sidewalk. Yet snakebites fatalities average about five deaths per year in the United States compared to the 33 fatal dog attacks in 2010 (CDC). The

number of dog bite injuries is much higher in children than in adults. When I worked as an Emergency Room nurse, I witnessed the tragedy a quick snip from the family dog can bring to a child.

The Humane Society suggests several ways to avoid being bitten by a dog. 1) Never approach an unfamiliar dog- especially one tied or confined behind a fence or in a car. 2) Do not pet a dog, including your own, without letting him see and sniff you first. 3) Never turn your back to a dog and run away. A dog's natural instinct will be to chase and catch you. 4) Don't disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, chewing on a toy, or caring for puppies. 5) Be cautious around strange dogs, and always assume that a dog who doesn't know you may see you as an intruder or as a threat.

If you are approached by a dog you are concerned might attack you, follow these steps:

- Resist the impulse to run away or scream
- Stand very still "like a tree"
- Avoid making direct eye contact with the dog
- If you are knocked down or fall act "like a log" by putting your face down and placing your hands behind your neck

Owner negligence is cited as one of the leading causes of dog bites. Take personal responsibility for your pets by getting them spayed or neutered, and keep your dogs immunizations up to date. If considering adding a dog to your family, take time to research dog breeds and talk with a veterinarian about which breeds are right for you. Use a little common sense, and NEVER leave an infant or small child alone with a dog. Take time to talk with your family about dog safety and ways to protect themselves so that dogs will truly be their best friend.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of CECIL FRANKLIN STEPHENS
Docket Number 77583-2
Notice is hereby given that on the 22nd day of April, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CECIL FRANKLIN STEPHENS, who died Mar 5, 2016, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon ALVIN JEROME WATSON, it is Ordered that said Defendant, ALVIN JEROME WATSON, file an Answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in Knoxville, Tennessee and with W. Brian Starnes, an attorney whose address is 9041 Executive Park Drive #106, Knoxville, TN 37923 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Clarence E. Pridemore, Jr. at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 15th day of April, 2016.
/s/HOWARD G. HOGAN
Clerk and Master
To be published: 4/25/2016, 5/2/2016, 5/9/2016 and 5/16/2016

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE JUVENILE COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

CURTIS AND MARANDA BOWNESS, Petitioner

v.

KATRINA DAWN GHESQUIRE, Respondent

IN THE MATTER OF: HOPE MARIE BUCKNER DOB: 1/8/14 A CHILD UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE

Docket No. _____

It appearing to the Court from the sworn allegations of the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and the Affidavit of Diligent Search in this cause that the whereabouts of the Respondent are unknown and cannot be ascertained by diligent search so that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon her, it is, therefore, ORDERED that Respondent be served by publication of the following notice for four (4) consecutive weeks in The Knoxville Focus, a newspaper of general circulation published in Knox County, Tennessee. It is further ORDERED that if the Respondent does not enter an appearance or otherwise answer

the petition, further personal service or service by further publication shall be dispensed with and service of any future notices, motions, orders or other legal documents in this matter may be made upon the Respondent by filing the same with the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

NOTICE
Curtis and Maranda Bowness have filed a petition against you seeking to terminate forever your parental rights to Hope Marie Buckner. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby ORDERED to file an Answer to the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights with the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Knox County, Tennessee, 3323 Division Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919, and to serve a copy of that Answer upon Heidi Wegryn, Attorney for Curtis and Maranda Bowness, 5731 Lyons View Pike, Suite 211, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, which will be May 16, 2016, and/or appear for trial on July 12, 2016, at 9:00 AM, at Knox County Juvenile Court. If you fail to do so, a judgment will be taken against you pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 36-1-117(n), Rule 55 of the Tenn. R. of Civ. P., and Rules 1 and 39 of the Tenn. R. of Juv. P. for the relief demanded in the petition. You may view and obtain a copy of the petition and any other subsequently filed legal documents in the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office at 3323 Division Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919.

ENTER this 21st day of April, 2016.
HONORABLE TIMOTHY IRWIN, JUDGE
Honorable Timothy Irwin, Judge

PREPARED BY:
Heidi Wegryn, BPR #017171
5731 Lyons View Pike Suite 211
Knoxville, TN 37919

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: LISA MENNO
IN RE: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION v. LISA MENNO NO. 190689-2
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the Defendant, LISA MENNO, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon

diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon LISA MENNO, it is Ordered that said Defendant, LISA MENNO, file an Answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in Knoxville, Tennessee and with Jessica D. Binkley, an attorney whose address is 1800 Hayes Street, Nashville, TN 37203 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Clarence E. Pridemore, Jr. at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 15th day of April, 2016.
/s/HOWARD G. HOGAN
Clerk and Master
To be published: 4/25/2016, 5/2/2016, 5/9/2016 and 5/16/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of MAE ESTHER SUMMERS
Docket Number 77636-1
Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of May, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MAE ESTHER SUMMERS, who died Jul 12, 2015, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1) (A); or (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death
This 5th day of May, 2016
Estate of MAE ESTHER SUMMERS
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MYRA PAIGE HOLT, Executrix
10707 Alderbrook Place

Louisville, KY 40299
SCOTT B. HAHN
Attorney at Law
5344 N Broadway, Ste 101
Knoxville, TN 37918
PUBLISH: 5/09/2016 & 5/16/2016

MISC. NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICE:

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization Executive Board Meeting, April 27, 2016

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board will meet on **Wednesday, April 27th at 9 a.m.** in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Visit www.knoxtrans.org/meeting for preliminary and final Agendas or contact the TPO if you would like a copy of the final Agenda. If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability please notify the TPO three business days in advance of the meeting and we will be glad to work with you in obliging any reasonable request.
865-215-2694 or dori.caron@knoxtrans.org.

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The following described vehicles impounded/ repaired/towed will be sold at public and/or private auction in compliance with the Tennessee Public Acts 1967, Chapter 240, house Bill 379. The sale will be held at Jim's Garage & Wrecker Service Vehicle Impoundment Lot located at 5906 Walden Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919. These vehicles have been checked through the files of the Commissioner of Revenue, Title Section, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Revenue, State of Tennessee. In appropriate cases, the vehicles have been checked in other states and the owners and/or lienholders have been notified by certified mail. In those instances where no vehicle identification/serial number or license number was available, this Public Notice in the newspaper will comply with the law.

The failure of the owner/lienholder to exercise their rights to reclaim any vehicle listed below, not bearing a VIN/Serial number, shall be deemed a waiver of all rights and title and authorization to sell said described vehicle(s).
1/2015 Mopad, L9NPEACB7F1001847;
2/2000 Ford Mustang, 1FA45X3YF279607;
3/2001 Volkswagen Jetta, 3VW5B69M21M205424;
4/2006 Ford Taurus, 1FAFP53U36A192816;
5/2001 Buick, 2G4WS52J211101131;
6/2000 Nissan Maxima, JN1CA31D4Y7753699;
7/2002 Ford F-150, 1JTRF17232NA39772;
8/2005 Nissan Sentra, 3N1CB51D05L470466;
9/2000 Saturn, 1G8JUS2FY9692363;
10/2015 Nissan Versa, 3N1CE2CP0FL363951;
11/1999 Chevy Tahoe, 1GNFK13R2XJ389896;
12/2003 Subaru, JF1SG656X3H737190;
1/3/1999 Ford Taurus, 1FAFP53SXA129728;
14/1989 Dodge Kameo, 1B3BK46KAKC436037;
15/1999 Toyota Corolla, 1NXBR12E8XZ293190; 16/2001 Ford Focus, 1FAF034351W159600; 17/2002 Chevy Blazer, 1GNCT18W92K115021; 18/2007 Chrysler Pacifica, 2A8GM68X87R142788; 19/2008 Buick Lacrosse, 2G4WD5E2481165224; 20/1999 Mercury Grand Marquis, 2MEFM74WXX658876

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The following described vehicles impounded/ repaired/towed will be sold at public and/or private auction in compliance with the Tennessee Public Acts 1967, Chapter 240, house Bill 379. The sale will be held at Jim's Garage & Wrecker Service Vehicle Impoundment Lot located at 5906 Walden Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919. These vehicles have been checked through the files of the Commissioner of Revenue, Title Section, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Revenue, State of Tennessee. In appropriate cases, the vehicles have been checked in other states and the owners and/or lienholders have been notified by certified mail. In those instances where no vehicle identification/serial number or license number was available, this Public Notice in the newspaper will comply with the law.

The failure of the owner/lienholder to exercise their rights to reclaim any vehicle listed below, not bearing a VIN/Serial number, shall be deemed a waiver of all rights and title and authorization to sell said described vehicle(s).
1/2001 Buick Century, 2G4WS52J91121117;
2/2001 Audi A6, WAUBH64B1N069372;
3/2000 Dodge Neon, 1B3ES46CXYD833416;
4/1998 Nissan Maxima, JN1CA21D2WT523912;
5/2007 Nissan Armada, 5N1BA08A07723729;
6/1999 Ford Windstar, 2FMZA5145XBA19103;
7/2005 Toyota Camry, 4T1BE32KX56401643;
8/2006 Scion, JTKDE177360075403;
9/1981 Ford, 1FABP2689BG179972

