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Festival on the Fourth

Sunsphere to glow red, white & blue

Beginning with a lighting ceremony on Monday evening, June 27, the base of the World's Fair Park Sunsphere will be illuminated red, white and blue in celebration of the City of Knoxville's Festival on the Fourth and the City's 225th anniversary.

The festive exterior lighting will continue through the evening of July 4.

Since its construction for the 1982 World's Fair, the Sunsphere has been a signature landmark of Knoxville. Its observation deck is a popular attraction, drawing thousands of visitors.

Because of the Sunsphere's immense popularity, the City's Special Events Department, in collaboration with sponsor Lloyd's Electric Service Inc., chose to celebrate the City's 225th birthday and Festival on the Fourth with the special weeklong one-time lighting.

At a cost of less than \$5,000, Illuminating Design Inc. of Atlanta, Ga., will be temporarily installing LED lights that have been used by Disney, Space X, the U.S. Air Force and the National Football League.

However, the commemorative lighting eventually could become a permanent amenity. Visit Knoxville is seeking tourism grants that, if funded, would provide the permanent infrastructure to illuminate the Sunsphere as a marketing tool to draw visitors and events to the City.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Knoxville's iconic landmark in Knoxville," said Kim Bumpas, President of Visit Knoxville. "The teams at the City, VK and the Public Building Authority work hand-in-hand to enhance the visitor experience at the Sunsphere on a daily basis. A permanent lighting plan will make this attraction come alive after dark, which will be a wonderful beacon to visitors and our community."

If the estimated \$75,000 for initial electrical installation is secured, the Public Building Authority would be responsible for maintaining and monitoring the lighting.

"We are excited about the proposed project for permanent lighting of the Sunsphere," said Jayne Burritt, PBA's CEO. "We see first-hand the number of visitors who flock to this attraction on a daily basis. An illumination of this magnitude can only enhance this landmark and draw additional visitors."

If grant funding materializes for permanent lighting, the project would be put out for competitive bidding, Burritt said.

For more details on Festival on the Fourth or the City's 225th anniversary, follow Special Events on Facebook or the city website.

Sock Hop helps Museum of Education

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Put on your Blue Suede Shoes or your Poodle Skirt and step back into the 50s and 60s next month as the Knox County Museum of Education relives those times. The Museum wants to take you back to the days when Rock and Roll was King, a

diner was your favorite hangout, and you kicked off your shoes and danced the night away with your date.

Friday night, July 15th is when the Museum of Education invites you to the "Let's Go Back to the Hop 2." Entertainment for the night will feature three sets

of Elvis covers performed by Chuck Ayers; Sammy "Barney Fife" Sawyer and his Mayberry crew will provide laughs; and the recorded Doo Wop music of Four Dots and a Dash will be perfect for dancing. There's "Doo Wop" food, a silent auction, a "promo" photo package and

much more— all to help the very special museum.

As a non-profit organization the Knox County Education Museum depends on donations for its operation and the Sock Hop is a major fundraising event. The Museum is located in

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TOPPING OFF A SWEET SIXTEEN



Powell High's Peyton Alford and Fulton's Makenna Black are their school's male and female Student-Athletes of the Year. Alford had a grade point average and earned run average that made him the Panthers' honoree. Black followed in her parents' footsteps and is a "Falcon for Life." Stories on Peyton and Makenna and others are in this week's sports section, as The Knoxville Focus begins its fifth annual series of recognizing local high schools' Student-Athletes of the Year.

'Unfortunate Situation' But No Ethics Violation

By Sally Absher
sallyabsher@knoxfocus.com

Last week the Knox County Schools Ethics Committee heard the complaint filed by Adam McKenry, Randy Susong, and Leonard Sams against Bearden High School principal Dr. John Bartlett, BHS Athletic Director Nathan Lynn, KCS Director of Facilities and Construction Doug Dillingham, and KCS Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre.

McKenry and Susong were treasurer and president, respectively, of the former BHS Softball Booster Club. Leonard Sams was the popular and highly effective softball coach who led BHS to the state tournament in 2015.

At the beginning of the meeting, Chairwoman Lynn Fugate

asked the complainants McKenry, Susong, and Sams to lay out "specifically what ethical violation you believe has been perpetrated based on school board policy."

A brief history: In 2014, BHS softball parents Susong and McKenry met with Bartlett and Lynn to get their support and assistance to facilitate constructing a softball practice facility at BHS. They initially planned to build the facility in stages, with each phase initiated as fundraising provided the money.

But Bartlett and Lynn informed them that KCS policy would not allow the facility to be built in stages. They suggested that a loan be secured in order to show that they had the funds on hand

to complete the building. They told Susong and McKenry to re-establish the BHS Softball Boosters Club in order to conduct the fundraising. A \$40K loan was secured by the Boosters, personally guaranteed by Susong and McKenry. Bartlett and Lynn brought the project to the BOE for approval in December 2014.

Neither Susong or McKenry felt they were at risk - under Coach Sams, the team had grown and improved beyond expectation, and they had a number of camps and other fundraising events with an estimated \$21,000 in revenue lined up for the summer and fall. They were confident that the loan would be paid off within 18 - 24

months. They were repeatedly assured that Sams would coach the team.

Just prior to construction beginning, the Fire Marshall determined the construction site needed to be moved, adding \$37K to the cost. The majority of the overage was absorbed by additional fundraising, donations of labor and materials, and even Coach Sams paying for labor out of his own pocket.

There was a dearth of communication between Bartlett, Dillingham, the Booster Club, and others regarding proper protocol and policy. There were forms that were not submitted or lost, and no mention of the need to obtain BOE approval of the

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Mulch and Waste Recycling zoning denied by MPC

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission could think differently but the Metropolitan Planning Commission denied a request by Walker Trucking Contractors, Inc. to rezone a property on Rutledge Pike from Planned Residential to Business and Manufacturing.

Attorney John King, representing the proposed buyer of the 11-acre site east of Woods Creek Road, said that Nature's Best company wants to expand their business there and noted there was no opposition present in the audience and, with some restrictions, the planning staff recommended the change.

A retail office would be located there to sell things like mulch, gravel and sand and King asked that two entrances there be used so customers could drive onto the business easily. MPC Executive Director

Gerald Green told the planners that he had visited the lot and the recommendation was a "reasonable compromise."

King said that while the property could be used in the current residential zone he was requesting the Business and Manufacturing zone change so the company would not have to come back to the MPC for a review.

Several commissioners had questions and Elizabeth Eason noted that two-thirds of the site is in the hillside protection plan. After a motion to permit the zoning change failed, Eason moved to deny the request and a split vote of 6-4 rejected the request. The matter could go to the county commission which could overturn the MPC decision.

In other action the MPC approved a request of Eric Mosely for rezoning from Agricultural to Planned Residential a 14-acre property on the north side

New VP for MPC

Janice L. Toucher, a founder of the Urban Arts and Trade District and resident of Aterra Media Corporation, has been chosen as the new vice chairperson of the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Toucher is also president of the South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association and defeated Art Clancy in the selection by fellow planning commission members.

She replaces term-limited Bart Carey in the position.

Chairperson Rebecca Longmire opened the meeting Thursday by introducing three new commission members: Charles Thomas, Pat Phillips and Gayle Bustin.

of Yarnell Road although two nearby residents objected and pointed out traffic and water run off problems there.

The commission also approved the Northwest Sector Plan amendment although Mosely asked them to postpone it. He said he was not notified.

Concept plans were also approved for Edith's Place, a 6.46 acre subdivision on Murray Road, for Hatties Place, on the northwest

side of Ball Road, and for Beaver View Farms on the south side of West Emory Road.

Ashton Grove's concept plans and Use on Review were also approved for duplexes on seven individual lots on 1.56 acres. Two nearby homeowners spoke against the development citing incompatibility with local homes, traffic, and an inadequate buffer zone.

Four-Legged Soldiers of the Civil War

By Mike Steely
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If you're a Civil War buff and a horse lover, there's an event this Tuesday you may want to attend.

One of the nation's best known Civil War historians, James I. Robertson, Jr., will speak to the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable about "The Four-Legged Soldier of the Civil War." He will speak on the vital role horses and mules played during the conflict and says that more of those animals died in the war than did humans.

An author and editor of more than 25 books including a biography of Robert E. Lee, Dr. Robertson has also written three books for young readers. His book on General Stonewall Jackson won eight national awards and was used as the characterization of Jackson in the movie "Gods and Generals," where Robertson served as historical consultant.

He has also published in National Geographic and served as Executive

Director of the U. S. Civil War Centennial Commission in the 1960s and has taught at Virginia Tech where his upper division course attracted a large number of students. He retired in 2011 and was named Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History.

Dr. Robertson may be the most sought-after speaker on the American Civil War in the nation.

The Civil War Roundtable meeting will be at the Bearden Banquet Hall on 5806 Kingston Pike and the buffet begins at 7 p.m. followed by the speaker's address at 8 p.m. Admission is \$15 per member, \$17 for non-members. If you'd like to attend Dr. Robertson's speech only, admission is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members.

You can reserve a place for the buffet by calling (865)671-9001 before 11 a.m. this morning and leave a message.

City seeks proposals for redevelopment of former State Supreme Court site

The City has issued a Request for Proposals for a major mixed-use redevelopment of a key block of downtown Knoxville, the 1.7-acre former site of the State Supreme Court, bounded by Henley Street, Cumberland Avenue, Locust Street and Church Avenue.

The State Supreme Court relocated to the Post Office Building on Main Street in 2003, and the City purchased the mostly vacant surplus property fronting Henley Street from the State of Tennessee last year for \$2.47 million. The City's intent has been to direct the scope and intensity of the redevelopment of this strategically

important block, then to return the property to private ownership as quickly as possible.

"This is a prime piece of the downtown landscape, directly across Henley Street from the Convention Center," said Dawn Michelle Foster, the City's Director of Redevelopment. "This presents a tremendous opportunity. It's crucial that this block be brought back into reuse the right way, with a mixed-use redevelopment that contributes significantly to the vibrancy and energy across our downtown."

For details about the site and guidelines for its redevelopment, read the Request for Proposals at

www.knoxvilletn.gov/bids.

Foster noted that while City leaders are prioritizing certain criteria – an appropriate degree of urban density, for example, and "street-level vitality" with commercial and storefront retail spaces – the RFP offers developers great flexibility.

"There's a lot of room for creativity," Foster said. "We'd value proposals that include architecturally significant buildings. Internal structured parking would be appropriate. All designs and functions that contribute to the culture and environment of downtown will be welcomed, as well as components that promote energy efficiency and walkability."

At a minimum, proposed projects must achieve basic LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental

Design) certification through LEED v4 Building Design and Construction.

For now, the City will continue to operate the surface parking lot adjacent to the State Supreme Court building. The Public Building Authority will oversee the lot, which will be open for paid parking during weekdays and free parking after 6 p.m. weekdays and all day on weekends.

The schedule for submitting proposals for the Supreme Court site's redevelopment:

- Wednesday, Aug. 31 – A pre-proposal conference with prospective proposers will be held at 10 a.m. at the site, 719 Locust St.
- Monday, Sept. 26 -- Deadline for submitting written questions to the Purchasing Department.
- Monday, Oct. 10 – Due date for proposals.

Sock Hop helps Museum of Education

Cont. from page 1

the Sarah Simpson Professional Development Technical Center at 801 Tipton Avenue, near where Moody Avenue meets the James White Parkway.

Hundreds of displays and yearbooks, photos, documents, scrapbooks, minutes of important meetings and much more are collected, displayed and stored by the volunteer staff there. The museum is a place where anyone can travel back in time to see their own or their family's school days and where serious educational research on events, issues and people can be done.

Four Dots and a Dash have retired but their music will be played starting at 6:30 p.m. The Doo Wop Diner features hot dogs, popcorn, etc. Admission to the event is \$25 and food items are only \$1 each.

The silent auction is unusual because people will be bidding on a Tennessee Walking Horse donated



Chuck Ayers, as Elvis, will perform three sets of music during this year's Sock Hop fundraiser at the Museum of Education.

by Mrs. Susie Ford.

The museum is celebrating its 10th year this fall, according to David Armstrong, an honorary member of the Museum Board and former chairman of the board. He's the coordinator of the Sock Hop.

You can get more information from Armstrong by calling (865)679-4214 or call the Knox County Museum of Education at (865)308-6075. Tickets are available at the Museum or at all Knoxville Teachers Federal Credit Union Locations or online at <http://bit.ly/1RUAA4J>.

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City Council will meet earlier

By Mike Steely
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Beginning in July the Knoxville City Council will begin meeting at 6 p.m. rather than the previous 7 p.m. meeting time. The council passed the time change unanimously Tuesday evening and, in doing so, also moved the Beer Board meeting from 6 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The idea is to gain more public attendance.

The brief regular meeting, chaired by former Vice Mayor Nick Pavlis, lasted only about 30 minutes. Mayor Madeline Rogero was away on a trip to China and Vice Mayor Duane Grieve was absent due to the birth of his first granddaughter.

City Recorder Will Johnson opened the meeting and called for the council to select a temporary chairperson and Pavlis was chosen without further discussion.

Three people, Lauren Rider, Mabrey R. Duff and Sharon Davis, were named to the Public Property Naming Committee and the council voted to change the name of Milligan Street, between East Magnolia and Martin Luther King, Jr., to honor Beal Bourne. Bourne addressed the meeting briefly, saying he was honored to be honored with the naming "while I'm alive."

The council voted to approve the sale of two used police cars to Blaine,

Tennessee and to hire Hickory Construction Inc. for a Fort Dickerson Gateway Park Project, an improvement partially funded by the Aslan Foundation, for \$806,000. Pavlis said the improvement is "a showcase."

The Police Advisory and Review Committee's chairman, Steve Fisher, gave that group's annual report and announced Clarence L. Vaughn, III, as the new Executive Director and Jerry Croome as a new member. Fisher reported a decrease in the number of complaints reviewed by the committee last year. The next meeting of PARC is July 28th at the Beck Cultural Center at 6 p.m. and he invited the public to attend.

Asked about public attendance at these meetings, Fisher said it was not consistent. He said that's one of the reasons the committee moves its meetings around the community, to get larger attendance. He reported the committee reviewed eight harassment complaints, 13 cases of rudeness, five wrongful arrest complaints, and also explained that many of the cases involved reviewing police recordings of the incidents.

Councilman Daniel Brown announced that a KAT meeting on June 23rd will hear from the public on more trolley route changes.

The mayor's Business Breakfast on Tuesday, July 14th at the Civic Coliseum hopes to draw companies to learn how to apply for city contracts. Councilman Nick Della Volpe asked about "some way to advertise" the breakfast on radio and in newspapers to attract minority applicants. Pavlis asked if the city utilizes the state's list of minority businesses and was told it does.

Brown said attracting minority contractors is "an important issue" and currently there is low participation. The business event starts at 7:30 with a breakfast and runs until 11:30 that morning.

The council also voted just over \$700,000 to help fund the Young-Williams Animal Center with a like amount pledged by Knox County. They also voted to authorize the mayor to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to purchase bullet-resistant vests for city law enforcers with a 50% match from the city.

Special Events Production, Inc., was hired to provide sound and video equipment for the city's July 4th celebration for \$27,500 and the Capital Budget and Operating Budget were approved on First Reading, allowing leftover funds to be transferred within the new budget.

Riley Drive in Pond Gap may become "Charles Newman Drive" as passed



on First Reading and a zoning change requested by Samuel J. Furrow for a car lot on Parkside and Cogdill Road was postponed for two weeks. Councilwoman Brenda Palmer was the only "No" vote.

A property on the north side of Howard Baker Jr. Avenue and east of Hall of Fame Drive was rezoned from Office and Residential to O-2 (Civic and Institutional).

Passed with one vote were several consent items dealing with donating Community Improvement Funds to the James White Fort Association, the Fountain City Arts Center, the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, Old North Knoxville, Inc., Shannondale Elementary, Whittle Springs Middle School, Fulton High School, Ijams Nature Center, and Holston Middle School.



PHOTOS BY DAN ANDREWS.

Top, Steve Fisher, Chairperson of the Police Advisory and Review Committee, gives City Council the annual report from that citizen's group. Park noted that complaints about the police department were lower this year than last year. Above, Beal Bourne briefly addressed the City Council Tuesday thanking them for voting to name a street in his honor, stating that he appreciated the recognition during his lifetime.

THE CHALK BOARD

Bits of News About Local Education

By Sally Absher
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Eight Additional Recipients Receive Read to be Ready Grants for Summer Reading Programs

Education Commissioner Candice McQueen and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd announced that, with support from the Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD), the Read to be Ready Summer Grant program will be expanded to reach an additional eight distressed counties.

Read to be Ready summer grants are designed to fund programs that focus on low-income students who experience the

greatest summer learning loss. Summer grants are part of a larger coordinated approach to move third grade reading proficiency in Tennessee to 75 percent by 2025. The Read to be Ready campaign seeks to raise awareness about the importance of reading, unite efforts to address the reading gap, highlight and implement best practices, and build partnerships.

Twenty-one applicants applied for Read to be Ready summer grants to serve students in what the Appalachian Regional Commission designates as a distressed county, a county that ranks in the bottom 10 percent of the nation's counties on the basis of low per capita income and high rates of poverty and unemployment. Last month the

department of education selected 12 summer reading programs across the state to receive Read to be Ready grants this summer, funded by a \$1 million donation from the Dollar General Foundation.

After seeing the statewide response to the department of education's Read to be Ready summer grant application process earlier this spring, TNECD pledged to fund additional summer programs in Tennessee communities that serve our state's neediest families. The department of education then carefully reviewed additional programs designed to serve students in distressed counties and selected the following eight programs based on competitive criteria.

1. Hardeman County Schools, Southwest,
2. Perry County Schools, South Central,
3. Wayne County Schools, South Central,
4. Bledsoe County Schools, Upper Cumberland,
5. Fentress County Schools, Upper Cumberland,
6. Grundy County Schools, Southeast,
7. Oneida Special School District, East, and
8. Hancock County Schools, First TN

"Currently, only one-third of economically disadvantaged students read proficiently by the end of third grade, but we have a different vision for our students," Commissioner McQueen said. "This additional funding allows

us to reach some of our state's most underserved children and continue on our path to ensure all Tennessee students are thinkers, problem-solvers, and future leaders of our state."

"Educational attainment is workforce development, which is economic development," Commissioner Boyd said. "Early reading skills are critical to educational success. Thus, this program is critical to economic development and nowhere is it more so than in our distressed rural communities. For these reasons, we are happy we are able to support the department of education's Read to be Ready initiative."

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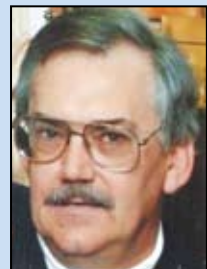
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A history lesson while camping

All Tennessee State Parks have some connection with our state's history but Harrison Bay State Park just north of Chattanooga touches that category more than

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

most. The 1,200 acre park on Chickamauga Lake on Highway 58 can claim pre-statehood links through the Cherokee, an early statehood town site, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The large park, a haven for RV and tent campers as well as local fishermen, has three large campgrounds with electric and water available, reasonable overnight rates, and

a wide variety of activities including fishing, boating, swimming, birding, a Jack Nicklaus Golf Course, picnicking, playgrounds, sports fields, shelters, group camping and even primitive camping.

The RV sites now offer wifi internet service but the sites tend to fill up on warm weather weekends so if you're planning to camp you should check the internet reservation site or call the campground.

Harrison Bay has the longest shoreline on Chickamauga Lake and is busy with kayaks, paddle boats and bass boats. Historically the area, long before

the lake, was busy as well. The park has 4.5 miles of biking trails, walking trails, and one of the tent areas has 24 open-air cabins with bunk beds.

The park is located in what was once the territory of the Chickamauga Cherokee, the renegade off-shoot of the Overhill villages who left the Vonore area in order to continuing waging war on white settlements in East Tennessee and Kentucky. After the resistance was over many of the Chickamauga chiefs, some who were mixed-blood descendants of English and Scottish traders and soldiers took up the white ways and became very wealthy.

One of these was James Vann who owned the area that is now Harrison Bay. He and his son, Joseph, established a ferry there across the Tennessee River and



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Enjoying the wildlife and scenery at Harrison Bay State Park.

established a mill. A small town, called Vann's Town, developed around the ferry. In 1779 the town was ravaged by Col Evan Shelby's expedition but, following the war, the town was reestablished and grew. Joseph Vann built a home and resided there a few years before leaving during the

Cherokee Removal, settling in Arkansas Territory. "Rick Joe" Vann took his considerable wealth, his family and his slaves with him. He was said to have owned 35 horses, the ferry, a mill and the property now encompassing the park.

The old Vann House stood there until 1900.

On the same site the Hamilton County town of Harrison developed and became the first meeting place of the new county government when the court met at Poe's Tavern there in 1819. Most of the town was inundated by the waters of the TVA lake.

'Unfortunate Situation' But No Ethics Violation

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new construction site or additional cost. The facility was completed by the end of February 2015, with \$44K still owed.

On June 3, after seven years of coaching softball at BHS and taking the team to State, Sams was fired by Bartlett - in spite of Susong having received verbal confirmation from Bartlett and Lynn that Sams would continue to lead the program. Sams agreed to "resign."

Without a coach, a team could not be named. With everyone in the softball community in shock by the news, Bearden was unable to attract a qualified coach. Twelve of the fourteen returning players and three incoming players quit. Without a team, there was no Booster Club. Without a Booster Club, there was no fundraising. Susong and McKenry, as guarantors of the loan, are stuck paying \$750 per month on the loan, with \$30K currently outstanding.

The complaint contends that Bartlett, Lynn, Dillingham, and McIntyre intentionally lied and blatantly violated rules, procedures, and protocol. Had proper protocol been

followed, the facility would have been built in stages as funds were raised. The loan would not have been allowed, and building construction declined due to lack of proper funding on a second approval process. McIntyre should have declined approval of the building as well.

McKenry stated that Bartlett, Lynn, Dillingham, and McIntyre violated BOE Code of Ethics Policy B-220 under Misuse of Public Position, which states "No public officer of county employee shall corruptly use or attempt to use his or her official position or any property or resource which may be within his or her trust, or perform his or her official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit or exemption for himself, herself, or others."

Certainly BHS benefited. They have a fabulous indoor practice facility for their softball team, which without the leadership of Coach Sams, finished the 2016 season with a 3-29 record, including sixteen double-digit losses. Other BHS teams have expressed interest in using the facility as well. But at whose expense did Bearden

benefit?

During the complainant's testimony, McIntyre was overheard saying to the person sitting next to him, "Can you believe this sh*t?" Stay classy, Jim. You've only a month to go...

Petulant, defensive, and clearly agitated, McIntyre spoke for the defendants, saying, "This is an unfortunate situation ... but I have to say I resent the tone and the implications of the presentation that we just heard. I believe the complaint brought before you is completely without merit, and should be summarily dismissed."

A leader would accept responsibility and work to find solutions - not demonize the people who believe they have been wronged.

He added, "I believe there are several questionable assertions in the complaint that has been filed. But even if every word of it is true, the actions alleged in the complaint would not constitute a violation of the Knox County BOE Code of Ethics as defined in Policy B-220." He requested that the Ethics Committee take action to dismiss the "unfortunate and unfounded complaint."

Dillingham used the "dog ate my homework" excuse to respond to allegations of missing forms by saying there was a "technical glitch" and that a form FA-100 had been submitted by Bartlett, he just could not print it out. But the complaint packet included an email from Dillingham dated January 29 2016 stating, "An FA-100 form was not submitted."

Bartlett and Lynn did not speak during the hearing, although Bartlett later told WBIR news, "We really want this paid off. I don't want them carrying that debt and so we're willing to work with them any way we can."

The Ethics Committee struggled to find evidence of a violation of the Code of Ethics. Apparently KCS only considers criminal offenses to be ethics violations. The questions at times seemed to make Susong and McKenry the criminals - although the only "crime" they committed was to trust the advice and recommendations of school officials. Terry Hill asked if administration told the Booster Club they had to get a loan, and McKenry said no, but they were told it was OK to

do it this way.

Fugate asked what she called the million dollar question:

"If Coach Sams had not been let go, would you be here today saying this is an ethical violation forcing you to do something you didn't want to do?"

Susong replied, "Whether Coach Sams was let go or not, if it was done differently, and handled to where they came to us or said we know you have to fund this, and how are we going to do this together...it probably would have worked."

Fugate, Hill, and Amber Rountree concurred they understood the frustration over the way things were handled, but stressed that the ethics committee is bound by the Board Code of Ethics which is very narrow in scope.

Fugate, who every once

in a while speaks truth to power, said, "I don't think you're the only case that's ever happened to in the history of Knox County Schools building things, I think this may be the only case where it all blew up and the organization didn't continue to fundraise to make those who put their name on the dotted line whole again. It would be my hope that the Bearden family, with the Bearden Foundation and the Bearden PTA (etc.) could come together and help do this, because I do believe that the larger Bearden community benefits, like every school does, when these kinds of facilities are built."

She made a motion to dismiss the ethics complaint because it does not meet the definition of an ethics violation based on Knox County BOE Policy B-220. All members voted aye. Fugate reiterated, "I really, really hope we can get some folks together and get this paid off."

Perhaps the Board chairman could lead the way. Susong and McKenry are still waiting for the check Doug Harris promised he would write when he met with the Bartlett, Lynn, and Booster officers on June 22, 2015.



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Our Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Council brainstorms

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory Council, composed of volunteers appointed by the mayor, is always looking for topics and speakers for their monthly meetings. Several ideas came up Wednesday during a brainstorming session.

The council discusses issues facing neighborhoods and reports directly to Mayor

Madeline Rogero's office through the Office of Neighborhoods. Four new members joined the council in June and they are Molly Gilbert of the Lake Forest Neighborhood Association, Fran Nichols of Moss Creek Villas Homeowners Association, Jenny Wright of Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization, and Ann White of Dalton Place Homeowners Association.

The meetings are often

attended by citizens and city council members and two Neighborhood Coordinators, David Massey and Debbie Sharp, host the discussions or introduce speakers.

Topping the suggested future meeting suggestions was a meeting with David Brace and the staff of the Public Works Department. Sharp said the neighborhood group wants to get to know Brace and his staff,

many of whom are new to that department.

The council also wants to hear a presentations on: preventing human trafficking, building or rebuilding neighborhoods, combatting trash, and hearing from a Sociologist on the changes and needs facing Boomers and Millennials.

Various council members also said good bye to two AmeriCorps Volunteers and reported on

concerns from their areas, including the growth of shadow businesses, zoning, working with city council members, speaking positively about the neighborhoods, visiting other neighborhood association meetings, the process of getting sidewalks and traffic safety.

They also discussed using social media to attract members and raise the attendance at their association meetings.

The late Charles 'Chucky' Carter honored

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

It isn't often that a graduate of Austin-East is honored the way that the late Charles W. "Chucky" Carter has been. The Knoxville native and U. S. Air Force retiree has a unique award named for him.

Carter's mother, Evelyn Joyce Carter wrote to The Focus recently about her accomplished son, who passed away on the last day of the year last year at age 49. Not only is Mrs. Carter proud of her son but so is the Pentagon Motor Pool. His memory was honored in Arlington, Virginia,

in March. The "Charles Carter Excellence Award" was created and will be awarded each year to deserving employees in the workplace and community who have worked to improve not only themselves but also their communities.

The ceremony was attended by his Knoxville relatives. Along with Mrs. Carter, his brothers David and Darryl Hamilton and aunt Betty Blackman were present along with nephew Marcus Thompson, friend Norene Jones of Maryland, other Virginia relatives, residents of Lorton, Virginia,

and Ron Middlebrook, who graduated with him at Austin-East.

Charles Carter played high school football at Austin-East and graduated in 1983. He joined the Air Force, retiring after 26 years of service. Carter then earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business and a Master's Degree in Business Administration in 2013.

Interment was in the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery with full honors with Rev. Dr. Valentino McNeal, a retired Air Force Chaplain, officiating.

While at the Pentagon

Motor Pool, Carter demonstrated his commitment, loyalty and valued work ethic.

"Charles put in over two years of dedicated hours work on a project which, by the way, he volunteered for in addition to his regular assigned duties and responsibilities. Because of his tireless effort on the project and his approach to his job in general we felt he was deserving of this honor and award named in his memory. The Project was called the Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Project, designed to improve processes and streamline

the way an organization runs their agency, to make things run more efficiently," said Albert Joyner, his supervisor.

A certificate recognizing Carter's career and contributions was signed by President Barack Obama and presented to the family.

"He was loved by many in Knoxville. It's always good to hear about someone from Knoxville who does good in life," his mother told The Focus.

"He wanted to come back to Knoxville one day and work with young people," Mrs. Carter added.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVELYN JOYCE CARTER.

Charles W. "Chucky" Carter passed away in December and was honored with a special award from the Pentagon Motor Pool. The 1983 Austin-East graduate accomplished much in his brief life.

Fryer Talks begin

The East Tennessee Community Design Center announces the launch of the first of an informal series of conversations about community design, called Fryer Talks. The inaugural event will be held from 5-7 p.m. June 14 at the former Design Center headquarters, 1522 Highland Ave. in Fort Sanders.

"These talks will be periodic events, hosted by ETCDC, to engage the community in exploring relevant design issues in our region, and to remember a key founder, Gideon Fryer, who loved exploring ideas," said Wayne Blasius,

Design Center executive director, author and community historian Jack Neely will give a short talk about

Gideon and his impact on the community.

"Fryer Talks will be held at various venues, will focus on topics of interest on the day they occur, will be informal, and have an air of both academics and frivolity that Gideon might have enjoyed. Over time, the talks are intended to engage East Tennesseans in thoughtful, passionate, free and open-minded conversations about design issues that matter," Blasius said.

Limited space is available so please RSVP via email to charis@communitydc.org, or call (865)525-9945 by June 13, if you are interested in attending the first Fryer Talk.

Proposals sought for community projects and featured artists

Proposals are being sought to compete for funding for the next SOUP dinner to be held on Thursday, July 7. Knoxville SOUP is a dinner and micro-funding event designed to raise money for creative projects that are proposed, voted on and enacted by members of the community.

The most recent Knoxville SOUP, held April 7, raised money for Psalm 91, Inc. Psalm 91 is an organization that is seeking to provide a safe house and create a transitional living center for victims of human trafficking. Psalm 91 is using SOUP funds to help cover the cost of incorporation and receiving their status as a non-profit. Valerie Boyd, one of the representatives from Psalm 91 said it best, when she stated "Knoxville SOUP was the boost we needed to

turn our dream into a reality!"

The top vote getters are not the only winners however. Past Soup presenters have also seen their projects funded, simply through the platform that Knoxville SOUP provides to get the word out regarding local projects. Projects presented by South Knoxville Elementary School and the Family Friendly Drum Circle both received funding by private individuals after hearing about those projects at Knoxville SOUP.

Knoxville SOUP also showcases a local artist at each dinner. Artists of all disciplines are encouraged to complete our online application and have the opportunity to show their art or share their talent.

Applications can be completed online at KnoxvilleSOUP.org to submit a community project proposal or to

be a featured artist. The proposal application is simple. Just answer four questions about the project and why the project matters to Knoxville. Project proposals should be submitted online no later than June 29th. Up to four individuals or teams will be selected to present their project at the dinner; they will be notified no later than July 1st. If a project is chosen, the presenters will give a brief four-minute oral presentation and answer a few questions at the dinner. Winners will be invited back to report on the success of their project at future dinners.

Proposals can be for anything that will benefit the community or society in general. Winning projects in other cities that have SOUP dinners have improved playgrounds, performed

Continue on page 2

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HEAT & AIR

Landlord Summit draws crowd

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.co

A large turnout of landlords attended the second annual Landlord Summit to hear from various agencies in an event sponsored by the City of Knoxville last Thursday.

Following a breakfast the rental property owners heard speakers, including representatives of the CAC's Housing and Energy Programs, talk about the Knoxville Emergency Energy Makeover (KEEM), KCDC's Section 8 Program, Helen Ross McNabb's Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals and Transition from Homeless, CAC's Youth Homelessness program, and Legal Aid's Landlord Legal Issues.

After each speaker a question and answer session was held and the speakers fielded many

different concerns from the landlords.

More than two dozen agencies were present with information tables and representatives.

Brian Blackman and Jason Estes, in speaking on the KEEM program, said qualifying rental properties must: have been built in 1996 or earlier; have electric heat and water heaters; and landlords must agree, after the city gets involved with improvements, not to raise the rent for two years. There's a \$25 application fee for each rental home and improvements can result in saving on energy by at least 25 percent.

The KEEM program requires the tenants, not the landlords, to apply if the home is a "Section Eight" property. Landlords can apply for improvements to other rentals. THE KEEM

program is a free winterization program.

Deborah Taylor-Allen explained how a rental property can qualify for a Section Eight rental subsidy which is paid directly to the landlord and the renter pays the rest. Properties to be considered are applied for by the landlord and undergo inspections before a tenant is considered and the rental agreement signed.

"We have almost 400 in the program now and we need more properties," she said.

People apply for Section Eight vouchers and there's a waiting list. Taylor-Allen said that since May the program has taken more than 2,500 applications from people looking for rentals. She said that priority is given to people with disabilities, the handicapped, and displaced or



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Brian Blackman, Knoxville's Sustainability Project Manager, addresses the Landlord Summit about the Knoxville Extreme Energy Makeover (KEEM) Program. The Thursday meeting between the city and various agencies drew a large crowd of rental property owners.

homeless people.

She took several questions about the pre-inspection of properties and heard a complaint that the service is now being conducted by a hired company instead of the KCDC.

Christina Magrans, Attorney with Legal Aid, spoke of landlord legal

issues, saying that her department can only represent tenants but often can resolve issues between renters and owners.

Landlords were told to treat "Section Eight" tenants the same as any other rental when it comes to property maintenance, due rent, etc. If a renter

leaves the property damaged or with unpaid rent, their Section Eight vouchers would be terminated and landlords would be responsible to sue or evict a tenant.

Annual Used Book Sale a Circle of Sharing, Giving for Community, Library

Reading changes lives. Libraries make reading accessible to everyone. The Friends of the Knoxville Public Library's annual used book sale is a testament to the importance of both reading and libraries.

The sale will kick off in its new location at Chilhowee Park's Jacob Building with Members Only Day on Saturday, June 25. It will be open to the public Sunday, June 26-Tuesday, June 28, and new members joining the Friends on these days will receive a free family pass to The Muse Knoxville (a \$30 value).

The purpose of the sale remains the same—to raise

funds for the Knox County Public Library (KCPL) and to offer affordable books to everyone in the community. Over the years, Friends has raised over a million dollars from its used book sales to support programs such as the Children's Festival of Reading and the Summer Library Club. Of the now-famous Children's Festival of Reading, Casey Fox, KCPL Funds Development Officer, says, "We could not present a literary event of this magnitude without the ongoing support of the Friends."

Longtime fans of the Friends Annual Used Book Sale know it will be a feast for book lovers of all ages. More than 75,000

books have been categorized for easy browsing. Most are \$2 or less. There will also be a special selection of rare books for collectors, plus DVDs, CDs, audio books, music, and magazines. The Jacob Building boasts 36,000 square feet of floor space and enough tables to make browsing a pleasure. Ample parking is available on the site.

The last day of the sale, Tuesday, June 28, is the popular \$5 Bag Sale. Bags are provided. Area teachers and librarians are invited to shop \$5 per bag before everyone else, on Monday June 27, from 4-6 p.m. School purchase orders will be accepted.

Bits & Pieces



Rosie's World

Do you like to cry while reading? Do you like to cry while watching a movie? You can do both when you read or watch "Me Before You." This story provokes tears that are redemptive, the opposite of gratuitous. It is funny, surprising and heartbreaking. It made me cry--the book--so there's no way I'll go see the movie, except maybe in the confines of my own living room.

All my life, it seems like, I've collected quotations and thoughts from other people. Here are some of them. They all help me in my daily life.

"No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne, no gall, no glory, no cross, no crown." William Penn said that.

"Sometimes skeptics say, 'The church is full of hypocrites.' Well, sure, but can you think of a better place for hypocrites to be? We sin in many ways, including hypocrisy, but we keep coming back to receive grace from our God."

"The problem with humility is once you think you have it, you don't."

Here is something to think about: President John Adams wrote this letter to his wife, Abigail, the day after he moved into the White House on November 2, 1800:

"Pray Heaven to Bestow The

Best of Blessing on THIS HOUSE, and on All that shall hereafter Inhabit it. May none but Honest and Wise Men ever rule under This Roof!"

Ah, I think President Adams would roll over in his grave if he knew some of the men who ruled in that House in the intervening years!

Some of these sayings came from my little book "Psalms and Prayers."

Now for something funny: It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with his sister. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds.

Johnny asked what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "The one Sunday I don't go and He shows up!"

Last but not least: I wish you shelter from the rain

I wish you freedom from all pain

I wish you riches untold

And all the joy your heart can hold

I wish you sunshine from above

But most of all I wish you love.

I don't know where that came from but it expresses my wishes for all.

Send comments to rosemerie@att.net. Thank you.

Proposals sought for community projects and featured artists

Cont. from page 1

landscaping and beautification projects, created free lending libraries at area bus stops, sponsored educational programs, supported other charitable endeavors and even launched small businesses with a social focus. There are no hard and fast rules to what a proposal should be, only that someone envisions it, asks for it and the diners vote for it.

Doors open at 6 p.m. on July 7 for the dinner at the South Knoxville Community Center,

at 522 Maryville Pike- in South Knoxville. Suggested donations of \$5 are collected at the door.

Proposals will be presented at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner. Diners will have about an hour to eat, share and connect with others while voting for the project they like best. By 8:15, the votes will be tallied and the winning project will be awarded all donations raised at the door.

The South Knoxville Alliance

is a group of businesses and community leaders who have come together to promote growth and improvement in the South Knoxville area. Along with Knoxville SOUP, the Alliance sponsors festivals and other civic events in the region and provides marketing opportunities for its members by bringing businesses into contact with the community.

For more information, visit www.southknoxvillealliance.org

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Thomas P. Gore

Oklahoma's Blind Senator

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Tennesseans recall our own two senators named Gore, but there was another, who was apparently a distant cousin, Thomas Pryor Gore. T. P. Gore accomplished much and enjoyed a long and successful career in spite of being blind. Gore had suffered two different childhood accidents that left him completely blind. Thomas P. Gore's affliction did not confine him to the life of an invalid; in fact, he excelled in his profession as an attorney and became a much sought after speaker. Gore was also the grandfather of the late author and personality Gore Vidal.

T. P. Gore had been born in Mississippi and became deeply interested in politics well before he could vote. According to Gore's biographer, Monroe Billington, the future senator made his first political speech when only eighteen years old. At twenty he became a candidate for the Mississippi House of Representatives, but was forced to abandon his campaign when it was pointed out he would not be twenty-one before the election.

Well before he was thirty years old, T. P. Gore was recruited to campaign for candidates in other states. Gore traveled to Corsicana, Texas to campaign on behalf of populist candidates in the area. T. P. Gore later decided he liked Corsicana well enough to move there and commence practicing law. When it became apparent the Populist Party would not afford him a vehicle to rise in politics, Thomas P. Gore smoothly transitioned himself into the Democratic Party. Gore also just as quickly abandoned Texas, moving to the Indian Territory, which eventually became the State of Oklahoma. Gore opened a law office and bought a home in Lawton.

Almost immediately, Gore set out to carve a name for himself in his newly adopted home. T. P. Gore was a delegate to the Democratic Territorial Convention in 1902.

According to Professor Billington, Gore instantly charmed his fellow delegates and "tickled the ears" of his listeners.

"I would rather be a humble private in the ranks of those who struggle for justice and equality than to be a minion of plutocracy, though adorned with purple and gold," Gore cried.

Florid and baroque by current standards, Gore's speech was hailed by many who heard it to be the finest oration they had ever heard. It certainly propelled Gore to political recognition, as he was nominated by Democrats to serve on the Territorial Council to represent two Oklahoma counties. Gore was so certain that he would be elected,

he campaigned little for himself, preferring to travel all across the Oklahoma Territory on behalf of William Cross, the Democratic nominee for Congress. T. P. Gore fully expected his travels to pay handsome political dividends for his own future and indeed it did. The people Gore met and the friends he made during that campaign paved the way for his election to the United States Senate five years later.

Gore made no secret of his ambitions, readily admitting he would very much like to serve in the U. S. Senate and he hankered to be one of the first senators to represent Oklahoma when she became a state.

Naturally, Thomas P. Gore actively pushed for statehood for the territory. Once statehood became a reality, T. P. Gore was nominated, along with Robert L. Owen, to serve in the Senate. Both were duly elected by the state legislature.

Senator Gore quickly earned a reputation as a fighter for the people, a foe of privilege and monopoly. Gore was a progressive and early in his Senate career joined fellow progressives attempting to defeat the Aldrich - Vreeland Emergency Currency Act. Senator Nelson Aldrich of Rhode Island was to have a famous grandson himself, Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller.

Gore relieved Missouri Senator William J. Stone and began speaking at length and his disability did indeed prove to be a handicap as he expected the Missourian to rest for a bit and return to the Senate Chamber to resume speaking. Gore was told Senator Stone had returned to the Chamber and the Oklahoman concluded his speech and waited to hear Stone's voice. Unfortunately, William J. Stone was not in the Senate Chamber at the time and the floor was taken by a supporter of the Aldrich - Vreeland Bill. Whether Gore had been the object of a cruel hoax or whether Senator Stone had stepped out of the Senate Chamber briefly without realizing Gore was about to conclude his speech remained a mystery. The supporters of the Aldrich - Vreeland Act immediately insisted upon a roll call vote, which passed.

Gore had to run for a full six-year term in 1908 and was reelected. In 1912, T.P. Gore became an ardent supporter of New Jersey Governor Woodrow Wilson for the presidency. Senator Gore traveled to Wisconsin to speak on Wilson's behalf and won half of Oklahoma's delegates to the Democratic National Convention for the New Jersey governor. During the convention Wilson was an underdog to Speaker of the House Champ Clark, who had the support of a



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

(From left to right) Speaker of the House Henry T. Rainey, Alabama Congressman Henry Steagall, and Oklahoma Senator Thomas P. Gore in 1933.

majority of the delegates. Unfortunately for Clark, party rules required a nominee to be selected by winning two-thirds of the delegates. Gore campaigned relentlessly for Governor Wilson and eventually the Speaker watched helplessly as his support crumbled.

Gore's political footing was not always sure; the Oklahoma senator was roundly condemned by the National Suffrage Association, who published a list of those members of Congress who presented the greatest obstacle to women being given the right to vote. Listed among those members was Oklahoma's Thomas Pryor Gore. Senator Gore had indeed voted against giving women the right to vote, but later reversed himself and began speaking on behalf of suffrage for women.

After just six years in the United States Senate, Gore rose to become Chairman of the Senate's Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. It was a position of influence at a time when much of the country was an agrarian society. It was especially important in Gore's home state of Oklahoma. The following year, Gore was reelected to the Senate for another six-year term.

Despite his position of prominence inside the Senate, it would be a difficult time for T.P. Gore. Senator Gore had campaigned in Oklahoma as an opponent of "militarism", a stance that became less tenable as America edged ever closer to entering the World War. Gore had been highly alarmed when war loomed between the United States and Mexico. Senator Gore begged President Wilson to arrange for a neutral zone between the two countries.

Gore loudly and vociferously condemned the malefactors of wealth as being the impetus for pushing America towards war.

Senator Gore blamed munitions makers, bankers, corporations, and industrialists as the culprits for inducing hysteria for waging war. It soon became readily apparent T. P. Gore was a pacifist.

The German Empire's submarine warfare had sent numerous ships to the bottom of the oceans, frequently carrying American passengers. Former president Theodore Roosevelt lambasted President Wilson for not immediately declaring war on Germany. Millions of Americans were incensed by the submarine warfare, which had killed women and children.

Senator Gore introduced legislation that would have prohibited Americans from booking passage and traveling on ships belonging to belligerent countries. His bill went nowhere and Gore resorted to sponsoring a resolution which did little more than purport to express the disapproval of the Congress of those citizens who chose to travel on armed ships.

T.P. Gore was horrified that President Wilson, reelected in 1916 on a slogan of "He Kept Us Out of War", was creeping towards entering the European conflict. Senator Gore's pacifism, dislike of internationalism, and fear of the effect of war on the economy of the United States made him somewhat obsessed by restricting the right of Americans to travel overseas. Gore had gone from strongly supporting the Wilson administration to becoming a political opponent of the president. Senator Gore stoutly opposed the draft, saying he believed in a volunteer army. Gore was also deeply opposed to a bill, which gave the government the authority to censor the press during wartime.

Gore did support Wilson's espionage bill, but quickly regretted his actions, sadly

concluding the legislation "has already been used or abused to throttle freedom of speech and freedom of the press."

Woodrow Wilson remained popular in Oklahoma during the World War and many Sooners were appalled by what they perceived to be their senator's refusal to support the war. Gore's popularity in Oklahoma plummeted. According to Professor Billingsley, of 225 Oklahoma newspapers, not even one supported Senator Gore in an editorial for his positions.

Once the United States had entered World War I, T.P. Gore spoke out to urge Americans to buy war bonds. "It is as much a public duty to buy bonds as to pay taxes," Gore said. "The man with the pocketbook must stand back to back with the boy with the bayonet."

Evidently Gore did not feel likewise when it came to a particular Oklahoma interest: oil. Senator Gore attached an amendment to the War Revenue Act of 1918, which began the discovery depletion allowance; in effect, the Gore amendment exempted from the income tax all revenue from oil which represented capital. Prior to the adoption of the Gore amendment, oil producers had paid more taxes when the oil depletion allowance had been based upon cost.

Senator Gore bitterly disappointed President Woodrow Wilson when the Oklahoman supported Wilson's cherished dream of U. S. entry into the League of Nations with reservations. President Wilson had been adamantly opposed to the idea of any reservation being attached to the League proposal, an attitude his opponents used to make the stricken chief executive appear to be unreasonable. The fact the reservations had been sponsored

by Massachusetts Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, whom Wilson hated, made it all the more bitter. Senator Gore was one of only four Democrats in the Senate who spurned the president's plea not to vote for the League with reservations.

Oklahoma Democrats watched with horror T. P. Gore's actions and it became apparent there would be an intraparty fight should he seek reelection in 1920. Gore was equally determined to run for reelection. Facing Congressman Scott Ferris in the Democratic primary, Gore campaigned all across Oklahoma, but his record in the Senate became too much of a burden for him to carry. Senator Gore lost, winning only 43% of the vote.

Gore likely derived some small satisfaction when Congressman Ferris lost to Republican John W. Harrell in the general election.

T. P. Gore returned to his law practice and bided his time. Increasingly, Gore represented oil interests and enjoyed a successful and lucrative law practice. Thomas P. Gore entered the Democratic primary for the United States Senate in 1924 when Senator Robert L. Owen retired.

Gore competed against two other significant candidates for the nomination; former governor Jack Walton and Congressman Everette B. Howard. Walton had been removed from office and was largely discredited, but won the primary with just over 30% of the vote. Congressman Howard had 28% of the vote and Gore trailed a distant third with close to 19% of the vote. It was a humiliating showing for a man who had once been one of the most popular politicians in the state.

Yet, Thomas P. Gore was not done with politics, nor was politics done with T. P. Gore.

Knoxville's Urban Wilderness expands by 100 acres, over 7 miles of trails



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

On June 1, Legacy Parks Foundation opened five new trails on Baker Creek Preserve and the new Red Bud Bridge connecting Baker Creek Preserve into Knoxville's Urban Wilderness. This bridge was constructed by Legacy Parks Foundation and the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club with funding from national retailer REI and private donations. The new trails were funded by a Recreational Trails Program grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to Legacy Parks. The new trails include two dedicated downhill mountain bike trails, a 1.5 mile beginner loop trail and two multi-use trails. Pictured are Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Carol Evans of Legacy Parks and the new Red Bud Bridge.



PHOTO BY RALPHINE MAJOR.

Picture of red roses, our father's favorite.

I Think of Fathers

While mothers are usually considered the ones who nurture our families, I think of fathers as the backbones of our families. The summer holiday almost m i d w a y b e t w e e n



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

Memorial Day and the Fourth of July is the day set aside as Father's Day to honor our fathers. They have traditionally been the breadwinners who provide for their families. Sometimes, unforeseen circumstances change their role and call for them to do more.

I think of a father who cared for his four young children and worked a full-time job while his wife spent months recovering in a hospital. Years later, his grown children said

that you could always set your clock by him; and if he told you he would be there at a certain time—he would.

I think of the fathers who have had to leave their families to go serve our country.

I think of three fathers our family has known over the years who have been called to their heavenly home—two of those just this week.

I think of our Heavenly Father who loves us unconditionally.

As we look ahead to the day set aside for our fathers, may we find joy in the memories of those fathers who have passed on and celebrate the lives of the fathers who are still in our midst. Happy Father's Day!

Pigeon Forge's July 4 Patriot Festival To Feature Joe Diffie, Fireworks Spectacular

Grand Ole Opry member and Grammy Award winner Joe Diffie will rock Patriot Festival, Pigeon Forge's annual blowout to celebrate July 4, immediately before a spectacular fireworks show brightens the sky over this Great Smoky Mountains resort city.

Activity begins at noon, and onstage entertainment begins at 1:30 p.m. for guests at Patriot Park. Admission is free.

In addition to a variety of local entertainers, music will come from Emily Ann Roberts, who placed second on NBC's

"The Voice," and Tribute, a celebration of the Allman Brothers Band.

Patriot Festival guests will recognize Diffie's songs that will come from his 20 Top 10 hits and his 13 albums. Count on sing-alongs to "John Deere Green," "Prop Me Up Beside the Jukebox" and "If the Devil Danced (in Empty Pockets)."

Food and family games are part of the day's activities, and guests are welcome to bring

lawn chairs and blankets. Free parking will be at Patriot Park and the city's Teaster Lane parking lot. A free shuttle will run from the Teaster Lane lot.

Fireworks will begin at approximately 9:30 p.m., and WIVK-FM in Knoxville will simulcast the fireworks show's patriotic soundtrack.

Information about all aspects of visiting Pigeon

Forge is available online at MyPigeonForge.com or by calling 800-251-9100.

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PROPERTY TOURS: On Friday, June 17, Gates open at 10:00 am & will be open all day for open house & Property Tours. Plats of the property will be available onsite. Aerial videos are displayed on website.

TERMS: 10% Down day of Sale, Balance and Closing in 30 days. All tracts to be sold with a 10% BUYER'S Premium plus a \$2000 survey origination fee per tract. **DIRECTIONS:** North on Highway 33; Right onto Texas Valley Road, Property on Left.

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Fulton's Makenna Black has been on both ends of the cheers

By Steve Williams

Makenna Black spent most of the 2015-16 school year leading cheers for Fulton High's football and basketball teams.

This spring, however, she was on the receiving end of the cheers as a leading player on the Lady Falcons' softball team.

For her contributions and talents as a cheerleader and softball player, Makenna was named FHS' female Student-Athlete of the Year, according to Jody Wright, the school's athletic director.

"Makenna embodies the term student athlete," said Wright via e-mail. "She's a well rounded young lady who was strong in the classroom and the softball field as well. Makenna was outstanding in the classroom as well as her athletic exploits."

In softball, the left-handed hitting senior led the team in batting average, defended in centerfield and was all-district.

Makenna's dad is Rob Black, the school's head football coach. He also went to Fulton and was recognized as a high school Athlete of the Year in 1984. Makenna's mom, Michelle, also was a cheerleader at Fulton.

Makenna followed in their footsteps.



Fulton's Makenna Black has been on both ends of the cheers

"I feel blessed to have been able to follow my parents' footsteps," she said via e-mail. "It has been a pleasure to compete as a Falcon these past four years just as my parents did. Since I came into this world as a Falcon, I graduated as a Falcon, and my dad is a coach for the Falcons—I am a Falcon for life."

Makenna said she also was blessed to be able to

cheer for a state championship team each of her four years at Fulton – three times in football and this past winter in basketball.

"Playing softball brought many new friendships throughout high school, and it was an amazing journey to help turn my softball program around and improve as a team," she said.

Makenna started cheering when she was 3 years

old and playing softball when she was 7.

"Both are very different," she said. "Cheering for football and basketball is a great way to get involved in the programs as well as help enhance the student body's school spirit. Playing softball is a little different than cheering as it is more of a competitive sport, and it was awesome to have some success this

year knowing that we had people cheering for us."

Makenna will start at UT in the nursing program this fall and she hopes to obtain a degree and become a physician's assistant in the future.

Kentel Williams was selected Fulton's male Student-Athlete of the Year. He lettered in football, basketball and track and was all-state in football and

TOPPING
 OFF A
 SWEET
 SIXTEEN

The Knoxville Focus begins its recognition of Student-Athletes of the Year from local high schools in this week's issue.

The honorees:
 Nicole Adams, West
 Peyton Alford, Powell
 Makenna Black, Fulton
 Demi Coleman, Alcoa
 Jon Decker, Alcoa
 Juan Hernandez, Heritage
 Kailey Keeble, Heritage
 Phillip Nichols, CAK
 Cole Skvara, West
 Emily Threatt, CAK
 Brittany Tolson, Powell
 Kentel Williams, Fulton

basketball his junior and senior years. He also was a point guard on the Falcons' Class AA state champion basketball team in March.

"Kentel was a fabulous athlete that excelled in all sports," said Wright, who also is the school's head basketball coach. "He was

Cont. on page 2

Bike Walk Knoxville's Summer Tour Series starts June 14th

Ride or Walk with elected officials once a month

Bike Walk Knoxville (BWK) is hosting four events in the summer of 2016 where community members can tour the four corners of Knoxville neighborhoods (by bike or on foot) and meet with elected officials. This year's "Ride with Elected Officials" is adding the "W"(alk) in BWK to include opportunities for pedestrians and families to tour

Knoxville sites on foot. The first event, on June 14 at 6 p.m., will be a walking tour of Bearden. Participants should meet at Bearden Beer Market, 4524 Kingston Pike, and expect an hour tour of all of the wonderful things happening in downtown Bearden. Expect discussions of walkability, bikeability and Knoxville's premier new mixed use development. This event is a wonderful opportunity to meet with City and County elected officials and have a candid dialogue about the

issues that matter to you most. The walk will begin and end at Bearden Beer Market with an opportunity for beverages and lively discussion afterward.

Bike Walk Knoxville has hosted an annual (Bike) Ride with Elected Officials once a year for the past four years. The success of previous events and the overwhelming enthusiasm of current elected officials has prompted BWK to host four events this year, now including walks for the first time. Participants can

expect to view and experience areas of town with excellent bikeable and walkable infrastructure as well as areas that need improvement. The Summer Tour Series offers a chance for everyone in Knoxville to meet with their elected officials and experience a taste of Knoxville neighborhoods they may never have visited in the past. The BWK Summer Tour Series will showcase one Knoxville neighborhood a month and invites everyone to get to know the real Knoxville on

foot or by bike.

Bike Walk Knoxville's mission: BWK is a community-driven, non-profit organization working to create safe thoroughfares and vibrant communities in the Knoxville area. We promote bicycling and walking as mainstream and enjoyable forms of transportation and recreation. BWK advocates for safe connected biking and walking infrastructure in the Knoxville region. BWK hopes to see more people enjoying walking and biking in their neighborhoods. For

more information visit www.bwknox.org

Walk with Elected Officials

WEST: June 14, 6 p.m. at Bearden Beer Market, 4524 Kingston Pike

EAST: August 9, 6 p.m. at Jackie's Dream, 2223 McCalla Ave

Ride with Elected Officials

NORTH: July 12, 6 p.m. at Casual Pint Fountain City, 4842 Harvest Mill Way

SOUTH: September 20, 6 p.m. at Trailhead Bard, 1317 Island Home Drive

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Former players return to coach at middle school camp

By Ken Lay

Conley Hamilton and Bryson Cowden enjoyed their middle and high school basketball careers in Powell.

They both graduated from high school recently. During their time at the middle school, they won a James A Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Tournament Championship in 2012.

From there, Hamilton and Cowden moved on to Powell High School, where as seniors they were on a team that knocked off Bearden High School in the Region 2-AAA quarter-finals.

With their basketball careers and high school days in the rear-view mirror, Hamilton and Cowden will soon go their separate ways.

But they had one more order of basketball business in Powell before heading off to college. The two fulfilled a request from Powell Middle School coach Darin Courtney and worked at the coach's annual Powell Pride Boys Basketball Camp last week.

"Coach Courtney texted me and told me there was an opening to work the camp and I told him I would do it," said Hamilton, who will soon begin attending East Tennessee State University where he will major in engineering. "Really for me, it's about giving back."

"It's about giving back to the kids. It really means a lot to come back and show these kids how to play the game. A lot of them were in the crowd watching us play when we were in high school."

Cowden, who will major in microbiology at the University of Tennessee, is no stranger to coaching. He also had the chance to play basketball at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky but opted to stay home and not continue to play basketball in college.

"The last two seasons I coached a Powell [youth] all-star team and we won the Knox County Championship," said Cowden, who currently works for Cricket Wireless. "I had a chance to play basketball at Centre College but I didn't want to play."



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Former Powell basketball players Bryson Cowden and Conley Hamilton worked as coaches at last week's Powell Pride Boys Basketball Camp. Together, the two recent Powell High graduates enjoyed successful careers. They also won a county championship at Powell Middle in 2012.

He said he still enjoys the game and will likely participate in intramural basketball at Tennessee.

"I'll probably play intramurals," he said. "I enjoy playing pickup games and I work out every night."

Like his high school

teammate, Cowden eagerly answered Courtney's call to work at the annual summer basketball camp.

"I plan on coming back and helping out whenever I can," Cowden said. "I was here for the 3-on-3 tournament and I'm here today."

He also played football for the Panthers in 2015.

Hamilton has fond memories of his middle school playing days and noted that things have pretty much stayed the same since he was a player at the camp.

"Nothing has really

changed," he said.

Both Hamilton and Cowden are basketball fans. Hamilton roots for the Cleveland Cavaliers while Cowden pulls for the New York Knicks.

Pilot Rocky Top League to open Wednesday night

By Ken Lay

The ninth season of the Pilot Rocky Top Basketball League officially tipped off Thursday night with the annual player draft.

The league has been a steady summer diversion for area basketball fans for nearly a decade and it has survived four University of Tennessee men's basketball coaches.

It was conceived during the Bruce Pearl era and has continued since and league commissioner Andre Whitehead said that the talent in

the three-week fan-friendly summer league is as good as ever.

"I think this draft, from players 1-60, is probably the deepest draft that we've ever had," Whitehead said. "The key to who wins the league this year, is going to depend on who shows up and who doesn't."

Coach Brent Watts has led his team to the league championship in each of the past two seasons. Watts, a former Farragut High School and Maryville College standout, coaches the Gametime Sidekicks

entry.

All the coaches in the league including: Watts; Pat Walden (DeRoyal Industries); Chad Smith (Rice Buick GMC); Zane Duncan (Knoxville News-Sentinel); Rick Campbell (Tillman Companies) and Scott Barron (H3 Sports) are all competitive and have strong basketball backgrounds. But they're also good friends.

And Watts couldn't resist the temptation to provide a little trash talk for his buddies.

Continue on page 4



Pilot Rocky Top League coaches Rick Campbell, Pat Walden (center) and Scott Barron ponder their upcoming selections at the league's annual draft Thursday night. League play begins June 15 at Catholic High School. Photo by Dan Andrews.

Is Kahlil McKenzie ready to take next step?

By Alex Norman

It is cliché, but there is still truth to the old adage that championships are won in football on the front lines. Tennessee's defensive line has the potential to be dominant, but right now it isn't anywhere near full strength. Key contributors like Derek Barnett, Shy Tuttle and Kyle Phillips missed all of spring practice due to injuries. Tuttle and Phillips particularly are a concern.

However, the lighter than normal roster opened the door for sophomore tackle Kahlil McKenzie to get in extra reps.

"I'm trying to improve on leverage, developing a push rush," said McKenzie. "Being more disruptive, more violent with my hands... things like that. That's what I'm trying to

work on."

"From year one to year two his body has changed a lot," said teammate Darrin Kirkland Jr., the Vols starting middle linebacker. "He lost some weight and gained some muscle, and was explosive this spring which helped his game and helped our defensive line with the more reps he got this spring."

Kahlil is staying motivated, despite the fact that the first game against Appalachian State doesn't come around until September 1st.

"(That's) part of the mental toughness aspect of it," said McKenzie. "Getting out there and using these opportunities to make yourself a better football player."

McKenzie is a former five-star recruit that got better as his freshman season year went on. In 2015 he finished with 24 tackles. That development, along

with less weight and more muscle, could mean big things for McKenzie, and this Tennessee defense in 2016.

"Just improvement, that's all we are trying to do... just trying to become a better defense any way we can, that's what Coach (Defensive Coordinator Bob) Shoop is preaching," said McKenzie. "Championship defense, we are all just trying to be the best defensive players we can be, and trying to win a national championship. That's all we are thinking about, doing what we can do to make our team better to go out there and win games and win a national championship."

Kahlil McKenzie is the son of Oakland Raiders general manager Reggie McKenzie... and if Kahlil continues to progress, it wouldn't be a surprise to see Kahlil join his father in the NFL in the years to come.

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PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

West's Nicole Adams competes in the 800-meter run at the Class AAA State Sectional meet at Science Hill High School in Johnson City. Adams went on to capture the state title.

Fulton's Makenna Black has been on both ends of the cheers

Continued from page 1

fun to watch play and a joy to coach." Williams signed a football scholarship with Austin Peay.

West names Skvara and Adams top athletes

Seniors Cole Skvara and Nicole Adams are West High's Student-Athletes of the

Year, announced Athletic Director Steve Killian.

Skvara, a linebacker for the Rebels, tweeted in May that he would be signing to play football at Sewanee. He also was named to the All-District 4-AAA baseball team this season.

Adams won the Class AAA 800-meter run at the TSSAA state track and field championships.

As a student-athlete, Alford put up striking numbers at Powell

By Steve Williams

Peyton Alford didn't just throw strikes for Powell High's baseball team on May 16. He threw a monkey wrench into the Hardin Valley Academy season.

In one of the biggest stories on the local prep baseball scene this spring, the Panthers' standout southpaw beat the Hawks 2-1 in nine innings in the Region 2-AAA semifinals, ending the defending state champions' season. He struck out 15.

It most likely was the highlight of Alford's senior year as Powell saw Faragut rally for five runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to pull out a 6-5 victory in the region finals. Peyton and the Panthers then lost at Sevier County 10-3 in the state sectionals.

Alford still did enough to be named his school's male Student-Athlete of the Year for 2016. He certainly had the right numbers - a 4.21 grade point average and a 0.88 earned run average in the regular season.

Peyton was a three-time All-District 3-AAA honoree in his career and the district's Pitcher of the Year in 2015 and 2016.

During the regular season this year, he recorded 130 strikeouts in 71 innings and



Left, Southpaw Peyton Alford was District 3-AAA's top pitcher the past two seasons. Below, Powell's Brittany Tolson runs in her final KIL meet. She has signed with Alabama. Photo by Luther Simmons

allowed only 13 runs. His post-season stats through the regional title game included 45 "Ks" in 23 innings and only one run allowed.

"Peyton epitomizes everything a high school student athlete should be," said Powell Athletic Director Chad Smith via e-mail. "He is a very well rounded young man that has a great future ahead of him in whatever he chooses to do. He will continue his baseball career at Walters State."

Powell's female Student-Athlete of the Year, senior

Brittany Tolson, was Top 10 in her class with a GPA of 4.33. The cross country and track distance runner holds every distance record at PHS.

"Brittany is a special young lady who has worked extremely hard to get where she is both in the classroom and on the track," stated Smith. "Her work ethic is unmatched and she will be extremely successful in whatever path she chooses. Brittany has signed to run cross country for the University of Alabama."

Nichols and Threatt stand out at CAK

During his high school career, Phillip Nichols made an impression on the athletic director at Christian Academy of Knoxville.

"Without question one of the best all around athletes I have ever seen!" - wrote John East as he submitted Nichols' name as CAK's male Student-Athlete of the Year for 2016.

The senior Warrior was All-



State, captain and team MVP in football, a state runner-up in wrestling and a letterman in soccer. He also had a grade point average of 4.03.

Senior Emily Threatt is CAK's female honoree. In addition to her 4.13 GPA, she

was an All-Stater in soccer and the former two-time relay state champion again lettered in track.

East called Emily a "powerful yet graceful runner and soccer player."

Much more to Alcoa's Coleman and Decker than stats and awards

By Steve Williams

Sometimes you have to look behind the statistics and awards to see the true value of an athlete.

That was the message two Alcoa coaches sent when describing the school's female and male Student-Athletes of the Year - Demi Coleman and Jon Decker.

Coleman, the Lady Tornados' second baseman, had a .500 batting average and .549 on-base percentage this spring. She drove in 31 runs and scored 37 times. The Tennessee Tech signee also homered twice and had five doubles plus a .987 fielding percentage.

But listen to what Alcoa Coach Mike Brown really had to say about the two-time all-district honoree



Alcoa second baseman Demi Coleman batted .500 this spring and will continue her softball career at Tennessee Tech.

and four-year letterman who also boasts a 4.20 grade point average.

"Demi is one of, if not the hardest working players I have coached," said Brown via e-mail. "She



Alcoa High's Jon Decker was TSSAA's Mr. Football for linemen in Class 3A last fall and a UT-Chattanooga commitment.

puts in so much time, even loading her own tee to perfect her swing. Someone could make an instructional video by filming her playing second base.

"Her statistics speak

for themselves but they do not provide what Demi Coleman really is. She is a leader by example and made of the highest moral character and integrity. Demi Coleman is a coach's dream and it has been an honor to coach her."

Decker led an Alcoa defense that gave up less than four points a game during the 2015 state championship season. Jon and the Tornados also handed Rusty Bradley his first and only shutout as head coach of CAK's high-scoring offense.

Decker, a UT-Chattanooga commitment, was TSSAA's Mr. Football for Class 3A linemen last fall. He also was Defensive MVP in the Blue Cross Bowl and All-State in 2015 and 2014

plus was the 2015 Region 2-AAA Player of the Year.

His defensive stats last season were scary: 82 tackles, 14 TFL, 8 sacks, 25 QB hurries. As an offensive tackle he graded out at 90 percent with over 35 pancake blocks.

But there's more to Big Jon than blocks and tackles.

"Jon Decker is one of, if not the most unselfish player I have ever coached," said Brian Nix, defensive coordinator for Alcoa. "He cared more about his teammates and his team than personal glory. He exemplified what it means to lead by example. He will always be remembered as one of the Alcoa football greats."

Keeble and Hernandez are Heritage honorees

Kailey Keeble, a 9th grader, is Heritage's female Student-Athlete of the Year, said Athletic Director Robbie Bennett. The volleyballer was an All-Stater and a freshman All-American, reported Bennett.

The Mountaineers' male Student-Athlete is senior Juan Hernandez, the school's first male state wrestling champion. He took top honors in the 126-pound weight class.



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Area softball players honored by state coaches association

By Ken Lay

Several area high school softball players received all-state honors from the Tennessee Softball Coaches Association recently. In Class AAA, 11 local players were chosen to the squad. Powell, Hardin Valley Academy, Gibbs, Maryville and William

Blount each had two players make the team. Farragut junior catcher Lexee Lamoree was also named to the squad. Powell's two selections were Brittney Franse and Kiley Longmire. The Lady Hawks were represented by pitcher Kaleigh Wynne and second baseman Haley Cloud. That

duo led Hardin Valley to both the District 4-AAA and Region 2-AAA Tournament Championships. The Lady Hawks had two district tournament wins over Blount County's top-seeded Lady Rebels. Sierra Hucklebee and Leah Sohm was chosen by Gibbs, which finished as the state tournament

runner-up. The two selections from the Lady Rebels, the District 4-AAA Champs, were Caylan Arnold and Anna Alloway. Pitcher Erin Hill and McKenzie Henry were the two selections who played for the Lady Governors. In Class AA, Union County's Maggie Middleton and Ashtyn Patterson

received all-state honors. Kristin Hunt and Brooke Wyrosdick made the Class A all state team from Grace Christian Academy. Six local players were also selected to play in the TSCA's annual East-West All-Star Game at Columbia State Community College on June 21. Wynne, Wyrosdick

and Hill made the All-Star team along with William Blount's Courtney Farris and Mary Claire Coyne and Niki Slone from Farragut. Arnold, a University of Tennessee signee, was named East Tennessee Class AAA Miss Softball.

Turner's plan is to add to GCA program's success in 2017

By Steve Williams

Mitch Turner has built a strong foundation for the Grace Christian Academy baseball program. The way he sees it - three straight trips to the Class A state finals are definitely something to build on and that's the plan. The Rams lose five seniors, who all have signed to play college ball, off this past season's team, but Turner is looking forward to the challenge in 2017. "We will be young, but as always, we will have high hopes due to our work ethic, attention to detail, and never settle attitude," said Turner via e-mail Friday.

"As Vince Lombardi said, 'We will strive for perfection, knowing we will never reach it, but in the pursuit of perfection we will obtain excellence!'" Some of the younger guys that brighten the future outlook, says Turner, are shortstop Noah Gent, outfielder/pitcher Hunter Ross, second baseman/outfielder Taylor Lawson, third baseman/pitcher Ryan Medders and outfielder/pitcher Cody Estep. "This year obviously didn't end how we wanted it to, but I would never call it a failure," texted Turner the week after his Rams lost to Scotts Hill 8-3 in the title game. "Being in the state

championship game for the third consecutive year was nothing short of an honor and a result of a lot of hard work." Grace Christian also was state runner-up in 2014 before capturing the gold in 2015. This season's team finished 30-14 overall and won District 3-A and Region 2-A titles for the third year in a row. "For the first time since our district expanded to seven teams, we went undefeated through district regular season and tournament play," noted Turner. The Rams racked up some

noteworthy wins against some big-name baseball programs, too, including Hardin Valley Academy, the defending 2015 Class AAA state champion. GCA also knocked off Kingston, William Blount, Germantown, Goodpasture, Jackson Christian twice, Meigs County five times and Greenback (a Top 10 ranked team all season) twice. "This year took a complete team effort," stated Turner. "Obviously, my five seniors played a large role

in our success, but our young guys definitely picked up the slack when the older guys were struggling." The five college-bound seniors are third baseman Micah Wheeler (ETSU), first baseman Ross Ledford (Dyersburg State), catcher Hayden Coffman (Cumberland University), pitcher Nathan Atkinson (Milligan College) and pitcher/outfielder Justin Shaw (LMU). "This season, even though we were runner-up, was my most successful year as a coach because I

had a player that has been with me for three years finally accept Jesus Christ as his lord and savior," added Coach Turner. "That is ultimately why I am here ... to introduce young men to the Gospel and show them what a real victory looks like. Take away all the wins and championships and replace them with young men that are on fire for God, and I consider that a true winning tradition."



PHOTO BY CARLA PETERS

Senior southpaw Justin Shaw pitches in the first inning for Grace Christian Academy in this season's Class A state championship game in Murfreesboro. Shaw worked the first four innings of an 8-3 loss to Scotts Hill. It was GCA's third straight appearance in the state baseball finals.

Pilot Rocky Top League to open Wednesday night

Cont. from page 2

"I don't know why the rest of them bother to show up anymore," he joked. And Campbell was the first to respond. "This league wouldn't be the same without Watts talking trash," said Campbell, who selected Tennessee's Robert Hubbs III with the first pick. Four coaches were present for the draft, which was held at Smoky Mountain Brewery. Smith and Duncan made their pick via skype. Both were on

vacation. "This is the first time that we've ever had coaches skype their picks in," Campbell said. Games will begin Wednesday night at Catholic High School. Action tips off at 6 p.m. with Knoxville News-Sentinel taking on DeRoyal Industries. Gametime Sidekicks plays Rice Buick GMC at 7:30. The nightcap will feature H3 Sports tangle with Tillman Industries. Walden, who has coached in the league

since its inception nearly a decade ago is again looking forward to being in the league. "For me, it's great to see the small college players compete against the big Division I players," he said. Barron is also ready to coach his team. "This is a great time of the year for us," he said. "It's a chance to get together with these guys and have a good time. It's a chance to see some good basketball at Catholic."

Prices Effective Wednesday, June 15th thru Sunday, June 19th, 2016

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

Origins

How did you become what you are? This may seem an enigmatic question, but it is at the heart of two human yearnings; namely, where did we come from and what is our purpose?

Philosophy, and considerations of Creation aside, it is obvious we come from our parents. They in turn are the progeny of their parents, and so on back until humans were created or began. We often see ourselves in our children just as we sometimes shudder to see aspects of our parents in us. Genetics is an awesome force, and DNA is the "language of God." I now see aspects of my kids in my grandchildren. The newest addition to our Thistle Farm family is baby Sadie, who looks just like her equine mother.

The question of nature versus nurture continues. Does genetics determine our destiny or is the nurturing of parents, along with education and inculcation, more important? The African proverb, "It takes a village" speaks to this. Becky says, "It takes a family" to raise a child. Jean Jacques Rousseau was an eighteenth century philosopher who held that a utopian society could be produced by feeding and educating the masses. This proved wrong, though we still preach those failed philosophies.

Don't get me wrong. I believe in education; I'm an educator at heart and realize it's impossible to educate someone who's hungry. My point is that utopia is a fallacy. Humans

are not ready for its consideration. As we wait for a better world I'll do my part and continue to teach my readers, my Sunday School class and my patients. After all, the word doctor derives from the Latin word docere which means to teach.

William Wordsworth once penned, "The child is father of the man." My sixth grade teacher tried to convince our class of the educational merits of poetry by making us memorize poems and recite them before the class. I viewed her efforts as a form of emotional "terrorism," though, at twelve years old I'd never heard of the word terrorism. She must have influenced me because I now love poetry. Perhaps the English majors at Yale who are boycotting Shakespeare, Wordsworth and other luminaries because they are "dead white guys," should step back and consider how ignorant and intolerant are their demands.

My daughter Emily is a teacher of language arts at a middle school in Portland, Oregon. She is also a writer of prose and songs and poems. She was recently selected as the Educator of the Year in Oregon and southwest Washington! This week The Focus is pleased to recognize Emily's stellar achievement which I see as a career acknowledgement of her professionalism and energy in educating kids. Emily has also written for The Focus so it's good to recognize one of ours who has done well.

This brings me back to Wordsworth - I suspect you

thought I'd forgotten and there was no connection. Our children learn from us, but we also learn from our children and even our grandchildren, who now teach me about trust, love and the wonders of discovery. In his poem, "My Heart Leaps Up," was Wordsworth, speaking of the cycle of life, as did Shakespeare who once observed, "Once a man, and twice a child"? Or was Wordsworth implying that the nascent writer in me was nurtured by watching my daughters grow up and reading Emily's prose?

Most can remember a teacher who influenced them or made a difference in their life. I can. His name was Mr. Harden. He was my high school chemistry teacher. He taught me lessons that helped me to be successful in college chemistry and get into medical school. Some years ago, I sought out Mr. Harden, and expressed my gratitude and told him the difference he made in my life. Recently, two of my former students contacted me to say what a difference I made in their medical training and life. Emily is making a difference. Someday a student or even her daughter may say what a difference she made in their journey. These accolades are superior to any formal award - though it's good when your efforts are noticed and especially when the reward is mortgage payments for a year!

Becky and I recently toured the Hermitage in Nashville. We were already in Nashville and decided to see Andrew Jackson's home and farm after all the recent, ridiculous, revisionist history that deigns to judge a man of the 1830s by the intolerant standards of modern day politically correctness. Yes, Andy Jackson was tough as "hickory." A far cry from "pajama boy" who requires "safe zones" in case he hears something that makes him feel uncomfortable.

The word Hermitage

means a remote dwelling. The rural farm's grounds were beautiful and the tour was educational though it galled me that every station had references to slavery. I'm not prejudiced, and since Deuteronomy, I am not held responsible for the sins of my ancestors. The disingenuous and perpetual race-baiting politics of the Democrat Party sickens me. If you must, print a \$25 note with Harriet Tubman, but don't remove Andy Jackson (Tennessee's first president) from the \$20 bill in an attempt to rewrite history as done in George Orwell's book, "1984."

Knoxvillian, Cormac McCarthy, wrote "No Country for Old Men." At the end, the sheriff and protagonist laments that the country has become too rough for an older man such as himself. Somedays I feel this way. I look out and I no longer recognize my country. Why would anyone choose to be a slave to the government? Excuses abound, but many apparently choose to live on the modern government plantation and be a slave to Washington masters.

However, hope returns with stories of work and achievement like my Emily's and the lessons of trust and wonder and love my grandchildren teach me. And watching our foal, baby Sadie discover her "brave new world" gives me a sense of renewal.

The historian and theist, Francis Schaeffer wrote, "How Then Should We Live." His title comes from the prophet Ezekiel. I was intrigued that the book's title had no question mark despite the implied interrogative. Schaeffer has reassuring conclusions for our troubled times. He advises us to embrace the wisdom and truth of the Bible. We should pray for the confused and lost, even for politicians. We must speak the truth and we must remember God is with us always.

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



OnPoint Community Credit Union honors local teachers at award ceremony. Pictured from left to right: Emily Ferguson, K-8 Educator of the Year from Winterhaven School; Rob Stuart, President/CEO OnPoint Community Credit Union; Darlyn Chester on behalf of Doug Beardasley, 9-12 Educator of the Year from Reynolds High School

OnPoint Community Credit Union Names 2016 Educators of the Year

OnPoint Community Credit Union announced that Emily Ferguson was named K-8 Educator of the Year and Doug Beardasley was named 9-12 Educator of the Year. The top prize pays each teacher's mortgage for one school year and awards a \$2,500 donation to their schools for resources and supplies.

The annual OnPoint Prize for Excellence in Education recognizes exceptional teachers throughout Oregon and southwest Washington for their ability to encourage creativity, inspire enthusiasm for learning, and positively impact their students. Since 2010, hundreds of teachers have been nominated by their peers, students, and parents. At the conclusion of its seventh year, OnPoint has honored 50 teachers with prizes reaching nearly \$200,000.

Ferguson has 10 years of teaching experience and stood out for her ability to adapt and modify curriculum to simultaneously meet the varying needs of each student. She has fostered an environment where students are encouraged to grow as writers and citizens. Her impact is reflected in the

many creative projects and opportunities implemented for her students such as the Winterhaven Variety Show, and the 8th grade capstone project: a rock opera, which is written and performed--from cast to crew to musicians--entirely by her students. Ferguson will receive her mortgage paid for one school year by OnPoint Community Credit Union, plus \$2,500 for her school to be used for resources and supplies.

Beardasley, a former Pediatric Neurology Researcher at Oregon Health Sciences University, has been teaching Biology at Reynolds for over 13 years. He was recognized for his ability to create challenging and engaging curriculum, and for inspiring students for years after leaving his classroom. In addition to his classes, Beardasley has motivated students as Senior Class Advisor, by creating an Honors Biology program and guiding students through the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Beardasley will receive his mortgage paid for one school year by OnPoint Community Credit Union, plus \$2,500 for his school to be used for resources and supplies.

East Tennessee Children's Hospital Announces Sponsorship of the Healthy Kids Clinic at The Muse Knoxville

The Muse Knoxville is pleased to announce that East Tennessee Children's Hospital will sponsor the "Healthy Kids Clinic" in their newest exhibit gallery, "Live Smart: Stay Well!" set to open on Sunday, July 17th. The Health and Wellness focused exhibit experience features three central themes that will inspire and educate visitors to Eat Smart, Play Smart and Be Well with activities for crawlers through age 10.

"East Tennessee Children's Hospital is an important community partner in our efforts to promote health literacy and personal responsibility for health. The Healthy Kids Clinic, sponsored by ETC, will allow children to imagine themselves as both patient and medical professional and engage in play that is meaningful to them," says Ellie Kittrell,

Executive Director of The Muse Knoxville.

Kindall Aaron, Coordinator of the Childhood Obesity Coalition for East Tennessee Children's Hospital adds, "Exhibits such as Live Smart: Stay Well! at The Muse are immensely valuable to the Knoxville community as they build children's knowledge, skills and positive attitudes towards health. They help children learn skills they will use to make healthy choices throughout their lifetime."

The Muse Knoxville is a local non-profit children's science museum located in Chilhowee Park with exhibits, play spaces and full-dome planetarium. The museum is open daily and admission and hours can be found at www.themuseknoxville.org.



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Hobo Supports Wellness Examinations

Hobo the Wonder Dog completed his semi-annual physical examination last week with Dr. Ann Combs at the Bell County Animal Clinic. Hobo is constantly on the go



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

important, Hobo's wellness visits are much more than vaccinations, heartworm prevention, and routine deworming; they are about his health and happiness.

veterinarian. The American Veterinary Medical Association's guideline for estimating a dog's age:

- First year of life for a medium-sized dog equals fifteen human years
- Second year add nine years
- Each year thereafter add approximately five years

as important as the relationship you build with your family physician. During a wellness examination for your pet a complete medical history will be obtained; prepare to discuss how your pet is feeling, any changes in their behavior, medications or supplements they are taking, and diet and exercise routines. Your veterinarian will do a thorough nose to tail examination including a dental exam, check for parasites, heartworms, and administer needed vaccinations.

rub. Random visits to our veterinarian help Hobo build confidence while associating the clinic with fun and not a frightening, unfamiliar place he dreads to go. No matter what Hobo's travels throw our way, we are ready to take them on and live long and healthy together.



Hobo and I visit our veterinarian's office frequently for socialization, weight checks, a treat, and a belly

destination on our National Parks 100 years of Service Tour to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. Hobo the Wonder Dog and I are excited to celebrate our good health by exploring our local national treasures. We hope our last trip to the Cumberland Gap National Park inspired you to travel with your dog and discover the treasure in our own backyard—our National Parks.

If your dog hasn't had an annual examination, don't put it off. Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian today.

Life is better with a dog—woof!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ed and Bob's Night Out

Ed and Bob's Night Out in Knox County will be enjoying ice cream in Rocky Hill this month! Knox County At-Large Commissioners Ed Brantley and Bob Thomas will be at Bruster's Real Ice Cream at 7670 South Northshore Drive on Wednesday, June 22nd from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to meet the people of Knox County and listen to their concerns.

Exhibiting Opportunities for Artists in All Media!

Every summer, the Fountain City Art Center hosts a competition and an exhibition for artists in all 2-D and all 3-D media. Entries generally range from 2-D works in watercolors, oils and acrylics, pastels, pencils, mixed media, and photographs, to 3-D works in clay, wood, stone, glass, metal, cloth, fiber, recycled materials, tile mosaics, and handmade papers, textiles, and books. All artists are welcome to enter by bringing in their entries on Tuesday, June 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The exhibit judges will be Hugh Bailey and Martha Robbins. The

opening reception for the exhibit and announcement of awards will be on Friday, June 24, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

For more information, including guidelines and applications for the show, go to www.fountaincityartcenter.com; email the Art Center at fcartcenter@knox.gov; or call (865)357-ARTS. The Fountain City Art Center is located at 213 Hotel Avenue in the old library building next to Fountain City Park.

Garden Workshops

If You Build it, They Will Come: Join Master Gardener Amy Haun to learn how to invite pollinators, butterflies and other beneficial insects into your ornamental and vegetable gardens. This free public event is scheduled on three different dates: Monday, June 20, from 1-2 p.m. at Davis Family YMCA, 12133 S Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922, phone 865-777-9622; Thursday, June 23, from 3:15-4:30 p.m. at Humana Guidance Center, 4438 Western Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37921, phone 865-329-8892 or Saturday, June

25, at 10:30 a.m. at Cedar Bluff Branch Library, 9045 Cross Park Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923, phone 865-470-7033.

Roses in Pots: Master Gardener and Rosarian Brian Townsend will share pointers about selecting and planting roses for patio spaces. This free public event is scheduled on Tuesday, June 21, from 11 a.m. -noon at Karns Senior Center, 8042 Oak Ridge Highway, Knoxville, TN 37931, phone 865-951-2653.

Goose Creek Cleanup

Keep Knoxville Beautiful will host a cleanup of Goose Creek Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Volunteers should meet at Mary Vestal Park, 401 Maryville Pike. Waders, gloves, bags and litter pickers will be provided as well as snacks. To register visit KeepKnoxvilleBeautiful.org and click on the Upcoming Events link.

Fourth of July Celebration at Marble Springs

Marble Springs State Historic Site is planning to celebrate the Fourth of July **Cont. on page 4**

AN EVENING WITH THE Collingsworth Family

General Admission \$18
Artist Circle \$25
Balcony \$16

Groups of 10+ \$15
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also by calling (800) 965-9324
or by visiting online:
https://www.itickets.com/events/350770/Knoxville_TN/An_Evening_with_The_Collingsworth_Family.html

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of DORIS M. NEWSOME Docket Number 77711-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of May, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DORIS M. NEWSOME, who died Mar 30, 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.

(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 the 24th day of May, 2016
Estate of DORIS M. NEWSOME
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KAREN NEWSOME, Executrix
7305 Oxmoor Rd
Knoxville, TN 37931
BILL W. PETTY
Attorney at Law
705 Gate Lane, Ste 202
Knoxville, TN 37909
PUBLISH: 6/06/2016 and 6/13/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of BARBARA ANN ROUSE Docket Number 77699-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of May, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BARBARA ANN ROUSE, who died Apr 14, 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.

(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 the 23rd day of May, 2016
Estate of BARBARA ANN ROUSE
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
Trecia Diane Todd, Administratrix
4700 Skyview Dr
Knoxville, TN 37917
PUBLISH: 6/06/2016 and 6/13/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of JESSE PHILIP ROUSE Docket Number 77698-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 1st day of June, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JESSE PHILIP ROUSE, who died Apr 27, 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.

(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 the 1st day of June, 2016
Estate of JESSE PHILIP ROUSE
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TRECIA DIANE TODD, Administratrix
4700 Skyview Drive
Knoxville, TN 37917
PUBLISH: 6/06/2016 and 6/13/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of EDNA LOUISE JINKS WOLFENBARGER Docket Number 77585-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of May, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of EDNA LOUISE JINKS WOLFENBARGER, who died Nov 29, 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 the 19th day of May, 2016
Estate of EDNA LOUISE JINKS WOLFENBARGER
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GINGER BARNETT, Administratrix
18102 Beals Chapel Rd
Lenoir City, TN 37772
ROBIN M. McNABB
Attorney at Law
625 S Gay St
Knoxville, TN 37902
PUBLISH: 6/06/2016 and 6/13/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of FLORENCE C. ZITTEL Docket Number 77693-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of May, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of FLORENCE C. ZITTEL, who died Apr 15, 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.

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 the 19th day of May, 2016
Estate of FLORENCE C. ZITTEL
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JUDITH Z. HALL, Executrix
5739 Goldenrod Circle
Knoxville, TN 37921
LAUREN S. BROWN
Attorney at Law
110 Cogdill Rd
Knoxville, TN 37922
PUBLISH: 6/06/2016 and 6/13/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of ARCHIE LEE DAVIS, JR. Docket Number 77695-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 20th day of May, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ARCHIE LEE DAVIS, JR., who died Apr 28, 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.

(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

This the 20th day of May, 2016

Estate of ARCHIE LEE DAVIS, JR.
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
VALARIE McALLILEY, Administratrix
4931 Cabin Rd
Knoxville, TN 37918
PUBLISH: 6/06/2016 and 6/13/2016

MISC. NOTICES

NOTICE OF AUCTION

Central Kams Storage, 7440 Oak Ridge Hwy, Knoxville, TN 37931 is holding a lien sale of all goods stored in Units #C0143; F0291; G0585, being in lien and abandoned more than 60 days.

DATE: 6/25/16
TIME: 1:00 PM
This sale is to satisfy the owner's lien against the delinquency of occupant(s) Carl Green; Holly Cook and Nicole Carter. Highest bidder must have sufficient means of transporting goods. Acceptable payment methods: Cash or CC. Sale is subject to termination or postponement prior to sale date. Please call 865-690-7773 to verify continuance of sale.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The following storage units are in delinquent status, and the stored goods will be sold to satisfy the owner's lien in accordance with state law. The sale is to take place promptly at 2:00 p.m. on June 15th, 2016 at A+ Storage, 2339 Old Callahan Dr., Knoxville, TN 37912.

Units to be sold:
C22 - Amanda Ashe
B26 - Jeff Chadwick
B37 - Gary Coffman
B28 - Daniel Grunwell
Sale is subject to termination or postponement prior to sale date. All sales cash or credit card and final. Highest bidder must have sufficient means of transporting goods immediately.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

PURSUANT TO DEFAULT
Per TN Self Storage Law, contents of the following leased spaces will be sold to satisfy owner's lien at public auction to highest bidder

for cash. Tillery Drive Self Storage, 115 Tillery Drive, Knoxville, TN 37912 on Wednesday, June 13, 2016 at 10:00 AM. Company reserves right to reject any and all bids. Some units may not be available on day of sale.

- Natisha Hawkins - 363
- Lisa Wise - 224
- Gordon Sweeney - 123
- Kaitlyn Baumgartner - 318
- Tah Wright - 337
- Tina Lenear - 316
- Tara Doublas - 34
- MADDOX AUTOMOTIVE
- Bradley Maddox
- 865-236-3654

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The owners and lien holders of vehicles listed below are hereby notified of their right to pay in full all charges and claim their vehicles being held at Maddox automotive 4053 Douglas Dam Rd., Kodak, TN 37764. Failure to claim said vehicles will be deemed as waiver to all rights, title, and consent to dispose of said vehicles at Public Auction on June 20, 2016 at the above foreshad location to satisfy debt:

- 1993 MAZDA PICK UP VIN# JM2UF1139P0353390;
- 2002 GMC BOX TRUCK VIN# 1GDHG31R321900350
- 1989 MAZDA PICK UP VIN# JM2UF3139K07
- PUBLISH 6/13/2016

LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:
RFP 2388, Printer Monitoring Software and Equipment, due 7/7/16;
Bid 2395, Fuel Card Services, due 7/7/16;
Bid 2396, Hot Mix Materials, due 7/11/16;
Bid 2397, Presort Mailing Services, due 7/6/16
For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917, or visit our website: www.knoxcounty.org/purchasing. To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to www.govdeals.com.

Praying for your family

An area where our enemy, the Devil, has done a great job attacking is the family. Many reading this understand this personally. As we consider the importance of praying for the family, let's begin with husbands and wives. As any married couple would attest,

marriage is more than a romantic bond. It might be good looks that attracted you to each other, but it will not keep you together. Marriage

is a commitment where the gospel is lived out to all those around you. If you are looking for your meaning and joy to come from your spouse, you will be disappointed. We look to Christ for peace, joy, and love. We can take what we receive from Christ and bring it to our spouses. Pray for your spouse. Ask God to help you communicate and listen better, to not let disagreements turn into arguments and fights. Ask God to keep the passion for each other alive. You are setting an example that others are watching.

If your mate is not a believer, pray that they would come to know Christ and ask God to help you be a bright light in your home. If you

are divorced, take responsibility for what you failed to bring to the marriage and repent, trusting in God's sweet forgiveness. Then pray for your ex-spouse. That's right, pray for them. Jesus said to pray for your enemies. Ask that God would provide healing for them and repentance to be found in their life as well as yours. If children are involved, pray for peace between the two of you for the sake of your children.

Next, pray for your children. Pray that they would surrender their lives to Christ sooner than later. Pray that they develop strong Christian friends to help them get through the struggles and temptations of life.

Pray that other families and older couples would invest in your children. Make time for your children to be around older, wiser people. Pray that God would bless the families of their future mates and that they would marry strong believers. Pray that God's word and His will may be clear to them. Pray for opportunities for God to use their talents and gifts for His glory and praise as well as drawing others to Him.

If you have grandchildren, pray for each proceeding generation. "He is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments" (Deut. 7:9). Pray multi-generationally. The

Psalm writer wrote: "...so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands" (Psalm 78:6-7).

For those who are single, pray for your siblings, for your parents and grandparents if they are still living. Pray for your future mate, for your nieces and nephews and aunts and uncles. Family is such a blessing. Give thanks to God for them. Honor your parents, learn from their mistakes, and forgive their failures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cont. from page 3

with a "Let Freedom Ring" Bell Ringing ceremony. This event is in collaboration with the General Henry Knox Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution and local reenacting community.

This event will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on July 4th and is free to the public, though donations are appreciated.

Activities will include a bell ringing ceremony, a freedom pole, and a long hunter camp. For more information, please call (865)-573-5508, email info@marblesprings.net or visit our website at www.marblesprings.net. Details subject to change.

All activities will take place at the Marble Springs State Historic Site at 1220 W. Governor John Sevier

Highway, Knoxville.

Knox County Democrat Women's Club Meeting

Knox County Democrat Women's Club (established 1928) will meet Tuesday, June 14. The meeting will be held at Austin's Restaurant, 900 Merchant Drive, at 6:00 pm. New members are always welcome!

KrisAnne Hall to speak

Constitutional Attorney KrisAnne Hall will be speaking Thursday, June 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Sevierville Courthouse, 3rd floor. Ms. Hall, speaker, author and teacher, will give valuable information on "What is the real NOW solution to federal overreach?"

This program is excellent for 12 years of age up to and including adults. It

applies to this generation and the next. Meeting is open to all, no charge.

Volunteer Driven Program calls for volunteers

Knox County CAC's Volunteer Assisted Transportation program is seeking volunteer drivers to assist seniors and people with disabilities to medical appointments, shopping trips, beauty appointments, and other fun activities!

Professional training and vehicles provided. Volunteers will drive agency-owned, hybrid sedans or wheelchair accessible minivans and receive training to include First Aid & CPR certification!

Volunteers are needed for weekdays, evenings and weekends. Drivers must be 21 years of age and have at least 3 years of driving experience. Call 865-673-5001 to help a senior out!

Or you can email us at: nancy.welch@cactrans.org

We Love District 1 Day

Join District 1 neighbors for a free, family-friendly event open to the public to encourage residents to take notice of all the wondrous happenings in East Knoxville-District 1!

Organized by local resident and activist Michael Covington, 'We Love District 1 Day' aims to pay tribute to District 1's historic venues and tourist attractions with informational booths, fun activities for all ages, entertainment and more.

The event kicks off at noon, Saturday, June 18 at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens, 2743 Wimpole Avenue, with a performance by Knoxville Opera followed by Mayor Tim Burchett introducing elected officials in attendance and Rep.

Joe Armstrong recognizing community dignitaries with both men making brief remarks about District 1.

'We Love District 1 Day' has fun activities for all ages including: tours of Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum and Farms, facepainting, balloon animals, antique cars on display, and booths from the following exhibitors: James White Fort, Mabry-Hazen House, Beck Cultural Center, TN Valley Fair, Zoo Knoxville, Knoxville Coliseum & Auditorium, The Change Center, Chilhowee Park, League of Women Voters, The Muse, Williams Creek Golf Course, The Odd Fellows Honors Program, Knoxville Police Department (safety education), Knoxville Fire Department, KAT, Wounded Warrior Project, Kickstand bike raffle and more. There will also be food trucks in

attendance.

West Knox Republican Club Meeting

Republican primary candidates for the state House district 18 seat will speak on Monday, June 13, 2016 at the monthly meeting of the West Knox Republican Club. Recent comments on Twitter by Rep. Martin Daniel regarding the life of the late boxing champion, Muhammad Ali, have created additional interest in this primary race.

Each GOP primary candidate will have the floor individually for about five minutes, and then all four will have the opportunity to answer questions from the audience.

Dinner is at 6 p.m. at the Red Lobster near West Town Mall on Kingston Pike with the meeting beginning at 7 p.m.

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