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Summer Concert Series Kicked Off at New Harvest

On June 16, Knox County launched a new summer concert series, Third Thursday Concerts at New Harvest Park, with world-renowned dobro player Phil Leadbetter and Friends (pictured right).

The free concerts, held June through August on the third Thursday of each month, take place immediately following the New Harvest Park Farmers Market from 6 to 8 p.m. at 4775 New Harvest Lane. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own blankets or lawn chairs.

Knoxville's Grammy nominated Phil Leadbetter was awarded "Dobro Player Of The Year" at The International Bluegrass Music Awards in 2015 and inducted into The Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame.

The 2016 Third Thursday Concerts at New Harvest Park are sponsored by WIVK 107.7 FM and Knox County Parks & Recreation.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Some voting locations to change

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

If you are a regular voter you might find that your voting location, or Precinct, has changed. It might be confusing when you vote August 4 on the long Knox County election ballot.

Chris Davis, Assistant Administrator of the Election Commission, has supplied The Knoxville Focus with a list of the changes, many of which involve West Knox County.

If you've been voting at Farragut Middle School, at Precinct 65, you will be voting at the Farragut Town Hall at 11408 Municipal Center Drive. If you've been voting at Farragut Middle School at Precinct 65N you'll be voting at Farragut Primary School at 509 N. Campbell Station Road.

Precinct 66N, formerly at Farragut High School, will be at Farragut Middle School at 200 West End Avenue.

Precinct 72, formerly at the Boys and Girls Club, will vote at Crown College, 2307 W. Beaver Creek Drive.

Precinct 69S has been divided and 69S will now vote at Northshore Elementary School at 1889 Thunderhead Road and 69E will vote at Bluegrass Elementary School at 8901 Bluegrass Road.

Another voting place, formerly Precinct 70, will now be voting at two different locations. Precinct 70W will vote at Ball Camp Elementary, 9801 Middlebrook Pike, and 70E will now vote at Amherst Elementary School at 51-1 Schaad Road.

Before you plan to vote you may want to call the Knox County Election Commission and find your polling place. These changes will not affect early voting, which starts July 15.

Davis said the changes were made when the Election Commission met May 27.

Knoxville opens Devil's Racetrack Bike Trail

By Ken Lay

Knoxville's newest bike trail was officially opened in a groundbreaking ceremony Friday morning.

The city, along with Knox County and the Legacy Parks Foundation, celebrated the grand opening of the Devil's Racetrack Downhill Trail and two other trails on the bright and humid day.

The Devil's Racetrack is located at 3700 Lancaster Avenue in South Knoxville and is part of that community's Urban Wilderness Project. The trail was made possible by a \$100,000 grant from Bell Helmet Company. The money was donated to the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club.

Knoxville beat out Asheville and San Francisco for the grant by popular vote. The 100-acre parcel on which the park sits was donated by the Wood family.

"I'm happy to be here today and the one thing about this is that we all voted on this," Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett said. "I'm thankful to Bell Helmet Company."

"I remember coming to work



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett were among several local officials present at Friday's grand opening celebration for the Devil's Race Track Downhill Bicycle Trail, which is located in South Knoxville.

and having the employees at my office ask me if I went online to vote. I voted on this as much as I could before they wouldn't let me vote on it anymore."

And Burchett wasn't the only one.

Knoxville City Mayor Madeline Rogero also voted.

"This not only promotes

exercise and fitness but it will boost our economy," said Rogero, who resides on the south end of town. "The people of Knoxville

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What's available in the City for small bidders?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A four-hour opportunity to learn what projects are available in the city for small business bidders drew hundreds of people to the Business Opportunities Breakfast Tuesday morning.

Mayor Madeline Rogero, fresh from her China trip, welcomed the business owners and operators at the 7:30 breakfast kickoff. Boyce Evans, Purchasing Agent for the city, also spoke before the audience broke out into many sessions with various

departments.

"The sole purpose is to tell you, local and regional businesses, what we plan to bring the next 12 to 15 months," Evans said, adding that Knoxville may be the only entity in East Tennessee to announce projects to potential bidders in a meeting format and stated that the Knoxville Utility Board has joined the event this year.

"We're trying to cut the red tape and get the best bids," the mayor said.

She stressed the wish for "Mom and Pop" businesses to bid on projects,

saying that Knoxville allots about \$50 million in contracts each year, most through bids.

"We'd like to eliminate the mystery and would like to see creative, smart and responsive bids," Rogero said, adding "One fourth of all bids go to small businesses."

"I'm thrilled at this turnout," Rogero told the large audience, praising her staff for the effort while she was out of the country.

Evans asked the attendees to take about an hour with the departments, each sectioned off and hosted



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Attendance at Knoxville's "Business Breakfast" was large and responsive as the event informed small businesses about opportunities to bid on the \$50 million in business the city pays each year.

by department heads and officials.

"If you don't know where

you fit in come see me or my staff," he said, reminding the audience that the

packet of information each attendee received is posted

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Linda Watson of the Karns Senior Center greets County Commissioner Brad Anders at the center's Art Show last Thursday. Art pieces featured at the reception were completed by art class students at the Karns and Frank R. Strang senior centers. Types of work include watercolor, pen/ink and charcoal/pencil sketch.

PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Oklahoma Legislature Ends VAM in Teacher Evaluations

If Oklahoma is the "Sooner State" then Tennessee must be the "Later State." At least, concerning passing legislation to end the use of the highly controversial "value added model" (VAM) in teacher evaluations.



By Sally Absher
sallyabsher@knoxfocus.com

profession. They thought it (TLE) was so unfair and impossible for them to be seen as the great professionals that they are."

Teachers in Oklahoma were evaluated based on how their students performed on one high-stakes test using VAM. Teachers in Tennessee are also rated based on VAM, called the Tennessee Value Added Assessment System, or TVAAS.

The rationale behind the VAM is that every student is "predicted" to achieve a certain score on the high-stakes test, based on how much growth they are expected to show from the previous year. If the student scores as they were predicted to score, the teacher is deemed to be of value to the student. But if the student scores lower than predicted, for whatever reason, then the teacher did not add value.

Washington says, "A teacher's value to a child's education should not be based on this one test. In many cases there have been Teachers of the Year that have received horrible value-added scores."

Is this sounding familiar, Knox County?

The American Statistical Association (ASA) issued a detailed, seven-page statement debunking the validity of VAM. Valerie Strauss, writing for the Washington Post, said, "VAM purports to be able to take student standardized test scores and measure the 'value' a teacher adds to student learning through complicated formulas that can supposedly factor out all of the other influences and emerge with a valid assessment of how effective a particular teacher has been. These formulas can't actually do this with sufficient reliability and validity, but school reformers have pushed this approach and now most states use VAM as part of teacher evaluations."

Robillard said "We tried to fight it (TLE) as teachers and we had no success. School administrators got on board with us early on and we made a little bit of headway with the State Department of Education but we saw no movement at the legislature. We knew to get it moved at the legislature we had to unify and involve parents and the entire community, and we were successful in doing

that."

Oklahoma's HB 2957 does not eliminate teacher evaluations. Like Tennessee's TVAAS, 50% of the TLE involved qualitative evaluation measures, including principal observations. That part remains intact. Removing the VAM component gives teachers the autonomy to focus on what they believe they need to work on in their own teaching practice, and will eventually allow each educator to create their own professional development plan that they and their students need to work on.

Washington reports that teachers will now turn their attention to the frequency of testing in the state. But for now, they are "happy with the progress being made so far."

Robillard said, "Oklahoma needs this. To finally have some good policy in place that allows us to meet the needs of our students and enjoy our profession, it literally changes the moral. For sure, good people, talented educators, they will stay in the profession because of it.

Are legislators in Oklahoma just that much more supportive of public

Continued on page 4

County Commission Code fees may increase in county

By Mike Steely
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The fees for building permits will be going up in Knox County for the first time since 1994. The county's Codes Administration Office charges have been lagging behind the city of Knoxville and Farragut fees even though most of the new construction has been in the jurisdiction of the county.

But the new fees, scheduled to begin on July 1st if approved by the County Commission's work session Monday evening and again at their regular meeting on June 27th, may not be increased to final amounts immediately.

"You can eat an elephant a bite at a time," Commissioner Mike Brown told The Focus last week, saying he'll suggest raising the fees gradually.

The Knox County Codes Administration issues permits and completes inspections for mobile homes, building demolitions, underground tanks, and sign installations or removals. The department also oversees residential and building permits and plans and reviews, administrative tasks, gas permits and plans and reviews, and administers fees appeals.

Among the fee increases are:

- A \$25 Technology Access Fee being added to all permits.
- Upping the Building Permit fees based on all

costs associated with construction except for land acquisition, ranging from a \$50 fee for a \$2,000 appraisal of cost to \$1,690 for the first \$500,000 in cost plus \$2 for each additional thousand, with variations of cost for costs in between.

- Fifty dollars for a review of plans on construction of single family residential dwellings when the cost doesn't exceed \$100,000 and increases to \$500 for homes over \$1 million, with variations of the fee for homes valued between the two categories.

- A \$50 fee for residential demolition and \$100 for commercial.

- Signs permit fees will be \$50 for signs valued up to \$2,000 plus \$50 for each additional \$1,000 value.

- Fees for the Board of Zoning Appeals will be \$200 or double that if a violation has already occurred.

Other fees will apply for other categories.

In other Work Session business the commission may discuss hiring Premier Building Maintenance for Janitorial services and allot \$5 million to Zoo Knoxville over a five-year period.

Military leave for county employees is also on the agenda, upping the current leave time from 20 to 30 days and the commissioners could vote to give \$19,000 to Breakthrough Corporation for an adult Autism training program.

What's available in the City for small bidders?

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on the city's procurement website www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing.

Departments represented at the Business Breakfast included the Police and Fire Departments, Knoxville Area Transit, Fleet Services, Public Service, Parks and Recreation, Community Development, Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, Engineering, Redevelopment, KUB, Public Building Authority and a "How to do Business with the City of Knoxville" booth was also present.

Examples of bids taken

by the Fire Department, for instance, included janitorial supplies, vehicle cleaning supplies, furniture, kitchen equipment, chairs, lawn equipment, and storage units.

Each department supplied information on projects, equipment, etc. that might be bid out over the coming months.

Engineering and Redevelopment projects highlighted for potential bidders included sidewalks for the Cedar Lane and Old Broadway projects, various neighborhood drainage projects, Sevier Avenue and Jackson Avenue Streetscapes, and the Washington Pike project from I-649 to Murphy Road.

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Broadway lights, Zoo Knoxville and Check Cashing stores

By Mike Steely
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The traffic along Broadway could flow much better if the City Council approves a grant application to the state. The \$6 million plus request would require no matching funds and could provide funding for “mixed flow transit signal priority system” along the Broadway Corridor.

The City Council meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday. In July the meetings will begin at 6 p.m. following a vote recently by the council.

The council may also consider adding \$40,000 to the East Tennessee Housing Development

Organization for expenses for a coordinator staff position.

Zoo Knoxville may get an amendment to renew Knoxville Zoological Gardens, Inc. to run that facility and SMG Corporation and SMG Corporation could be hired to manage the Knoxville Convention Center, Civic Auditorium and Coliseum and Chilhowee Park. The Public Assembly Facilities Advisory Board may also be reorganized and thanked for its past service for operating the Civil Center, Auditorium and Coliseum.

A one-year lease with Young-Williams

Animal Center may be continued and the police department may get authority to add three additional officers through a grant with the Department of Justice. The \$375,000 grant application would be matched with \$159,000 from city funds.

The council should give final approval of the city budget and MPC’s One Year Plan and finalize approval naming “Charles Newman Drive” in Pond Gap.

Alternative Financial Services, commonly called “Check Cashing Services,” may get attention as the city looks to limit the number

of those businesses and set a distance between them.

A vacant property along Parkside Drive and Cogdill Road may get final approval for car storage on a request from Samuel J. Furrow. Although some residential owners on Cogdill oppose the zoning change the MPC supported the change in a mixed vote.

Workers compensation coverage may also be funded and could include not only city employees but K-Trans management as well.

TOPPING OFF A SWEET SIXTEEN



Softball standout Gianna Carideo will be missed at Knoxville Catholic but welcomed at the University of Washington on her prophetic return to Seattle. Her story and others are in this week's Section C as The Knoxville Focus continues to recognize Student-Athletes of the Year at local TSSAA-member high schools.

THE CHALK BOARD

Bits of News About Local Education

By Sally Absher
sallyabsher@knoxfocus.com

Buzz Thomas Joins KCS as Interim Superintendent

Appointed Interim Superintendent Buzz Thomas officially took the reins as Director of Knox County Schools on June 15. He’s not quite “flying solo” yet though - outgoing Superintendent Jim McIntyre will be hanging around until July 8, to work in an “advisory role” to Thomas.

Thomas is known as a great communicator - something his predecessor is not. It was reported that he is working on an open letter to the community, outlining his plans and priorities for the summer. The KNS reported Thomas to say, “...I think the people in Knox County deserve to know what specifically are you going to do that’s different and what are your priorities for the summer.”

While for most teachers and students, summer means a long, well deserved vacation (or summer job), not so for the administration. In recent years summer has been a time of restructuring (sometimes referred to as “churn”) in Knox County Schools. McIntyre has already been busy making many appointments for principals and assistant principals.

Thomas indicated that he will “overturn a few of them...”

It will be interesting to see

what Thomas will bring to KCS during his (presumably) short stint as Interim Superintendent. Better communication and a willingness to do things differently than his predecessor are givens. He seems genuinely concerned about improving morale and listening - really listening - to teachers and parents.

First Ever Fulton Gala to Honor Zaezion Dobson #24

Fulton High School is holding a gala event on August 6, 2016 to raise money for the Zaezion Dobson Scholarship. The event is sponsored by Tennova Healthcare.

“A Maroon and White Affair” honoring Zaezion #24 will be held August 6th from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Bridgewater Place. There will be a silent and live auction; Hors d’oeures, beer and wine, and dancing. The event is “Dressy Casual.” Individual tickets are \$50. Sponsorships are available: Bronze \$250, Silver \$500, Gold \$1000, Platinum \$2500, and Maroon and White Sponsor \$5000.

For more information, or to purchase tickets or sponsorships, go to www.fultongala.org.

Fulton High School’s goal is to annually award the Zaezion Dobson Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2400 to a graduating senior who exemplifies the character, spirit, and selflessness

of Zaezion Dobson. With your support, Fulton is hoping this single event will raise the funds needed for this endowed scholarship.

Knoxville Symphony Orchestra String Camp This Week!

Summer String Camp will be held at Hardin Valley Academy June 20 - 24 from 9 am to 3:30 pm. A record-breaking 224 students will attend the String Camp this year to rehearse with KSO musicians and public school music specialists, learn team building skills, and practice their string instruments in small groups and as part of a larger orchestra.

This is the 22nd season for the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra Association Summer String Camp. Students range in age from 6 to 18 and perform at all levels. The students attending String Camp this year represent 57 different schools in 18 cities in 10 different Tennessee counties.

Students will learn from and practice with five KSYO Conductors, seven KSO musicians who are coaches, and 18 area orchestra directors, private instructors, and University of Tennessee Music Majors and Alumni. Graduates/alumni of the KSYO also volunteer to help with String Camp.

The Camp will culminate with a final performance of all 224 students along with members of KSO



Local Students Attend Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities

(l-r) Sydney Fuhig, Breanna Piercy and Lauren Fiet, all of Knoxville, are participating in Governor’s School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin this month. The four-week program allows selected high school juniors and seniors to earn academic credit and get a taste of collegiate life. Fuhig is a student at the L&N STEM Academy; Piercy is enrolled at Hardin Valley Academy; and Fiet attends Farragut High School.

and public school music instructors on Friday, June 24 at 2:30 pm at the Hardin Valley Academy. The performance is FREE and open to the public.

“These young musicians work with coaches throughout the week to rehearse,” said Kathy Hart, Manager of the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra (KSYO) and founder of String Camp. “This year, the theme is “That’s Entertainment!” and the kids will play music from Broadway, TV and film

scores. String Camp combines fun with rehearsal and results in a fantastic group performance at the end of the week. 73 of the 224 kids are brand new to string camp this year and have never performed with the KSYO. It is always a treat to see the progress of these young musicians as they hone their skills and fall deeper in love with music.”

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Knoxville opens Devil's Racetrack Bike Trail

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really got behind this.”

“If we can make this a regional biking destination, we can bring \$14.6 million into our economy. If we can make this a national biking destination, we can bring \$29 million into our economy. Let’s open this trail and see what the Urban Wilderness can bring to Knoxville.”

In addition to opening the Devil’s Race-track trail, Legacy Parks Foundation opened Best Medicine and Pappy’s Way. The Devil’s Racetrack is a double-black diamond expert-level trail.

Legacy Park official Carol Evans noted that the new trails have something for everyone.

“We built this and we have a back entrance from South-Doyle Middle School, so we could trick the kids into exercising,” Evans said.

The new trails are located on the Baker Creek Reserve.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Jason Stephens, Mayor Rogero and Brian Hann take in the view from atop the newly opened bike trail.

Oklahoma Legislature Ends VAM in Teacher Evaluations

Continued from page 1

education - and the teachers that define it - than legislators in Tennessee? What made the difference?

Sadly, few districts in Tennessee can say with confidence that their school administrators are on board with trying to change the punitive VAM evaluation system. But Robillard indicated it was parent and community involvement that ultimately moved the legislation Oklahoma.

There are active and involved parents and community members in Tennessee - “citizen lobbyists” - but they are up against a well-funded, well-organized opposition. Legislators have been lured by lobbyists who have a political, financial, or professional reason for pushing the reform agenda.

The real agenda behind education “reform” (from common core to high-stakes testing to teacher evaluations to charters and vouchers) is to privatize (giving tax funds to private for-profit corporations) traditional education, destroy private schools, and eliminate elected school boards. In other words, at the end of the day parents will have no choice and no voice.

Your state rep and some senators are up for election this fall. Do some research. Find out who is backing them. Sadly, many so called “conservative” groups - FreedomWorks, AFP, Heritage, Heartland, Students First, Beacon TN and many others) are on the wrong side of education. Either they have no clue of the real agenda, or they are complicit in the intentional destruction of education.

Knoxville Writers’ Guild Announces Adult Spelling Bee

On Friday, Sept. 16, the Knoxville Writers’ Guild (KWG) will host an adult spelling bee at 7 p.m. in the Central United Methodist Church fellowship hall, at 201 East 3rd Avenue, Knoxville. Accessible parking is available in the lot behind the church.

“KWG is proud to present our version of this uniquely American, engaging, brain-powered sport. Spellers will be able to test their skills and compete for prizes,” said Pamela Schoenewaldt, Spelling Bee director.

Competitors will be limited to the first 40 adults over age 18 who register. The entry fee is \$10. Participants do not need to be KWG members but must register here. There will be cash prizes of \$100 for first place and \$50 for second place. Spectator admission

to the event will be a suggested donation of \$2.

Nelda Hill with the Knox County Public Libraries will be moderating the Spelling Bee.

Pilot Flying J and FMB Advertising are supporting sponsors for the event. Additional support for the KWG Spelling Bee comes from National Mailroom Services and Testprep Experts.

Proceeds of the Bee will help fund programs and operations of the nonprofit Knoxville Writers Guild. Since 1992, the KWG has supported writers and good writing in East Tennessee through monthly programs open to the public, low cost workshops, writing groups, speaker’s bureau, anthologies, and literary contests.

For more information, contact Pamela Schoenewaldt at p.schoene@comcast.net.





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Our Neighborhoods

First Methodist to celebrate 150 years

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

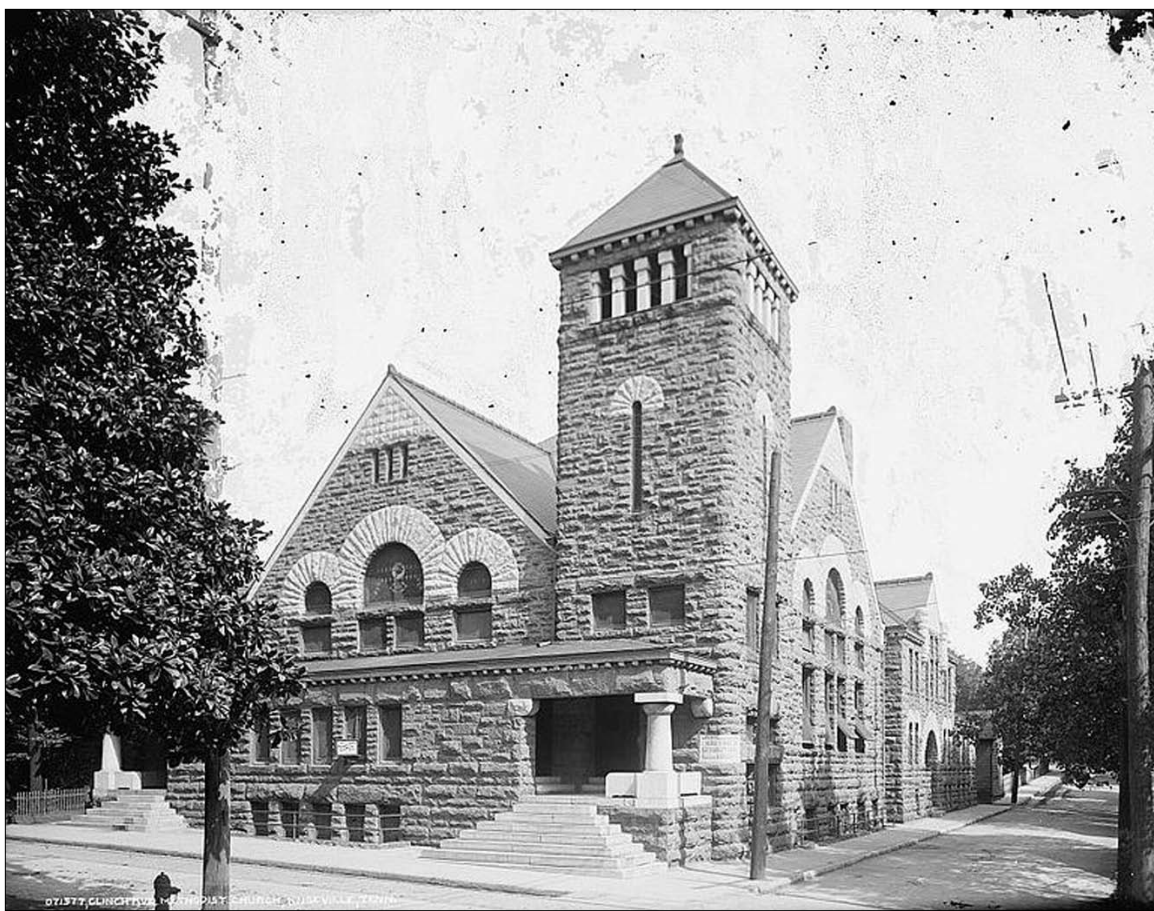
How do you celebrate 150 years of church history?

Founded the year following the end of the Civil War the First United Methodist Church of Knoxville has a long and proud history. During the years the congregation has had many notable pastors and has worshiped at three different locations, now located at 3316 Kingston Pike.

As you drive into the church the first thing you will see is a large cornerstone sitting on the ground near the chapel. The huge stone has the dates 1866-1893, the dates of the first two churches.

The first church was at the southwest corner of Clinch and Market Streets downtown and the second was on the corner of Church and Locust Streets, also downtown. The first services of the early Methodist followers were held on July 8, 1866 in the Circuit Courtroom of the old Knoxville Courthouse and was organized by Rev. J.B. Ford and 30 followers. One of the first trustees was William G. (Parson) Brownlow, then a circuit riding Methodist minister.

On Saturday, July 16th, the celebration of the church's long history starts with a potluck dinner on the grounds complete with music, games, videos, pictures, a special program, an alumni choir rehearsal and much more. The



The second location of the First Methodist Church was one the corner of Church and Locust Streets in downtown Knoxville. The current church was built in 1966 and is located on Kingston Pike. Photo courtesy of First United Methodist Church.

festivities begin at 5 p.m. at the pavilion behind the church.

On Sunday, July 17th, there's a brunch at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall followed by a special morning worship service at 10:45 in the Sanctuary. A former minister, Rev. Darris Doyal, will be speaking and

the alumni choir will perform.

The church will also have an updated archives display in the Fellowship Hall on both days that will include slideshows and videos of past church events and a sharing of memories. Anyone with items or photographs they would

like to be included are asked to contact Lauren Robinson at the church office. You can call her at (865)525-0435.

You can find more information online at www.firstunitedmethodistchurch.org.

Summer is Here with Fresh Produce

By Brigitte Passman

There is no doubt that summer is almost here with the beautiful sunshine and all the delicious produce that is arriving in the Union County Farmers Market! The market began May 7 and is in full swing with a wide range of produce available every Saturday until October 29. The Farmers Market is located at Maynardville's Wilson Park, open from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. every Saturday.

Some of the items you can expect to be at the market include: arugula, bok choy, chard, cauliflower, green garlic, green onions, pea pods, radishes, tomatoes, cucumbers, beef, herbs, cut flowers, hanging baskets, nursery products, eggs, honey and a great variety of greens, jams, and jellies. The market also features some talented artisans who sell handmade/home-made crafts such as walking sticks, earrings, soaps, lotions, lip balm, candles, and alpaca yarn.

Summer is a time to relax and enjoy the beautiful weather. A perfect way to celebrate this is to enjoy the live music that is available at the Farmers Market. The types of music you can expect are gospel, country, and bluegrass. It is a great way to start up some line dancing or you can just sit back and enjoy the music and tap those toes to the beat.

The market will also have Farmers Market Fresh cooking demonstrations and occasional Taste of the Market where you can experience new tastes for free.

There is so much to enjoy at the Union County Farmers Market. It is a market you do not want to miss! You can stay updated with all information about the Union County Farmers market by liking the Facebook page (Union County Farmers Market) or sign up for our email updates when you visit the Farmer's Market on Saturday.

‘Hawkeyes’ denied demolition

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

For a second time the Knoxville Historic Zoning Commission has voted to deny a demolition permit to the owners of what was once Hawkeyes Tavern on 1717 White Avenue in Fort Sanders.

The split vote, 5-2, came after the owners, Edward and Margaret Whitaker who bought the property in 16 years ago, had their attorney Steve Wise detail all the problems at the former home including various structural problems.

Wise said that repairs

would cost much more than the historic old home would be appraised for after renovation is complete. He said the 4,300 square foot structure “cannot be restored” and called the property “terminal,” and asked the commissioners to look at the structural damage.

Hawkeyes operated there from 1983 until 2000 and after that various restaurants and bars had a home there. For the last couple of years the structure has been empty.

“Eddie tried to keep it viable,” Wise said and

submitted 26 documents to support the request to demolish the building. He said the foundation damage was done by previous owners, who dug a basement and, over the years, tried to keep the upstairs from falling by propping it up with untreated wooden posts.

Built in the 1920's as a residential property and used as a duplex of rental apartments over the years the old building is no longer viable as a site for a restaurant or bar.

Two neighborhood homeowners spoke against demolition, citing

opposition also from Knox Heritage. They charged that the current owners bought the property knowing it is in a Historic Overlay District and then neglected repairs. They cited the cost to repair as not being a reason to demolish.

Commissioner Bart Carey said that while it appears demolition would be “one more bite out of the apple” in the neighborhood he said the much altered structure “contributes in no way to the historic character” of the neighborhood.

Wise denied neglect to the structure telling the

commissioners that the owner added a new roof and has taken care of the property.

“It's in pretty good shape but it is just not structurally sound,” Wise said.

Voting to deny the demolition were Historic Zoning Commissioners Faris Eid, Lorie Matthews, Melissa McAdams, Scott Smith, and Mike Crowder. Voting for the demolition were Bart Carey and Sandi Swilley. Decisions of the Historic Zoning Commission can be resubmitted after one year or appealed to the court system.

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Rosie's World

Only a Rose

petals have five petals, some have four. The aggregate fruit of the rose is a berry-like fruit structure called a rose hip which is used in perfumes, cosmetics and food such as rose petal jam, rose petal salad and also you can decorate cookies with them.

Here is a simplified version of a poem written by A.L.Fink (I couldn't find much information about him, except he was in the funeral business.)

The Rose Beyond the Wall:

A rose once grew where all could see,

Sheltered beside a garden wall,

And as the days passed swiftly by

It spread its branches, straight and tall....

One day, a beam of light shone through

A crevice that had opened wide

The rose bent gently toward its warmth

Then passed beyond to the other side.

Now, you who deeply feel its loss,

Be comforted--the rose blooms there--

It's beauty even greater now,

Nurtured by God's own loving care.

A beautiful thought for those who grieve. And another thought from the book of Isaiah: "For as the earth bring forth her bud, and as the garden cause the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations."

Pray that it be so.

Thought for the day: Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. Warren Buffett

Having a Ball



PHOTO BY ROBERT OWEN.

Brad Fowler guides Vacation Bible Schoolers in bubble balls at New Beverly Baptist Church last week.

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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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On "60 Minutes" the other Sunday, a young boy played jazz piano with the stars of the genre. He amazed even the pros with his abilities to understand the music and to include his own interpretations, something difficult for most seasoned veterans. Last weekend, I traveled with other church members to Marion, VA, to work for Project Crossroads. The skills that my friends possessed amazed me and led to the construction of a large shed that was almost perfectly level and plumb. What I realized is that each of us has talents that wait to be developed.

The first part of the task is to identify exactly what our talents are. My wife Amy is a born problem solver. Our daughter is a creative person whose abilities have served her well in working in the music industry. Our son Dallas is a kind, sincere, and dedicated person whose leadership abilities are evident to all.

Each person has a special talent; no arguments about that can convince me otherwise. The good lord blessed us with those talents; one person might be a good listener while another might be good at



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

fixing things. A quick inventory of self and the things which spark excitement in us leads to identification of the special skills that we have. A passion for something is a sure indication that we need to give it more attention. It is a gift that we've been given.

The next step is to take those infant talents and to mold them. That means devoting time to them and building on them with practice and simple hard work. All of us will to some degree have success if we pay attention to the gifts we've been given. No, not all of us can be the best in an area. Maybe baseball talents don't translate into a pro career, but perhaps they lead a person to coaching young players. The ability to play piano might not be good enough to become a professional musician, but it just might be the very thing that a church or assisted living facility needs to reach people. I'd like to say that I've become a world-class writer. The truth, to the contrary, is that I've been blessed to write for this paper for several years and to publish some books, articles, and other short pieces. One person told me in the beginning

that I should forget about ever writing for a paper or anything else. No, I'm not rich or wildly successful, but I love what I do each week.

The next area is the hard part. If a talent is a gift, it is important to share it with others. That means that our jobs are to reach out to others and to help them as we use these talents. Being able to budget well is wonderful for personal finances, but it's also a talent that can serve to make others' lives more successful. Perhaps teaching how to budget to a group at church is the way to share. Using the talents that involve construction or plumbing or electricity might best be shared with the many who live in sub-standard housing. The ability to teach should be used to reach children struggling in school and adults looking for a way to better their lives through education.

Finally, sending up words of thanks for the talents from God should become a daily thing. Yes, we might develop talents, but they were instilled in us by something larger than ourselves. Only after giving thanks can we find joy in those special skills and double their values by sharing them with others. In the end, the world might be a better place simply by your one act. Never fail to use your talents; it's an important step in fulfilling your destiny.

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Celebrating 15 Years!

Thomas P. Gore

Oklahoma's Blind Senator, Part II

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Thomas Pryor Gore had been one of two of Oklahoma's first United States senators. Twice reelected, Senator Gore had been decisively defeated inside his own party when he sought reelection in 1920. Gore's opposition to the World War and President Woodrow Wilson had been highly unpopular with his fellow Democrats. Gore had sought a comeback in 1924 when he ran for the U. S. Senate again and ran a poor third, mustering less than 19% of the vote.

Completely blind, yet a spellbinding orator, T. P. Gore had become a highly successful attorney, but it became clear he still had political ambitions. Republican Senator William B. Pine, an oil millionaire, had been elected to the U. S. Senate in 1924 and was running hard for reelection in 1930. The Great Depression and the increasing unpopularity of President Herbert Hoover and the Republican Party diminished Senator Pine's chances of being reelected, irrespective of how much of his personal fortune he invested into his campaign. The opportunity for a Democrat to win was widely recognized and the primary attracted five serious candidates, including three former governors. Thomas P. Gore sought to make yet another comeback.

Despite having earned significant fees for representing oil companies and oil producers, Gore campaigned hard as the friend of the farmer and the candidate who "had a hole in his pocket". Gore also shrewdly moved to tie his senatorial campaign to the gubernatorial campaign of William "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, a rising power in Oklahoma politics. Oklahoma's politics were as tempestuous as any state in country. Two governors in the state's short history had been impeached, including Henry Johnston, whom many legislators believed was unduly influenced by his personal secretary, Mrs. O.O. Hammonds. William "Alfalfa Bill" Murray turned the already turbulent politics of Oklahoma on its head. The sixty-year old Murray was a foe of corporations and the friend of the farmer. Murray had served as Speaker of Oklahoma's House of Representatives and two terms in Congress. After suffering successive defeats for Congress and governor, Alfalfa Bill had gone to start an American colony in Bolivia. The colony failed and Bill Murray returned to Oklahoma in 1929 and was already running for governor in 1930. Lean and lanky with a drooping moustache, Murray was hardly a picture of sartorial splendor. His clothes were usually wrinkled and food stained. During the hot summer months, Alfalfa Bill's white suits were stained by tobacco juice.

Murray was also a racist, campaigning for governor in 1930 against what he referred to as "the three C's --- corporations, carpetbaggers, and coons." The former senator aligning his own campaign with that of William Murray was more opportunistic than sharing basic beliefs with Alfalfa Bill, although Gore had once been an equally fierce critic of corporations and big business. Gore's blindness never inhibited his ability to campaign, especially to speak. Out of office for ten years, his former isolationism and skepticism about the World War did not especially hamper his campaign. With five serious candidates competing in the Democratic primary, the vote was seriously divided and allowed Gore to lead the field, albeit by a scant 161 votes.

The second runner up, C. J. Wrightsman, contested the run off election but never really managed to rally all of the former senator's political enemies to his banner. Gore won the Democratic nomination easily, with more than 58% of the vote.

Despite the depression, some believed Senator William B. Pine's personal wealth might make a difference in the general election and it was generally conceded Pine was the most popular Republican in the state. Pine campaigned gamely and made a race of it, but ultimately fell short. T. P. Gore won the Senate race by just over 23,000 votes. William B. Pine had won nearly 48% of the vote, an impressive tally in a Democratic state during the Great Depression.

Thomas P. Gore had that rarest of opportunities for a politician after having been soundly rejected by the people: a second chance. Gore decried the suffering of the Great Depression but the hardships and loss of that terrible age was magnified for many Sooners with the arrival of the Dust Bowl, a phenomenon of severe drought and wind erosion that brought "black blizzards" blowing across the country. Oklahoma's state government was virtually bankrupt with people unable to pay their bills, much less their taxes. Many Oklahomans drifted westward with the winds and a great many "Okies" settled in California. Initially, Senator Gore lent his support to the administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, but it was not long before the Oklahoman began

of sartorial splendor. His clothes were usually wrinkled and food stained. During the hot summer months, Alfalfa Bill's white suits were stained by tobacco juice.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Former Senator Thomas P. Gore listening at a Congressional hearing in 1947.

to dissent. Gore bitterly fought the legislation creating the Works Progress Administration. Many of his constituents wrote the senator to either urge him to support the WPA or castigate him for his opposition to an agency they firmly believed would provide jobs and income. Senator Gore wrote disdainfully that the writers were proof of "how the dole spoils the soul."

T. P. Gore's biographer, Professor Monroe Billington, recorded how the senator tartly defended his vote and frankly told correspondents it was obvious their respective votes could be bought.

"Much as I value votes I am not in the market," Gore snapped. "I cannot consent to buy votes with the people's money."

Senator Gore piously added, "I owe a debt to the taxpayer as well as to the unemployed."

According to author James T. Patterson in his book, *Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal*, only Virginia's "unreconstructed rebel" Carter Glass excelled T. P. Gore in his opposition to the New Deal. It was ironic that Senator Gore steadfastly refused to support the huge government expenditures earmarked for relief of citizens when few needed it more than Oklahomans.

As Mr. Patterson notes, Senator Gore explained, "As I see it, credit is to a nation what chastity is to a woman. Without it, nothing counts."

Once a populist and a progressive, by his last term in the United States Senate, Gore was considered a conservative, if not a reactionary. T. P. Gore had also once been the foe of the oil companies, but by the time he returned to the U. S. Senate in 1931, he had become a spokesman for

the oil industry. Like Carter Glass, Gore was especially fiscally conservative.

Suffering Oklahomans had little use for Gore's lofty speeches praising rugged individualism. Certainly, having been completely blind since the age of eleven, Thomas Pryor Gore had managed to overcome hardship and disability, but tens of thousands of Oklahomans had to worry about the necessities; having food to eat, shelter, and employment. Glass represented a different state, less hard hit by the depression and the virtual collapse of the agricultural economy. Carter Glass also had another distinct advantage in that he was ensconced in the political machine that ruled the Old Dominion State. Gore had little organization to speak of and all federal patronage in the Sooner State was funneled to the senior senator, Elmer Thomas, who was a stronger backer of the New Deal.

T. P. Gore may well have been far more disabled by his blindness than he ever imagined, for he was certainly blind to the political realities in his home state. Senator Gore insisted upon running again in 1936. As had happened in 1920, his own party determined to deny him the nomination. Two serious candidates opposed Gore: Congressman Josh Lee and Governor E. W. Marland. Lee was an idealistic young man who had won a seat in Congress in 1934. Lee had been an attorney and teacher of public speaking. Josh Lee could match and perhaps excel T. P. Gore word for golden word.

E. W. Marland had succeeded Alfalfa Bill Murray as governor and two personalities could hardly be any more different. Marland was a wealthy oilman and

had, like Josh Lee, served a single term in Congress. By 1920, E. W. Marland had accumulated and lost fortunes. He managed to recoup his losses and his wealth was estimated to be in excess of \$80,000,000. By today's standard, he would have been close to being a billionaire. Marland had married his adoptive daughter after the death of his first wife and lived in a fifty-five room mansion in Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Marland had immediately begun his administration by emulating that of FDR and the Marland version was called the "Little New Deal." As E. W. Marland came into office some 850,000 Oklahomans were either unemployed or on relief. Marland was prepared to forfeit two years of his four-year term as governor to run for the United States Senate.

Gore campaigned upon his record, which was perhaps the worst thing he could have done, yet he could not escape it either. The senator ran a distant fourth in the Democratic primary. Josh Lee, supported by a cadre of young men known as the "Rover Boys" led in the first primary. Facing Governor Marland in the run off election, Josh Lee won easily, winning by more than 100,000 votes.

Failing to win 20% of the vote inside the Democratic primary, Senator T. P. Gore finished out his term of office and retired from the U. S. Senate in 1937. Gore revived his law practice and continued to live in Washington, D. C.

Despite his blindness, Gore was quite well read inasmuch as Mrs. Gore read to him constantly and the former senator owned an impressive library of books. Gore had a highly retentive mind and was able to parlay his talents into a successful

law practice.

After his death, an editorial in the *Ada Weekly News* summed up T. P. Gore's oratorical talents.

"Gore was an orator of great power. We have watched him change the feeling of a crowd from bitterness to friendship. We have seen him lift friendly crowds to peaks of enthusiasm."

T. P. Gore remained active well into his seventies. He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage at his home and died on March 16, 1949 at the age of seventy-eight. The former senator's body was taken home to Oklahoma where it lay in state at the capitol. Then the earthly remains of Thomas P. Gore were taken to a cemetery in Oklahoma City and laid to rest.

For the editor of the *Ada Weekly News*, Thomas P. Gore was a man of conviction, not a politician.

"We doubt if Gore ever voted any way except as his understanding and conscience directed. He did not fear the 'wrath of kings' or the emotion of the voters. He did not seem to be disappointed in defeat; he was not unduly elated at success. Getting elected was a stepping-stone to service. Defeat left him proud of his independence."

The editor noted he had not always voted for T. P. Gore, but lamented over the years he had concluded he had made a mistake in not supporting the senator.

"It is better to have in office a courageous and intelligent man who disagrees with you now and then than to have a close friend who tries to get on the popular side on all occasions. Integrity is made of stern stuff."



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Sgt. Nate Skellenger receives an inspection from his two-year-old daughter Harper at the recent KPD promotion ceremony.

City Police Department Announces Promotions

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Police Chief David Rausch announced promotions Wednesday and named Kenny Miller as the department's newest Deputy Chief. Deputy Chief Miller assumes command of the department's Criminal Investigation Division.

Miller has served the Knoxville Police Department since 1992 when he began as a Police Cadet. He attended the Basic Police Academy in January 1993. He served on the Special Operations Squad (SWAT) from 1997 to 2010. Miller received an Associate of Science Degree from Pellissippi State Community College in 1997, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Ecology from the University of Tennessee in 2002, and a Master of Business Administration from Lincoln Memorial University in 2013. He is a graduate of the Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy (SECLA) in 2003, the 229th Session of the FBI National Academy in 2006, and the PERF Senior Management Institute for Police in 2013.

Miller was promoted to Sergeant in November 1998, Lieutenant in November 2005, and Captain in November

2011. He served as an Officer in the East District Patrol Division from 1993 to 1998, Sergeant in the Central District Patrol Division from 1998 to 2003, School Resource Officer Supervisor in the Support Services Division from 2003 to 2005, Lieutenant in the West District Patrol Division 2005 to 2010, Commander of the Internal Affairs Unit 2010 to 2015, and District Commander of the East District Patrol Division from 2015 to 2016.

Chief Rausch said, "Kenny brings a wealth of knowledge to his new role as Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division. It is a position that I know he will move forward to a whole new level."

Jeremy Moses was promoted to Sergeant during the ceremony.

Moses began working with the KPD in October 2004. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from King University where he graduated Summa Cum Laude in May 2014. His experience includes being a Certified Police Instructor, a Field Training Officer, a Tactical Bicycle Officer, a Patrol Rifle Officer, and a member of the Search and Rescue Team.

Nate Skellenger was

promoted to Sergeant.

Skellenger started with KPD in September 2009. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services from Carson-Newman College. His experience includes being a Certified Police Instructor, a Firearms Instructor, a Patrol Rifle Officer, a Field Training Officer, and a K9 handler with his partner Ammo.

Nate was awarded Officer of the Month in November 2014, KPD Officer of the Year for 2014, and the 2015 East Tennessee Officer of the Year from the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police.

Ryan Morrow was promoted to Lieutenant.

Morrow started with KPD in February of 1996 and made Sergeant in 2010. Morrow holds a BS in Criminal Justice from Bethel University where he graduated Summa Cum Laude in March 2015. He is a graduate of the Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy in 2013.

Morrow's experience includes being a Certified Police Instructor, a Field Training Officer, a

Firearms Instructor, an Investigator, a member of the Search and Rescue Team, and a member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team.

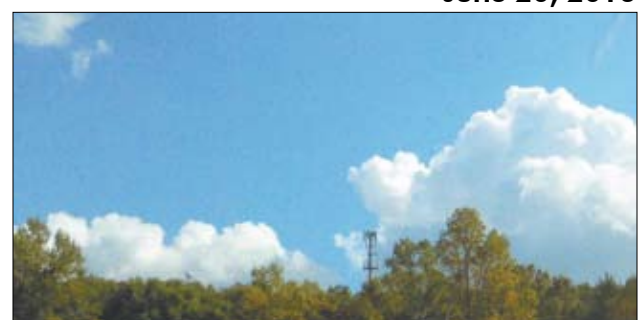


PHOTO BY RALPHINE MAJOR

Beautiful blue sky with white fluffy clouds.

Is it Summer Yet?

Almost! The sights and sounds indicate as much, and the calendar is catching up. The official start of summer happens this week, June 20. Jesus even mentioned the season in Matthew 24:32: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh" (KJV). I always connected summer's entry as being on or near our father's birthday, June 21. Looking at the date reminds me that he would have turned ninety years old this year.

I have been noticing signs of summer for a couple of weeks. Schools across the country are finishing up graduations



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

and now enjoying summer break. Many friends have shared exciting pictures of their vacations at the beach or visiting family in other states. Reminders of Vacation Bible School have been appearing in the papers and on

street signs everywhere.

Summer always seems too brief--that season filled with the sweet smell of honeysuckle vines and hay bales in the field; the warmth of sunshine rays; the sight of white, fluffy clouds; and fun activities like growing vegetable gardens and grilling out. Enjoy your favorite part of this special season each day, for it will soon be gone. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

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Sliced White American Cheese 10.7 Oz. \$1.49 COMPARE AT \$3.28	Twin Ice Pops 18 Ct. BLAST \$1.00	Chicken Corn Dogs 25 Oz. \$2.39

Dr. Annette Mendola to discuss 'Being Mortal'

Knox County Public Library is pleased to present Dr. Annette Mendola, Director of Clinical Ethics, UT Medical Center, for a discussion of "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" by Atul Gawande, Wednesday, June 22, noon to 1:00 p.m. in the East Tennessee History Center auditorium, 601 South Gay Street, in this month's Books Sandwiched In, a program series sponsored by the Friends of Knox County Public Library.

Gawande's book Being Mortal addresses the topic of the inevitability of death, but according to Mendola, goes beyond that. "What is more remarkable about this book is the deft way he discusses another aspect of mortality: human

connections -- are perhaps more fearsome than death itself."

"Another important theme in this book concerns the role of medicine vis-à-vis mortality," Mendola said. "We tend to achieve that which we pursue, and the American healthcare system has ardently pursued heroic, lifesaving technologies. It has been less invested in helping people preserve the things that matter most to them in life, such as mobility, relationships, meaningful activity, and being at home."

"Gawande encourages us to question the way medicine is produced and consumed, and to ask ourselves what we really want from healthcare,"

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Tarwater returns home to play in summer hoops league

By Ken Lay

Dwight Tarwater enjoyed a homecoming of sorts when he suited up for H3 Sports in its season opener in the Pilot Rocky Top League opener Wednesday night at Catholic High School.

Tarwater, a 2010 Webb School of Knoxville graduate, last played in his hometown shortly after his high school graduation. That was also in the Pilot Rocky Top League at Bearden High School.

The venue for the league may have changed but Tarwater said that the chance to play in Knoxville --- and at Catholic High School was special for him.

"I love playing in this gym," said Tarwater who recently wrote the final chapter of his collegiate career at the University of California in 2015-16. In Berkeley, he

played for former Tennessee coach Cuonzo Martin. "I have some great memories of playing in this place. But I have some frustrating memories too."

Webb and Catholic are intense Cedar Bluff area private school rivals and Tarwater and the Spartans had an intense rivalry with the Irish.

During his time at Webb, Tarwater scored 1,500 points and won Division II-A Mr. Basketball honors in 2010. Later that year, the three-time all-region and two-time all-state post player played in the Pilot Rocky Top League. That summer was the last time that he played in Knoxville before Wednesday night.

Tarwater's collegiate basketball career took him to Cornell for four years. He graduated and was granted a fifth year as a graduate

transfer. That allowed him to head west to California's Bay Area where he played in all 33 games for the Golden Bears last season.

He enjoyed his time in the Northeast and on the West Coast. But he was ready to come home.

"It's great to come home and play," Tarwater said. "California is great but the folks there are different than they are here."

"I got the chance to play in the Ivy League and I got a chance to play in the Pac-12. I also got the chance to go to an Ivy League school and I had the chance to go to the most prestigious public school in the United States. Basketball gave me the chance to do those things. But it's great to be back home. There's no doubt about it."

Tarwater is roughly six months away from earning

a Master's Degree in Public Health. He's remains enrolled at Cal. He's taking on-line classes. He came home in April.

Education remains a top priority for Tarwater.

"I'm six months away from earning my Master's," he said. "I'm getting my degree in Public Health. I'm not quite sure what I'm going to do with that."

"Learning has always been important to me. That's what's going to get me where I want to go."

Tarwater is prepared for life after basketball but for now, he's relishing his time playing in front of his hometown fans.

"Basketball has been great. I'm going to enjoy playing here," he said. "But I'm also looking forward to what the next chapter of my life will bring."



Carter High School graduate and Tennessee freshman Jordan Bowden goes for a dunk over Derooyal Industries defender Mason Fox in Pilot Rocky Top League action Wednesday night at Catholic High School.

Transfer became 'the face of program' for Catholic softball

By Steve Williams

As a catcher and slugger, Gianna Carideo plays the game of softball close to home plate. But the sport itself has literally taken her far and wide.

Growing up in Tampa, Fla., Carideo played on a South Tampa Little League team that won the Little League World Series in Seattle one summer. She told her parents that one day she would find her way back to Seattle.

Sure enough, last November, Carideo, who transferred to Knoxville Catholic after moving from Florida following her freshman year of high school, signed scholarship papers with the University of Washington, which is located in Seattle.

Catholic High was tickled to have her for as long as it did and Carideo was recently named the school's female Student-

Athlete of the Year.

"Gianna has been a standout on the softball diamond for the past three years, cracking the starting lineup immediately at catcher, and then as a senior moving to shortstop out of need," said Catholic Athletic Director Jason Surlas via e-mail.

Carideo was an All-District 4-AA performer as a junior and the district MVP as a senior, stated Surlas.

"She set a school record for most home runs in a season and was among the state's leaders in slugging percentage," he added.

"Gianna has provided much needed stability to our softball program over the last three years, and showed complete dedication to the sport of softball and to her teammates here at KCHS."

"We are certainly going to miss her knack



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Catholic's Johnathan Chavez appears to be smiling as he runs in the rain at this year's KIL meet. He helped the Irish to a fourth place finish that night. At the end of the season, the Georgetown signee won the 3200, ran on the winning 4x800 relay and took second in the 1600 as the Irishmen captured the Class A-AA state title.

for coming up big in pressure situations on the field, but we will miss even more having such a wonderful young lady being the face of our program."

Carideo was in a Washington signing class of six last fall, with three future Huskies hailing from the state of Washington and two from California.

Gianna had a

connection to the Huskies as her former catching instructor, Ashley Andrews, had become an assistant coach at Washington. Andrews,

Cont. on page 2

TOPPING OFF A SWEET SIXTEEN

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

The honorees:

Gianna Carideo, Catholic
Johnathan Chavez, Catholic
Hayden Coffman, GCA
Sydney Duggins, GCA
Bailey Gale, South-Doyle
Holly Hagood, Bearden
Allen Kidd, South-Doyle
Erica Laning, HVA
Ian McNitt, HVA
Matt Randolph, Central
Spencer Smiley, Bearden
Emily Wise, Central

Previously recognized:

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

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Former Gresham coach to lead Lady Bobcats

By Ken Lay

Ben Collins grew up the son of a Methodist minister. As such, he never really found a home.

"My dad was a Methodist member, so we moved around quite a lot when I was a kid," Collins said. "Every two years or so, it seemed like we moved."

"I spent some time in my wife's hometown and then four years ago, we came to Fountain City and we love the community here. We bought our house here and we hope to be here for a long time."

That has all changed now. For the past four years, Collins and his wife LaRae have been in the Fountain City community while Ben has taught social studies and coached basketball at Gresham Middle School.

He'll continue to be on Gresham's faculty and he'll continue to teach the game he loves.

But he won't coach the Gladiators or Lady Gladiators in 2016-17. He'll move on to Central High School where he'll coach the Lady Bobcats.

"Ben is the right person for our program at the right time," Central athletic director J.D. Lambert said. "He knows our girls and he knows our feeder schools."

The Lady Bobcats last enjoyed sustained success when Lambert was their coach back in the early 2000's. Since then, Central has struggled largely due to lack of players.

Collins said that he knows that trend has to change. He also acknowledges that his basketball work at Gresham is far from done. But he's embracing the challenge.

"I'm excited because this is my first high school head coaching job," Collins said. "The new girls in the program

know me and they know my coaching style.

"I know that I have to let the girls at Gresham know who I am. I have to work with their coaches to make Gresham a true feeder program for us.

"I have to work with their coach so that they run our offense. I also have to recruit at the high school because there are some girls who are not playing basketball for whatever reason."

Collins is a self-proclaimed basketball junkie but he's also a family man. He and his wife have a 1-year old daughter, Fallon.

"Family is a priority for me and I'm getting used to taking on the role of a father," he said. "It's important to me to have as much family time as I can. That's sometimes hard when you're coaching."

He's happy to be at Central because of the school's extremely supportive administration that includes Lambert and principal Mike Reynolds.

"Working with J.D. and Mr. Reynolds has been great. People at Central have come and they've shown that they're ready to help," Collins said.

Wins have been hard to come by for the Lady Bobcats in recent years. Central won two games last season after a winless campaign in 2014-15. Central won just once in 2013-14. Collins replaces Josh Brannon, who resigned earlier this spring.

The new coach is hoping to turn things around.

"Our girls program really needs to be more competitive, especially in a school our size," he said. "We want the girls to come out and be a part of our program and we want them to be proud to be a part of our program."

Senzel leads talented group of local draft picks

By Ken Lay

University of Tennessee junior third baseman Nick Senzel saw his lifelong dream come true on Thursday, Jan. 9 when he was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds.

Senzel, a graduate and one-time star at Farragut High School, was taken as the No. 2 overall pick by Cincinnati and signed a \$6.2 million contract to play in the Reds organization last week.

He was a second-team All-Southeastern Conference performer in 2016. He received that honor from the league's coaches and was also named a second-team All-American by *Baseball America*.

Senzel, who will likely begin his professional career in Billings, Montana, hit .352 for the Volunteers in 2016. He blasted eight home runs and drove in 49 runs.

Senzel was one of a handful of local players drafted in Major League Baseball's Entry Draft.

Bearden High product Trey York, who now plays at East Tennessee State University, was selected in the ninth round by the Milwaukee Brewers. York hit .348 and had 15 home runs for the Buccaneers last season. He stole 17 bases and had 223 doubles.

Hagen Owenby, who also plays for East Tennessee

State was taken in the 14th round by the Pittsburgh Pirates. Owenby, a former Powell star, hit .374 and belted 17 homers for the Bucs in 2016.

The New York Mets picked a pair of local products including recent high school graduates Alex Haynes and Duncan Pence.

Haynes, a pitcher for Central, was taken in the 29th round by New York and the Walters State signee was hoping to sign with the National League Champions.

Pence, a University of Tennessee signee, was selected by the Mets in the 33rd round. He recently completed a four-year high school career with the Admirals and led Farragut to four consecutive Class AAA State Tournaments.

He was part of the school's last State Championship team in 2014.

Tennessee pitcher Kyle Serrano, another Farragut product, was selected by Milwaukee in the 49th round.

He's the son of Volunteers coach Dave Serrano and is currently recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Of these players, Senzel was the only one signed at press time. The others have until July 15 to decide whether to go pro or continue playing in college.



20/20 vision. #20 of Atlanta Silverbacks Heather Ferrari and Knoxville Force's #20 Kelly Pannell narrowly miss taking one another out while going for the ball during Tuesday's night game. The Force lost 2-3.

Knoxville Force women win first game of the season, 2-0

The Knoxville Force women team got its first win and shutout of the season Friday night at Sansom Sports Complex against conference rival Alabama FC. Madison Salters and Kelly Parnell each scored for the Force in the victory.

The first half of the game between the Force and Alabama was rather slow. The two teams appeared to be

evenly matched and both displayed good movement and possession. Each team also had several chances to take the lead, but failed to do so. Near the end of the first half, the Force offense picked it up and dominated play. Aly Hale of the Force particularly had several great runs and shots on goal. Despite this, the half ended with a score of 0-0.

The Force came out strong and aggressive in the first ten minutes of the second half, and it paid off. In the 51st minute, disciplined Force passing in the final third led to the first goal of the night by Madison Salters, who was assisted by Sarah Price. Four minutes later, Kelly Parnell knocked in another goal for the Force, giving the team a 2-0 lead.

Parnell was assisted by Madison Salters. Alabama almost responded with a goal of their own a minute later in the 56th minute. However, an offside call dashed Alabama's attack. Throughout the remainder of the game, Alabama was unable to penetrate the Force's defense. The game ended in a 2-0 win for the Force.

Bradford tapped to coach soccer at Hardin Valley Academy

By Ken Lay

For the second time in as many years, Hardin Valley Academy has had to hire a new soccer coach and athletic director George Ashe found a coach who is familiar with District 4-AAA.

Hardin Valley recently hired Heritage coach Nick Bradford to take the reins of both the boys and girls soccer program.

Bradford replaces Mark Patterson, who left the school because his work visa expired. Patterson, a native of Northern Ireland, is on a student visa and remains in the country while he takes college classes.

As for Bradford, he's familiar with the most competitive soccer district in the state. The Maryville College graduate coached the boys squad at Heritage between 2008 and 2014. He left Blount County to coach the middle school team at McCallie

School in Chattanooga.

Bradford attended McCallie before playing for Pepe Fernandez and Jon Baker with the Scots.

It was Fernandez and Baker who implored Bradford to be patient once the new HVA coach returned to Heritage to coach both the Mountaineers and the Lady Mountaineers.

It was Baker and Fernandez, who recommended that Hardin Valley hire their former player.

"I have a strong soccer background and I have to thank Pepe Fernandez and Jon Baker," Bradford said. "They were my coaches at Maryville College and they actually recommended me for the job and I didn't know it."

Patterson's departure also left a teaching vacancy at Hardin Valley. Bradford will teach math at the school and he also eagerly anticipates that challenge.

"I'm grateful that George and

[principal Sallee] Reynolds for giving me the opportunity to teach and coach at Hardin Valley," Bradford said. "I look forward to teaching there because they have such a strong reputation for academics."

"I was amped up for the soccer part, but they had an opening for a math teacher. I'm a math teacher and that was the most important piece of the puzzle."

Bradford is also pleased because HVA has strong community support. The boys soccer team, which reached the Class AAA state semifinals in 2015, won a state championship in 2011.

"I was watching that state championship game in 2011 online and I saw the community support," Bradford said. "The stands were full of fans who traveled a long way to support the team."

Transfer became 'the face of program' for Catholic softball

Cont. from page 1

who played for the Lady Vols and was a 2008 UT graduate, started working with Carideo when she moved to Knoxville.

The Huskies' softball website states: "Carideo is a powerful right-handed hitter who will provide great leadership skills and added depth behind the dish."

Washington, which won the national title in 2009, was lost at Alabama 2-1 and 5-2 in this year's Super Regionals.

"I chose the University of Washington for its combination of a top-notch education and highly competitive softball program," said Carideo.

Senior Johnathan Chavez is Catholic's male honoree. He led the Fighting Irish to Class A-AA state titles in cross country and track this past school year and also won multiple individual

and relay state championship medals the past two seasons as Catholic's top distance runner. He lettered four years in the two sports.

Chavez also was a member of Catholic's state championship tennis team as a sophomore.

While Carideo is heading to the state of Washington, Chavez will be attending Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., on a full scholarship to run for the Hoyas.

"Johnathan has been a tremendous leader for our cross country and track teams over the last few years," stated Surlas. "He was instrumental in both team's state championship runs this year, as well as being a great example to our student body while in the classrooms and halls of KCHS."



South-Doyle soccer standout Bailey Gale scored 29 goals in her senior season. Allen Kidd's soccer skills also helped the Cherokees' football team.

South-Doyle's Gale will play at Chattanooga

Bailey Gale, South-Doyle's female Student-Athlete of the Year, has had a lifelong dream to play college soccer and after a strong four-year high school career she signed a Division 1 scholarship with Chattanooga in February.

Gale scored 29 goals and

had 14 assists as the Lady Cherokees posted a 12-2-2 record last fall.

Senior Allen Kidd is South-Doyle's boys honoree. He lettered in soccer and as a kicker in football.

"Both of these athletes excelled not only in athletics but academically as well," said Athletic Director Clark Duncan. "Two great young people that come from very supportive families."

My love for sports ... it just came naturally

EDITOR'S NOTE: This was Steve Williams' Father's Day column that ran in The Knoxville Focus in 2008. Steve's father, Mr. Bob Williams, passed away March 5 of this year. Steve wanted to rerun this column and plans to write a follow-up column on his dad for our June 27 issue.

By Steve Williams

I was really never a pitcher, but I can still remember dad kneeling down in a catcher's position and letting me practice throwing pitches to him. He even had a catcher's mitt, so that made the experience feel even more neat as I tried to throw strikes.

That was when I was a young boy back in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

When Father's Day comes around each year, I always reflect on sporting times shared with my dad over the years. I'm sure there are many of you who do the same.

I guess you might say I inherited my love for sports from Bob Williams of Clinton. It just came naturally.

I was the oldest of four boys Bob and Bobbie raised, and we played many games inside and outside of our home at 202 White Street in Clinton. I'm sure we made a lot of noise, but they never complained. They encouraged and supported us as we tried to make our mark in sports.

In my hometown, the Optimist Club of Clinton, provided youngsters with the opportunity to play organized sports, and my dad has been an active member for over 40 years.

I still remember the excitement I felt waking up on Saturday mornings and playing in the Optimist Club's youth basketball league.

As for football, the Optimist Club started out with a "touch" league and started its "tackle" league program just in time for me to play on its first midget league team. My dad was one of the coaches.

Dad also was an umpire and coach in our town's Little League baseball program and also served some time as its president. He still doesn't like the concept of today's "travel teams," which put the best players in town on one team and weakened the league considerably overall. In fact, many Little League programs no longer exist as they once did, not only in Clinton but in Knoxville as well. A lot of boys with marginal talent or lack of financial means have been left behind.

Dad grew up in Appalachia and Big Stone Gap, small towns in southwest Virginia. He played football, basketball and baseball in high school at Big Stone Gap. His high school consolidated with East Stone Gap back in the 1960s and became Powell Valley High. Over the years, my brothers

and I have made many trips with dad to see Powell Valley play and I saw firsthand that there are a lot of University of Tennessee fans in that area, which is located only about an hour away from Kingsport.

That must explain why my dad's blood runs orange. He has been a UT fan for as long as I can remember and has gone to many classic Vol football games over the years. He was in Memphis when Dewey Warren and Tennessee beat UCLA. He and mom were on hand when the Vols rallied to beat Notre Dame in the Miracle at South Bend and they thoroughly loved that victory over Miami in the Sugar Bowl.

We've made many football trips in dad's Big Orange van and still enjoy tailgating before home games. I treasure the picture of my dad and I standing together at the Orange Bowl in 2003, the day before the Vols beat Miami.

I'll never forget being with dad at Neyland Stadium when the Vols pulled out that win over Arkansas to remain undefeated and keep their national title hopes alive in 1998.

Dad's den at home is decorated with a lot of UT memorabilia. There's even an "thank you" card from the late Ray Mears still hanging on the wall, although the message, written in orange ink, has faded. The card was to thank dad for a "salesmanship" picture



Dad and I at the Orange Bowl on the eve of the Vols' 10-6 regular season win over the Miami Hurricanes in November of 2003.

he had given the UT basketball coach back in the 1970s.

Dad has been an unofficial football recruiter for UT. He told Phillip Fulmer about the Jones brothers in Big Stone Gap and still regrets the Vols didn't land Thomas and Juluis, who are now running backs in the NFL.

I've always thought dad would have made a great athletic director. If he was, be sure there would be no black on the Vol uniforms and the Lady Vols would not wear nearly as much blue, if any at all. He would have encouraged John Ward to stay on longer as Voice of the Vols and at least continue to broadcast the football games. He wouldn't have allowed longtime Vol fans to lose their seats

for stadium renovations or the building of sky boxes, either.

Speaking of sky boxes, there's one in Clinton my dad built. His property is right behind the Clinton High football field and on Friday nights, if you look down behind the north end zone, you can see dad and others watching the Dragons play.

On football Saturdays, you'll find us at Neyland Stadium, section N, rooting for the Vols. Dad, who just turned 80 last month, will be standing and rooting the Vols on. Please don't tell him to sit down.

If there's one thing I've learned from dad about being a Vol fan, it's this: "Shakers don't make noise."

Smiley's 'heart' and Hagood's 'attitude' led Bearden

By Steve Williams

State high school championships can sometimes come down to which team wants it the most and has the most heart.

Bearden was that kind of team in boys' soccer this past season and Spencer Smiley had a large part in making it that way.

Smiley "captained" Bearden to the 2016 Class AAA state championship, said Coach Ryan Radcliffe.

Smiley also has been named Bearden's male Student-Athlete of the Year. "His work ethic both on the field and in the classroom epitomizes what it means to be a student-athlete at Bearden High School," said Radcliffe via e-mail.

While tallying 13 goals and 11 assists, Smiley garnered first team All-District 4-AAA and All-Region 2-AAA honors as a forward. His leadership and guidance was a four-year letterman in the soccer program, added Radcliffe, helped propel the Bulldogs to new heights in reaching a 23-3 record, a No. 4 national ranking and becoming the No. 1 team in Tennessee.

"Spencer's perseverance and determination through this leadership helped bring this team from behind in

multiple elimination games throughout the playoffs and his heart on the field was hard to match this season," said Radcliffe. "He will definitely be missed as a person, a leader and an athlete."

Holly Hagood is the BHS female Student-Athlete of the Year. She also was voted the most athletic female athlete at Bearden. The four-year varsity basketball player and starter was a part of two state tournament teams, including the team that finished in the state semifinals her junior year.

Hagood, a point guard, had an attitude that was tough to beat.

"Holly is the hardest working young lady I have ever had the privilege of coaching," stated Justin Underwood. "Her unselfish team-first attitude helped lead our program to new heights."

HVA's Laning is among nation's top swimmers

Erica Laning, state champion in swimming and a qualifier for the 2016 Olympic Trials in the 200 and 400-meter free, is Hardin Valley Academy's female Student-Athlete of the Year.



Spencer Smiley's determination helped the Bearden Bulldogs come from behind in multiple elimination games en route to the Class AAA state title.

She is a member of the Liberal Arts academy at HVA.

Laning won the 200 and 500-yard free events at the 2016 TISCA Tennessee High School Swimming and Diving Championships. A junior, she holds multiple school records and also has committed to swim for Arizona State University, beginning in the fall of 2017.

Senior Ian McNitt is Hardin Valley's male honoree. He lettered in

wrestling and soccer. In wrestling, McNitt was the Region 2-AAA champion in the 138-pound weight class and made the All-KIL team. He also holds multiple school records. Ian is a member of STEM academy and will be going to Cornell University.

"Both are outstanding students and leaders in academics and athletics," said HVA Athletic Director George Ashe.

Bowden takes the long road to become a Vol

By Ken Lay

Jordan Bowden may be one of several new faces in the University of Tennessee men's basketball program. But he's certainly no stranger to Knoxville Area hoops fans.

Bowden, a 2014 Carter High School graduate, made a return to K-Town for opening night of the ninth annual Pilot Rocky Top Basketball League last week and showed that he was perhaps ready to make the leap into NCAA Division I basketball.

He scored 16 points in his return to his hometown but his Knoxville News-Sentinel team came up on the short end of a 123-112 decision to DeRoyal Industries Wednesday night at Catholic High School.

Despite the loss, Bowden said that playing in the Pilot Rocky Top Basketball League is special.

"I grew up coming to the Rocky Top League games," said Bowden, who is the first incoming freshman to receive a basketball scholarship since Karns High product Doug Roth got a full ride in 1985. "It's special for me to get the chance to play here. I grew up watching Tennessee play so this is really special to me."

"It's special because they don't usually don't recruit out of here."

After a stellar career with the Hornets in Strawberry Plains, Bowden wasn't highly recruited. So he decided to attend prep school at 22 Foot Academy at Shannon Forest High School in Greenville, South Carolina.

Without prep school, Bowden (who was an all-state standout and the District 3-AA Player of the Year during his senior campaign at Carter High) might not have had the opportunity to play big-time college basketball.

He said that his time in South Carolina allowed him to showcase his talent, work on his defense and refine his jump shot.

"At 22 Foot Academy, we're in the gym all the time," he said. "The coaches are in the gym all the time. They would play with us and they were always with us when we were putting in work."

"I wasn't really recruited out of high school, so I went the prep route and there were always college coaches coming to our games. I was on a bigger stage and I got a lot of recognition. The biggest thing I was able to do was improve my defense. And I was able to work on my shot."

Bowden is one of six incoming freshmen and seven newcomers who will don the orange in November and he said that the new players have become fast friends.

"We've got six [freshmen] coming in and we're always together," Bowden said.

He also noted that college basketball is a much faster game.

"The pace of the game is faster and you've got to listen," he said. "You have to listen to what your coaches tell you."

A college basketball player, especially one who plays for Volunteers head coach Rick Barnes, has to be willing to work --- and work hard.

"Coach Barnes is a bit of a joker but when you're on the court, you have to be ready to work," Bowden said. "He's on the court putting in the work and I like to put in work."

What do I do for sports now?

Cont. from page 3

on day 2 Tennessee coach Butch Jones will predict that the Vols will go 15-0. On day 3 Alabama coach Nick Saban might scowl at the hundreds of Tide fans that wait for hours for a glimpse of their hero. And on day 4 LSU coach Les Miles could guarantee a win over the Dallas Cowboys.

The Saban scowl is, of course, the only thing on that list that is guaranteed

to actually happen.

That same week the British Open will take place at Royal Troon, so you can wow your friends and pretend you actually know anything about Royal Troon. Is it in Wales? Quebec? Heck if I know!

So at this point you are past the middle of July... not much time to go. NFL training camps open up at the end of July. The Vols first practice will likely be

sometime around August 2. You can spend the next month calling into any of the 57 Knoxville area sports radio talk shows and ask if this is the year Tennessee finally beats Florida, and then listen to the caller right after you ask the same exact question.

You can always watch baseball too! The Smokies (AA affiliate of Chicago Cubs) are only a 20 minute drive from Knoxville. Would

it be better if they were downtown, maybe if the city had built a stadium in the late 90s? Sure! But that's another story for another day...

And August 5-21 we have the Summer Olympics in Rio. Corruption! Zika! Blood doping! Next on NBC!

You see? September 1st really isn't that far away, folks...



Barbarians at the Gate

At the beginning of the movie *Gladiator*, the Roman emperor, Marcus Aurelius, is on campaign battling barbarians in what is current day Vienna, Austria. To a Roman, someone not a Roman was a barbarian, just as Hebrews referred to someone not Jewish as a gentile. Marcus Aurelius was considered a good emperor, as contrasted with others like Caligula. Aurelius was a philosopher and his *Meditations* is still revered. However, in 180 AD he was resisting the invasion of Roman territory by tribes of Germanic barbarians. Apparently, Aurelius believed a country without borders isn't a country.

The principal responsibility of government is to protect its citizens. George Bush took us to war in Iraq after Bin Laden and Al Qaeda (which means the base) used safe havens in Iraq to launch the 9/11 attacks on Wall Street's

Twin Towers. It was argued that we should fight Islamic terrorism "over there" rather than here. Bush's policy of nation building in the Middle East was a failure, and worsened by Obama's politically motivated exodus from that fledgling democracy. And now the Middle East is in flames and Islamic terrorism is on "Main Street" in San Bernardino and Orlando. I no longer feel safe because our government refuses to protect us and the police are not able to protect us. The government actually hampers our military with politics "over there." And the fifth column (look it up) media here blame American bigotry and the NRA for Orlando.

For unknown reasons, the attack in Orlando has affected me more than any other terrorist attack since 9/11. Perhaps the sheer carnage shapes my feelings. Perhaps it's

because those poor people were slaughtered by a perverted religious philosophy and abject evil. It's pathetic, but totally in character that Hillary and Democrats blame the Second Amendment for the murders instead of Islamic terrorism. France has very strict gun laws, but those laws didn't stop the Islamic murderers in Paris. Terrorists will always find ways to acquire or make weapons to kill. The Boston Marathon Islamic fanatics ignored our laws which prohibit making pipe bombs. And Timothy McVeigh found a way to use fertilizer to kill Americans.

I am a conservative. I am a Christian. And I have a concealed weapon permit. According to the ACLU, I'm the problem because I'm a representative of what they call the "Christian right." Obama's head of the Department of Homeland Security is Jeh Johnson. He recently said that "right wing groups pose as much of a threat as radical Islamists." Mr. Johnson, I'm not aware of any Methodists slaughtering people. And I can assure you I pose no risk to my family, my neighbors or other law abiding Americans. In fact, whether they know it or not, these citizens are safer around me because I've vowed not to be slaughtered. I may die resisting evil, but I will not

"go quietly into the night."

A republic is a type of government predicated on the rule of law. Our representative republic works because the vast majority of Americans agree to abide by our laws. I understand why it is against the law to carry a weapon into a bar where alcohol is served. However, one can imagine a different outcome in Orlando if one brave individual with a 9mm Glock said, "I may die, but I won't be slaughtered by this monster." On 9/11, Todd Beamer and his group were huddled in the back of Flight 93, hijacked by Islamic terrorists. Mr. Beamer uttered the now famous, "Let's roll," and led the charge to either retake command of the airplane turned missile by the terrorists, or crash the plane before it reached the Capitol or the White House. Incidentally, no firearms were used by the 9/11 hijackers.

Recently, former United Nations Secretary John Bolton was interviewed by a television talking head. This "newsperson" was flummoxed by Bolton's assertion that we must stand up to the scourge of Islamic terrorism and defeat it instead of appeasing it or tolerating such a perverse ideology. The credulous woman had apparently forgotten that America stood up against

Nazism and defeated it. The Third Reich was far more powerful than ISIS. But that was a time when there were men and women who believed in America.

There are good people left in this troubled land and there are fine Muslims as well. We don't hear much from the latter, perhaps because they are afraid of speaking out against the hate which has taken over sizable portions of their religion. An exception is Zuhdi Jasser, an American, a former captain in the United States Navy, and an internist with subspecialty training in Nuclear Medicine. He is a leader in the Reform Movement of Islam. You should go to gatestoneinstitute.org and read their declaration, which I see as the only hope for Islam. I envision Jasser as comparable to Martin Luther in the 16th century who spoke out against abuses of the Christian Church. Luther was put on trial for his life where it was demanded he recant his beliefs. He famously said, "I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience."

We live in "fortress" America watching the results of Hillary Clinton's and Obama's Arab Spring. We see Europe committing suicide as Islamists flood

in among the refugees of the Arab Spring. We see our own laws and borders ignored. We see America threatened by ruinous debt, utopian world government philosophy and the social engineering of liberal progressives. America suspended immigration between the mid 1920s and the mid 1960s to allow assimilation of the vast number of immigrants who came here in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Jimmy Carter suspended Iranian immigration and deported thousands of Iranian students. Obama has suspended immigration from Muslim countries many times during his Presidency. How is Trump's call for a temporary halt of Muslim immigration any different?

Recently, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann said it best in a television interview about Islamic terrorism. "We need to be correct, not politically correct." If we continue to sign trade deals that send jobs away from America, spend beyond our means and allow "barbarians" through the gate, the last bastion of freedom called America will end, and the world will not recover for a long time, if ever.

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

The Fourth of July and Dogs

Our history is rich in inspiring stories of how our founding fathers fought for our separation from British rule. We often neglect the history of our country and the important role the dogs of our Founding Fathers played in early America. During the siege of Yorktown in 1781, a large British Bulldog chased cannonballs fired at Colonial troops; obviously all dogs do not fear loud noises. In October 1777 after the Battle of Germantown, Colonial troops found a foxhound identified as belonging to British General William Howe. General George Washington cleaned, brushed, fed, and returned the



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

dog to his owner. Even in desperate times while fighting for our freedom, dogs were marveled for their bravery and honored by being returned to their owners.

We know dogs and cats have a heightened sense of sound and smell. Fireworks

are guaranteed to deliver a multisensory extravaganza for your dog or cat. Fireworks are packed with loud noises, flashes of bright light, and smells of sulfur. It's no wonder 80% of dogs loathe the Fourth of July celebrations.

Hobo the Wonder Dog suggests the following safety tips for keeping your four-legged family members comfortable and safe

during the Fourth of July Holiday.

- Turn on a television or radio louder than normal. Research indicates classical music is calming to dogs. Hobo the Wonder Dog will post links on his Facebook page of his favorite music selections for your convenience.
- Create a special place indoors where your pets feel safe. Place it away from doors and windows for a retreat from the festivities.
- Stay with your pet during fireworks and be normal as possible. Your dog will pick up on your feelings of frustrations and a perception of danger that can intensify their fear.
- Keep windows, curtains, and doors closed. If your

pet thinks the noises are coming from inside the home, they will try to escape.

- Proper identification on your pet and microchipping can help reunite you with your pet in the event you become separated.

No doubt the Fourth of July holiday is stressful for our pets. Preparation with the above tips will help you and your trusted four-legged friends survive the holiday with the least stress possible. Observe your pets, if they start trembling, hiding, pacing, vocalizing, or being destructive, do not scold or coddle them. This may aggravate their noise phobia and make things worse. Research studies on desensitizing your dog from loud noises can be effective but usually

require at least a sixty-day training program.

Not all dogs are fearless of sounds and will chase cannonballs shot from a cannon. Remember act normal, do not scold or coddle, plan ahead, and you and your pet will find freedom from the noises of the holiday. Two hundred thirty-nine years ago, General William Howe learned a valuable lesson: having your dog properly identified and tagged is your best bet of being reunited with your dog in the event you are separated.

General Charles Lee, Second in Command to George Washington during the Revolution, wrote: "I think the strongest proof of a good heart is to love dogs and dislike mankind."

School Bus Drivers Needed



Knox County School Bus Contractors invite you to a Recruitment Fair to be held on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at Central High School from 9 am-noon.

- Great part-time income
- Flexible hours with evenings, weekends and summers off
- Training provided

"Make a Difference-Drive a Bus"

An Evening of Family Worship and Praise

The Collingsworth Family is coming to East Tennessee for one appearance only! Excitement, spiritual anointing, family-emphasis, and musical excellence are what you can expect to find when you step across the threshold of the worship

center of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee on Friday, June 24, 2016 for an "Evening of Family Worship and Praise with The Collingsworth Family." Since their first engagement together as musicians for a church

camp in Petersburg, Michigan in August, 1986 until now, the ministry God has given Phil and Kim has expanded and flourished until it is a full-time livelihood that involves their entire family. Their boundaries of influence have expanded until they

have sung and played all over the United States (as well as internationally) into their 27th year of ministry. Their constant, persistent attention to cutting-edge arranging, musical excellence, and a proper balance of spiritual emphasis are the keys to the success God has helped them tap.

In January 2000, Phil and Kim transitioned to a new, all-concert ministry. They began recording professionally and currently utilize Nashville's most award-winning producers, Wayne Haun and David Clydesdale. This new emphasis began to expand their boundaries rapidly. Their home has seen the addition of four children across the years and the children are now very actively involved in the ministry. Their two oldest daughters are quite proficient on the violin and play at each of their concerts. Their entire family sings together in an ensemble. Kim is well-known for her phenomenal mastery of the piano and the extraordinary talent God has given her is a part of each concert, as well as trumpet solos from Phil.

Their newest full-scale studio project, "That Day Is Coming," released September 2015, includes their current national radio single, "When He Carries Me Away," written by Adina Bowman and Rachel McCutcheon.

They previously released a "first" in the Christian Music Industry: filming two full length music videos

at the famed Music Hall in Cincinnati, Ohio, the home of the world-class Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. The two filmings were the first Christian concerts ever to be filmed at a major symphony venue. They have also released two videos filmed in High Definition by Gaither Television Productions with the Flint Symphony Orchestra, Flint, Michigan.

On January 1, 2004, they signed an exclusive booking agreement with The Dominion Agency of Waynesville, North Carolina, which now represents them in all personal appearances. On March 1, 2011, they moved into a new multi-year, exclusive recording agreement with StowTown Records out of Nashville, one of Gospel Music's newest and most exciting record companies, owned by Ernie Haase and Wayne Haun. Their ministry has been featured on the nation's largest gospel music syndicated radio program, The Gospel Greats with Paul Heil as well as on Daniel Britt & Friends on XM/SIRIUS Satellite Radio's Enlighiten. Their music is regularly featured on Enlighiten, GMT (Gospel Music Television), The DayStar Television Network, and has also been featured in one hour prime-time specials on the INSP Television Network.

The Collingsworth Family, at the personal invitation of Bill and Gloria Gaither, appeared on the newest Homecoming

Series taping filmed at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. They have also been added as regulars on many of the Gaither Homecoming Concerts, making appearances with Gaithers in some of their largest venues in the US and Canada. Their personal appearance schedule shows the broad appeal their family emphasis has, performing in all types of venues across the US, the Cayman Islands, and recently in Sweden.

The rapid expansion they have seen in their all-concert ministry is a direct result of the emphasis they have placed on the power of prayer. Each Tuesday evening, they hold a private prayer meeting in their home for the specific purpose of praying for the salvation of their children and the expansion of their ministry. Since the beginning of these weekly prayer meetings in 2000, the doors of opportunity for ministry have opened to them, crossing all evangelical denominational boundaries. Phil and Kim's entire purpose is to give the talent God has loaned them back to their Creator as a sacrifice of praise.

Russ Woolard, President of New Destiny Productions is pleased to showcase The Collingsworth Family on what will be a magical evening. Tickets are available now by calling 1-800-965-9324 or online

www.itickets.com.

AN EVENING WITH THE

Collingsworth Family



General Admission \$18

Artist Circle \$25

Balcony \$16

Groups of 10+ \$15
Prices higher at door

NEW DESTINY PRODUCTIONS
newdestinyproductions.com



June 24, 2016

7 pm

Doors open at 6pm



Wallace Memorial Baptist Church

701 Merchant Dr, Knoxville, TN 37912

Tickets available at all Knoxville Cedar Springs Christian stores

LifeWay East (Washington Pike) & Praise 96.3 studios

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
EVELYN GREER McCOWN LAY
Docket Number 77761-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of June, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of EVELYN GREER McCOWN LAY, who died Mar 8, 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 8th day of June, 2016

Estate of EVELYN GREER McCOWN LAY
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GLENDA JO McCOWN, Executrix
5108 Woodglenn Drive
Knoxville, TN 37921
MICHAEL L. DeBUSK
Attorney at Law
5344 N Broadway
Knoxville, TN 37918

PUBLISH: 6/20/2016 and 6/27/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
JAMES MICHAEL McGAHA
Docket Number 77768-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of June, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JAMES MICHAEL McGAHA, who died Feb 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.

(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 9th day of June, 2016

Estate of JAMES MICHAEL McGAHA
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROBERT MORGAN, Executor
1574 Mecca Pike
Tellico Plains, TN 37385
CLIFFORD E. WILSON
Attorney at Law
128 College Street South
Madisonville, TN 37354

PUBLISH: 6/20/2016 and 6/27/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
RAY JAMES WISE
Docket Number 77756-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of June, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of RAY JAMES WISE, who died Feb 6, 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 6th day of June, 2016

Estate of RAY JAMES WISE
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MELISSA WISE-STYLES, Executrix
1510 Layman Street
Knoxville, TN 37920
DAVID L. McCORD
Attorney at Law
PO Box 2046
Knoxville, TN 37901

PUBLISH: 6/20/2016 and 6/27/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
ROY M. McFARLAND
Docket Number 77741-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of June, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ROY M. McFARLAND, who died Apr 8, 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 8th day of June, 2016

Estate of ROY M. McFARLAND
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BRENDA DICKMANN, Administratrix
107 Oakmont Lane
Greeneville, TN 37743

PUBLISH: 6/20/2016 and 6/27/2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
DOROTHY RANSOM
Docket Number 77740-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of June, 2016, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DOROTHY RANSOM, who died May 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 2nd day of June, 2016

Estate of DOROTHY RANSOM
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARCELLE RANSOM MORGAN, Executrix
1005 Walden View Lane
Knoxville, TN 37932
LISA W. GAMMELTOFT
Attorney at Law
110 Cogdill Rd
Knoxville, TN 37922

PUBLISH: 6/20/2016 and 6/27/2016

NOTICE OF SUIT AND ORDER TO APPEAR

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

BETTY JEAN STORK, ANDREA H. MITCHELL, NICOLAUS A. MITCHELL, MARC H. MITCHELL, YVONNE E. MITCHELL SARCH, ECHO REEDY, FAUN MITCHELL, MIA MITCHELL, JAMES R. MITCHELL, JACK F. MITCHELL, JUANITA HILLYARD, JEANETTE G. ZITZKA, JANICE BROWN, VIRGINIA MAYER, MARIE NAUGLE, SHIRLEY COCKSEY, and ROBERT HELMINIAK, Plaintiffs,

vs.

Any and all unknown heirs of and/or claimants against the ESTATE OF LAETITIA M. SOUTHERLAND (deceased, date of death January 23, 1964), born and unborn, any and all heirs and/or claimants with respect to the Last Will and Testament of LAETITIA M. SOUTHERLAND (deceased, date of death January 23, 1964) born and unborn, including but not limited to all unknown grand-nieces and/or grand-nephews of LAETITIA M. SOUTHERLAND (deceased, date of death January 23, 1964), and all heirs of any of them, born and unborn, and all those otherwise claiming any interest in the title to the real property commonly known as 1425 Washington, Avenue, #27A, Miami Beach, Florida 33139-4109, Defendants.

No: 191694-2

To: Any and all unknown heirs of and/or claimants against the ESTATE OF LAETITIA M. SOUTHERLAND (deceased, date of death January 23, 1964), born and unborn, any and all heirs and/or claimants with respect to the Last Will and Testament of LAETITIA M. SOUTHERLAND (deceased, date of death January 23, 1964), and all heirs of any of them, born and unborn, and all those otherwise claiming any interest in the title to the real property commonly known as 1425 Washington, Avenue, #27A, Miami Beach, Florida 33139-4109, Defendants.

To: /s/ Howard G. Hogan
Clerk & Master

SOUTHERLAND (deceased, date of death January 23, 1964), born and unborn, any and all heirs and/or claimants with respect to the Last Will and Testament of LAETITIA M. SOUTHERLAND (deceased, date of death January 23, 1964) born and unborn, including but not limited to all unknown grand-nieces and/or grand-nephews of LAETITIA M. SOUTHERLAND (deceased, date of death January 23, 1964), and all heirs of any of them, born and unborn, and all those otherwise claiming any interest in the title to the real property commonly known as 1425 Washington, Avenue, #27A, Miami Beach, Florida 33139-4109.

The Court having determined that your identities and the addresses of your residences are unknown and that you are not to be found in Knox County, Tennessee, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated sections 21-1-203 & 204, you are hereby served by publication as to your status as defendants in the above-captioned litigation with respect to any interest you may claim in real property identified above. Take notice that on August 16, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. the Court will hold a hearing on this matter in the Chancery Court for Knox County, Tennessee, Part 2 the Honorable Clarence E. Pridemore, Jr., presiding, and should you neither appear at said hearing, nor otherwise answer or defend the cause of action against you, judgment will be entered against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

/s/ Howard G. Hogan
Clerk & Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JAMES ADKINS
IN RE: BENJAMIN THOMAS ADKINS
NO. 191767-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the Defendant, JAMES ADKINS, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JAMES ADKINS, it is Ordered that said Defendant, JAMES ADKINS, file an Answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in Knoxville, Tennessee and with Carole Cole, an attorney whose address is 120 Suburban Road, Knoxville, TN 37923 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Mike Moyers at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division III, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 10th day of June, 2016.
/s/HOWARD G. HOGAN
Clerk and Master

To be published: 6/20/2016, 6/27/2016, 7/4/2016 and 7/11/2016

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:

RFP 2398, Interpreter & Translator Services, due 7/14/16

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.

The Importance of Integrity

As Father's Day rolls around each year, I am reminded of the important role I have as a dad. I constantly ask God for wisdom as a spiritual leader of my home. A big part of spiritual leadership is being a person of integrity. King David was chosen for his integrity, which he learned from tending sheep. God took David from shepherd-ing sheep to shepherding people, His nation.

When David, as a boy, was out in the pasture and dangers threatened his father's sheep, David could have fled. If a bear or lion came up to me, I might



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

think about heading in the other direction. But David was responsible for the protection of the sheep. His dad may have never known if David fled while he was in the field by himself when danger approached. But he protected the flock, even though no one was watching. As one spiritual leader noted, "Integrity, after all, is measured by what one does in private, when no one else will know."

David repeatedly risked his life for a few stubborn sheep that could not even say "thank you." But there

Cont. on page 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

District 6 Knox County Democrat Meeting

The 6th District of the Knox County Democratic Party's regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, June 28 at 6:15 p.m. at the Karns Library located at 7516 Oak Ridge Highway. Louise Gorenflo, District 6 representative for the Hillary Clinton campaign, will attend. Plans for participation in the Karns July 23rd Parade/Community Day and the Donna Lucas for 6th District County Commission campaign will be the topics. For information contact Janice Spooner at 771-5920 or Mike Knapp 696-8038.

Sevier County Tea Party Meeting

The Sevier County Tea Party's June meeting will be Thursday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the main level of the Sevierville Courthouse. The speaker will be KrisAnne Hall, Author, Teacher, Speaker and Constitutional Attorney. No charge.

UDAC Meeting

The Captain W. Y. C. Hannum Chapter #1881, United Daughters of the Confederacy will meet at RJ's Courtyard Restaurant, 3749 Airport Hwy, Alcoa, TN, on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. New officers for the 2016-2018 term will be installed. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 856-9300 (Debra) or 531-1467 (Shirley).

Smoky Mountain Vittles, Fiddles and Fun

Tasty twists at Bullfish Pigeon Forge

I was reeled in hook, line and sinker visiting this beautiful restaurant, and have been filled to the gills every time! Bullfish is a fantastic place to go for seafood but don't be misled by the name. They have many other wonderful things to offer. Last month I wrote about Blue Moose. Bullfish is part of the same restaurant group that includes not only Blue Moose but also Mellow Mushroom, Timberwood Grill, Parkside Grill, Lakeside Tavern, Harrison's Grill, Liberty Park Grill and Carino's. The thing I really love about this restaurant is that many dishes "come with a twist." I enjoy unique and different food rather than the usual suspects. I will also note that Bullfish has been voted "Best Restaurant" in Pigeon Forge!

I'd like to address a few messages from people wondering how the heck I eat so much food at the restaurants. I no longer have the luxury of dining with my fellow SoCal food critic Allan Borgen, where we ordered eight dishes at a time. I have to visit the restaurant multiple times before I can get a good feel for the service and how good the food is. It's not as efficient or cost effective (I no longer have the tv and radio station's credit card), but it's still fun to explore and share my expeditions!

What is often first and foremost at good restaurants?



By Rose Davidson

A good basket of bread! This bread will hook you. (Sorry for a repetitive fish joke.) It is homemade and lightly salted. It's not your usual restaurant bread. It's at the top of the list as far as restaurant bread baskets go. I took some home to use for sandwiches and toast! It's that delicious.

Now, I know I made some corny fish jokes, and they do have great seafood, so I'll dive into my two favorite seafood dishes I had the pleasure to enjoy. One is the Cilantro Lime Grilled Shrimp: Two full skewers of cilantro lime marinated grilled JUMBO Gulf shrimp served on a bed of wild rice pilaf. I emphasize the size because when it comes to shrimp, I really like to bite into my shrimp! It will set you back about \$17.99 but it is worth it for two skewers of jumbo shrimp. (Jumbo shrimp-That's always funny to say, right?)

Another tasty favorite is the Grilled Mahi Mahi: a fresh Mahi Mahi Fillet, lightly seasoned and accentuated with a tropical pineapple salsa for \$21.99. I make pineapple and mango salsa at home, but it's nice to let someone else do the work, with the same delectable outcome.

Bullfish has their seafood delivered fresh every day and seafood entrees are served with a House or Caesar salad and a delicious side item of your

choice. Stone Ground Cheese Grits, Sautéed Spinach, Steamed Broccoli, Wild Mushroom Rice Pilaf, Steamed Asparagus (Add 1.99), Creamed Spinach, Pecan Brittle Sweet Potatoes, Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, French Fries, or Baked Potato (Loaded add .99)

If you want to start with an appetizer, try the Fried Green Tomatoes with cornmeal breading. These are different than what I'm used to. I'm used to FGT served with roasted red pepper cream or a Remoulade. These are topped with Feta cheese and Pico de Gallo on greens with balsamic reduction for \$8.99. Another succulent southern precursor to your meal is the pimento cheese appetizer. It's made traditional southern style with local Tennessee Sweetwater smoked cheddar. How neat is that???

At this point I'll mention that the beef Bullfish uses is aged Grand Champion Angus Beef. One of my favorites is the Bullfish Grill Burger. Oh-My-Gosh! 1/2 pound of Angus beef burger topped with their special melted pimento cheese, bacon jam and pickled red onions, lettuce and tomato served on a freshly made bun. I hope they read this as I would suggest they use more bacon jam and more pimento, but it's still fantastic and unique at \$11.99, served with a side. My side of choice was something you CANNOT pass up. I'm referring to the Pecan Brittle Sweet Potatoes! It's like

having dessert with your meal. Save it for last!

To not mention the Monte Cristo Sandwich would be sinful. You cannot pass this up. Until now, the best one I ever had was at the Blue Bayou at Disneyland. This is a rival. They indulge you with honey baked ham and roasted turkey, American and Swiss cheeses stacked on Wheatberry bread then they lightly batter it and fry it to a golden brown color. Are you salivating yet??? Because they then dust it with powdered sugar and serve it with raspberry preserves!

For salad lovers, indulge in the Grilled Chicken Waldorf Salad which will tantalize your taste buds with grilled chicken over crisp mixed greens, aged cheddar cheese, Granny Smith apples, dried cranberries and caramelized pecans. Topping it off is a zingy apple vinaigrette dressing. (\$11.99) Yum! Another lovely salad to treat yourself to is the Bullfish Wedge Salad, \$8.99 (\$14.99 with shrimp). Who can resist a fresh wedge of fresh iceberg lettuce that is topped with homemade bleu cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped Applewood bacon, caramelized pecan halves, bleu cheese crumbles and a tangy balsamic reduction?

For light eaters, there are small plates available. For our vegetarian friends, besides the salads, they have a terrific Farmer's Market Plate. You can choose from three of nine of their scrumptious side

items.

No night is complete without the piece de resistance. You cannot leave without trying their Two-Layer Key Lime Pie. Another twist! They make a layer of traditional custard lime pie then top it with a layer of whipped key lime cream cheese. It doesn't stop there! It's all lovingly placed in a deep dish graham cracker-pecan crust. And (fist pump) topped with homemade whipped cream and fresh toasted coconut. If you don't eat dinner there, at least go there for an aperitif and dessert after the theatre!

Bullfish Grill also provides catering. Happy Hour is Monday through Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. Join them for half price glasses of wine and \$3.00 wells. Also check out some of the signature drinks like the Bullfish Tea or Smoky Mountain Screwdriver. They also have a fine wine list, as well as lagers. They are located at 2441 Parkway in Pigeon Forge. Menu can be viewed at <http://bullfishgrill.com/menu/>. My local page can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/smokymountainvittlesfiddlesandfun/>. I wish you food and fun!

The Importance of Integrity

Cont. from page 3

was an audience watching – God. There was a supervisor watching as well – David's heart. David prayed, "You desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place."

People see the duplicity and hypocrisy of pastors getting caught up in sexual sin, government leaders making promises to get elected they can't fulfill, and fathers who say "Do what I say, not what I do." It is unreasonable to expect others to make wise choices if leaders of government, churches, and families are not doing so. Spiritual leaders lead by example, not mere words.

I recently read the story of a stressed-out Christian woman's conference speaker who was impatiently tailgating a man's car at rush hour. Suddenly the light in front of the man turned yellow. He probably could have beaten the red light, but he played it safe and stopped. This incensed the "Christian" speaker. She hit the horn, screaming in frustration. Then, in mid-rant,

she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a police officer. He ordered her out, handcuffed her, and took her to the station where she was fingerprinted and locked in a cell.

After some time, the cell opened and an officer escorted her back to the booking desk, where the arresting officer said, "I'm sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping the guy off in front of you, and cursing a blue streak. When I noticed the Choose Life license-plate holder and the What Would Jesus Do? bumper sticker, plus the chrome-plated fish emblem on the trunk, I just knew it had to be a stolen car."

Fathers (and everyone else for that matter), have the courage to do the right thing, both when others are watching and when no one else is looking. Be a person of integrity and never forget your role as a spiritual leader.

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