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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Jennifer Owen makes some suggestions on policy changes for Knox County Schools including requiring approval for administrative changes. Sitting beside Owen are fellow BOE member Tony Norman. Chief of Staff Clifford Davis, and Interim Superintendent Buzz Thomas.

New Rules for County Commission meetings?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission serves as the final zoning authority following recommendations being received from the Metropolitan Planning Commission. The zoning part of the commission's meeting has been held at 7 p.m. following the 5 p.m. regular meetings once a month.

Last week the Rules Committee, chaired by Commissioner Charles Busler, briefly discussed moving the zoning portion of their meetings and

also what to do with applicants who don't appear for a hearing. Currently the applicant's request is moved to the end of the Zoning agenda and, if they don't appear, it is postponed until the next regular meeting.

Occasionally a request from MPC or an applicant to override an MPC recommendation sees no one show up for the meeting. Sometimes the opposition is there but a hearing can't be held without the applicant. The opposition, often neighborhood

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School system policies under review

By Mike Steely
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In a meeting that was sometimes jovial and sometimes blunt the Board of Education continued to wrestle with altering the policies dealing with relations between them and the director of schools. Several of the BOE members meet with Interim Superintendent Buzz Thomas Thursday in the mezzanine conference room of the Andrew Johnson building. Present for most of the two-hour meeting were Board members Jennifer Owen, Tony Norman, Lynn Fugate, Susan Horn, Terry Hill, and BOE Chair Patti Bounds. Joining the superintendent were Bob Thomas,

Clifford Davis and Kelly Drummond. Deputy Knox County Law Director Gary Dupler was there and had been working with Owen on changes to the legal wording of policy.

Davis, Chief of Staff, led most of the potential changes and read them one by one for comments.

Thomas was pretty direct as he replied to some of the proposed changes. As the policies are being changed or tweaked it appears the new language will apply more to a full-time superintendent, when hired, and gives much more control to the elected school board.

The Superintendent Search Committee meets Tuesday to begin that

search.

Some, like the opening of the Executive Committee meetings to school board members and changing a board member's desire to move a consent items to discussion with a majority vote instead of an unanimous vote, Thomas said he agrees with.

BOE member Jennifer Owen suggested changing the powers of the superintendent so that he or she would need board approval before changing the organization structure of the central office. She cited incidents over the past months where major changes have taken place without the board's knowledge.

"You've heard my sermon

against that," Thomas said. He said that having to seek prior approval for such changes would violate his contract. He added that passing some of the suggestions being made by Owen and other board members would "tie the board in knots" trying to run everything.

Owen rebutted that administrative changes took place "twice in a month" and added "We've got to examine why it's going on."

Thomas said the administration is constantly in state of flux and disagreed with changing the administrative duties by adding

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Christmas in the City kicks off Friday

Families have some thrilling new holiday treats to look forward to with this year's edition of Christmas in the City, including ice skating with a holiday mascot, family portraits in a life-sized snow globe, and a "Peppermint Trail of Treats."

As of today, most of the 100,000 downtown holiday lights have been installed by City Public Service Department workers. There's a lot of effort - a labor of love, really - that goes into making Christmas in the City a special season.

Now, it's a matter of counting down the days until the kickoff on Friday, Nov. 25. Mayor Madeline Rogero will switch on those 100,000 lights during the Regal Celebration of Lights on Market Square and in Krutch Park and Krutch Park Extension.

"Last year, we debuted a big new 42-foot-tall tree with multi-colored synchronized lights, so we're looking forward to flipping the switch again on Nov. 25," said Judith Foltz, the City's Special Events Director.

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Maynard celebrates teachers, ADA improvements

By Ken Lay

The faculty, staff and students at one of Knoxville's oldest schools had plenty to celebrate early last week. Maynard Elementary School recently received a facelift.

Maynard, which was founded in 1897, is nestled in Mechanicsville and sits next to the Knoxville College campus.

It recently received renovations to come into accord with the Americans with Disabilities Act and on Monday, Nov. 14, the school dedicated the improvements with a school assembly and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"Our building is now accessible to all," said Kim Cullom, Maynard's third-year principal whose son is an amputee. "This is personal to me because I have a son is an amputee.

"We don't have any students with disabilities right now but we could have some in the future. The building is now accessible to the students and their families."

The renovations were only one reason for celebration. Last week was also Knox County Schools' Thank-A-Teacher Week and Cullom took the time to thank her teachers.

"I'm thrilled to have this to kick off Thank-A-Teacher Week," Cullom said. "Our teachers, they have so many things to do as far as the curriculum.

"It means a lot for someone to thank you."

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett were on hand for the ceremonies last Monday along with interim superintendent Buzz Thomas and other school

and community leaders.

Prior to the assembly and ribbon cutting that celebrated both occasions, school and community leaders were treated to a campus tour that was led by fifth-grade students.

The ADA improvements included an elevator, handicap parking spaces, bathrooms and a playground ramp.

Thomas said the project, which cost \$960,000, was cause for celebration.

"We are the public school system," Thomas said. "We're here for everybody, regardless of somebody's race, religion, sexual orientation, disabilities or anything else.

"We open up our doors each morning and say come and learn with us and that means you."



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero celebrates Thank-A-Teacher Week with Maynard Elementary School's Marcy Yoder. Rogero was one of many school and community leaders to thank teachers and celebrate ADA upgrades made to the campus, which was built in 1897.

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In Loving Memory

Rebecca "Pat" Bowman, known fondly to us here at The Knoxville Focus as "Mama Bowman," passed away on November 11, 2016 at the age of 80. Mrs. Bowman was a graduate of Powell High School Class of 1957 and long-time member of Mt. Herman Methodist Church. She worked as a CNA at Shannondale Nursing home for 25 years. She raised two daughters whose Girl Scout Troops she led and took on many camping trips. She loved gardening and rides through the Smoky Mountains. She had a warm smile and sweet wave for everyone as we met early Monday mornings to load papers for delivery. Mrs. Bowman joined The Knoxville Focus delivery team in March of 2008 and continued to ride along with her daughter, Vivian, through her last week.

We will miss her smile, her funny notes on the paperwork and will always treasure the times she'd hug our neck and call us "Angel."

Lighting the Park at Farragut Founder's Park

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Not in the holiday spirit yet?

You and your family might want to attend "Light the Park" next Monday as Farragut kicks off its winter holiday celebration. The lighting of Founder's Park, next to the Farragut Branch Library on Campbell's Station Road, begins at 6 p.m.

The town's celebration is being sponsored by the Farragut Business Alliance and the Town of Farragut and is free. Music will be provided by the Concord Brass, the Farragut High School Chorus, and performers from Angela Floyd Schools.

Farragut Mayor Ralph McGill will flip the switch and light more than 100,000 bulbs and refreshments will be served. There's free parking across the street at the Assembly of God church.

What is the Parent Relocation Statute?

The parental visitation agreement is one of the most important parts of a divorce settlement. But what happens when one parent moves away? And what if that parent is the person who keeps the child the majority of the time?



By Jedidiah McKeenan
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to the move. The reason for this notice is so that the parent who isn't moving, can object to the move with the court if they so desire.

So, what does this mean for visitation rights?

Once the notice has been received, the parents are in a position to negotiate a new parent time schedule that reasonably accommodates everyone's needs, taking in consideration all relevant factors, including costs of transporting the child for visitation. But keep in mind, with the parents not living in the same

location, it may be impossible to reach an agreement that both parties find acceptable.

When a new agreement cannot be reached, the judge must decide whether he will allow the party desiring to move, to, in fact, move.

What if the person who has the majority of the time with the children (what is called, "the primary residential parent") wants to move? Do they automatically get to move?

Not necessarily, however, the parent who is not moving needs to typically have 157 days of visitation with the children to be confident about defeating a possible move by the other parent,

but that isn't always the case. Every case is different, and the judge is always able to rule how they see fit and will take in to account, the age of the children, the relationship with the parents, and the reason for the move, as well as many other factors.

If you have a parenting plan in place in regard to your children and you are thinking about relocating, these are some things to consider.

Jedidiah McKeenan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including criminal, personal injury, landlord-tenant, probate, and estate planning.

New Rules for County Commission meetings?

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residents opposed to a requested change, and then must wait until the end of the meeting to speak or come back time and time again until the matter is heard.

commissioners they have to give applicants due process. Busler said the change is needed to make the process more streamlined.

Armstrong suggested three ideas: The unattending applicant's request continued to be moved to the end of the agenda, a registered letter be sent after absence at the second hearing and the matter deemed "withdrawn" if the applicant fails to appear for the third hearing.

The idea of moving the zoning section of meetings up to 6:30 p.m. was briefly discussed but, because

it could interrupt the regular business section of the commission, the discussion faded.

The commissioners also discussed moving the "Roads and Drives" portion of their meetings to include all road changes and closures to the end of the agenda. They also discussed moving the 5 p.m. meeting time to 6:30 p.m. but Anders suggested changing meeting times would be confusing. Smith said the meeting times provide for open public meetings and access for the public.

Chairman Busler

suggested that the inactive "Court Committee" should be disbanded.

Schoonmaker suggested moving the requests from the school system to the end of meetings because the commission, by law, must approve the requests. Smith said moving the school requests to the end might free up the county employees who attend the commission's meetings earlier in the evening.

The Rules Committee discussion may go to December's regular commission meeting for further action.

Christmas in the City kicks off Friday

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"It's an amazing visual."

Pun intended: Officials are "shaking up" the lighting experience this year with a life-sized Christmas globe. Families will have the opportunity to snap a family photo while they pose from inside the AT&T Snow Globe. (Be sure to bring your own camera.)

The Regal Celebration of Lights and the accompanying opening of the Market Square open-air ice-skating rink - known as "Holidays on Ice," presented by Home Federal Bank - jumpstart the more than a month-long series of art and music performances, public gatherings and the annual WIVK Christmas Parade.

"Christmas in the City has truly become a memory-maker for holiday traditions," Foltz said. "It brings businesses and families together in one large six-week community celebration.

"By popular demand last year, we removed

the tent over the outdoor ice skating rink, and that proved extremely popular. Market Square became a miniature version of Rockefeller Center - Knoxville style. So this year, we're adding to that sense of openness. The rink will have clear dasher boards. And how much fun will it be for families to be able to skate with Peppermint Panda, the rink's mascot?"

Peppermint Panda will be skating on Market Square with "Holidays on Ice" visitors at 7 p.m. every night that the rink is open (through Jan. 8, 2017), with extended hours with Peppermint Panda on Tuesdays. Visitors are encouraged to wear red and white on Tuesdays to coordinate with Peppermint Panda.

All Christmas in the City events and updates also will be listed on the City of Knoxville's website: www.knoxvilletn.gov/christmas.

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Articles, announcements, photo attachments and cutlines may be submitted by e-mail to staff@knoxfocus.com.

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Publisher's Position

Media and the Millennials



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
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Now that Donald Trump has been elected President, Hollywood celebrities are signing petitions to ask Republican electors to vote for Hillary Clinton, while some millennials are taking to the streets to protest. One is about as logical as the other. The day after the election, the New York Times published an over the fold headline lamenting Trump's election to highlight the grief and mourning of one half of the nation. The banner headline in the Times

screamed: "Democrats, Students And Foreign Allies Face the Reality of a Trump Presidency."

Had Hillary Clinton been elected do you suppose the New York Times would have published a similar story about the pain of the other half of the nation? No! Had Bernie Sanders been the Democratic nominee and lagged far behind in the polls and pulled out a win, do you imagine for a moment we would have seen similar headlines the day after the election? Indeed not.

Therein lies the problem. Writer Michael Cieply, who worked for the New York Times, published an interesting story, which quoted Dean Baquet, executive editor of the Times, as slowly realizing "that New York is not the real world." Cieply also quoted Times public editor Liz Spayd as saying, "As the Times begins a period of self - reflection, I hope its editors will

think hard about the half of America the paper seldom covers." Cieply recalled being shocked when told the Times editors solemnly described "the paper's daily Page One meeting" as "We set the agenda for the country in that room." Cieply had been stunned to realize working at the New York Times reporters were expected to "match stories with what internally was often called 'the narrative.'" Cieply admitted reporters were frequently expected to detail a year's worth of stories to fit that particular "narrative" set by the editors.

Most folks have realized there is such a thing as journalistic bigotry, which seeps into what is supposed to be news. Quite obviously, Trump's election did not fit the narrative of the mainstream media.

The territory between New York City and Los Angeles is vast and used to be referred to as the "Heartland of

America." Michael Cieply remembered, "I couldn't even find a copy of the Times on a stop in college town Durham, N. C. To believe the national agenda was being set in a conference room in a headquarters on Manhattan's Times Square required a very special mind-set indeed."

Yet the mind-set of the New York Times editors was shared by a great many others in the mainstream media, whose reportage was less news than narrative. Too many reporters are less journalists than part of whatever story they are peddling or writing. There has been little attempt on the part of journalists to understand the other half of America, except to denounce them as ill-educated, racist, deplorables or homophobes. While Obama worried about who could use which bathroom, Donald Trump talked about jobs and the economy. Those living in the heartland stared at

vacant factories and boarded up buildings along main streets, as Obama and the mainstream media cried we must lift up the least of us, forgetting entirely about the folks who have traditionally worked hard to pay their bills and make a decent life for their families. Those forgotten folks represent one half of America and they voted, much to the surprise of many millennials.

Quite a few of those millennials are used to having their feelings considered and their dismay over the election of Donald Trump is understandable in light of a society that pushes the notion there are no winners or losers. These millennials received their participation trophies, where there are no winners or losers, and are now taking to the streets to share their poor little hurt feelings because they lost. It is a hard reality for many of them, at least half of whom are underemployed or still dependent upon their

parents. In a country where "diversity" and feelings are more important than achievement, it is easy to understand the disappointment of millennials. School systems catering to that point of view have ill prepared students to succeed and it remains far easier to fail than succeed.

Now the media is blaming the voters. To vote for Trump one must be sexist, racist, stupid, ad nauseum. It seems unlikely the press is going to regain its credibility by hectoring one half of the electorate. Perhaps the mainstream media would do better to try and understand the values and concerns of that half of the electorate, which by and large, are those of good, hardworking people who want the best for their families and country.

If not, let me paraphrase Barack Obama: you lost, get over it.

Second Open Letter to Knox Countians

While thousands of Knoxville mourn that our beloved Vols have fallen from the national football rankings, we can celebrate that our local school system is continuing to make progress in our quest to be the "best in the South." Our graduation rate has risen to over 90%, and just last month, the Governor came to Mt. Olive Elementary to announce Tennessee's spectacular growth on the science portion of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

When I became Interim Superintendent nearly five months ago, I wrote my first "open letter" to the community outlining our plans and priorities for the summer and fall. We have made good progress thus far with significant improvements in transportation, communications and human resources. I promised you a second letter after our new Board Members were sworn-in and acclimated. This is that letter.

First, I am pleased to report that the "new" School Board ratified the four priorities we had already identified for the year:

1. Reading - Too many 3rd graders aren't reading on grade level. Meeting this challenge is priority one.
2. College and Career

Readiness - Too many high school seniors are scoring below the ACT benchmarks. This, too, must change.

3. Individualized Learning - With or without one-to-one technology (i.e. an electronic device in each child's hand), we are committed to personalizing learning for each and every student. This includes such innovative multiple pathways to success as our Career Magnet Academy, International Baccalaureate Program, L&N Stem Academy, Paul Kelly Academy and Accessing Community Employment (ACE) with the Great Schools Partnership, which helps students with disabilities build promising pathways to social and financial independence.

4. Elimination of Educational Disparities Based on Economic Status, Race and Disabilities - Implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports in more than 30 schools has dramatically reduced our number of suspensions and expulsions. The employment of a new ombudsman will also give parents much needed assistance and support as they navigate our large - and sometimes intimidating - bureaucracy on behalf of their child.

The Board of Education - at

its October retreat - added one additional priority to the list. We want Knox County Schools to be an "employer of choice." We want Knoxville to be more than the Southern city young parents choose because they want to send their children to school here. We also want Knoxville to be more than the place where businesses locate because we have the best work force. We want teachers to choose Knoxville because it's the best place to teach! Already, we are working to make that dream a reality. First, we are asking the state to let us customize our teacher evaluation system to better fit our local needs. We believe we can create an evaluation system that is even more aligned with good teaching and will also produce the buy-in that is critical to the success of any system of evaluation regardless of its merits. Second, we will work with our Governor, Mayor and County Commission to try to shepherd the resources to give our teachers a 4% pay raise next year. We must not falter in our commitment to make Tennessee the fastest growing state in the nation when it comes to teacher pay and Knox County one of the 20 top-paying systems in the state.

Finally, there is the search process for Knox County's next Superintendent. Community input has been solicited and received in a variety of venues and formats including town-hall meetings, emails, letters and online comments. The Board will continue soliciting that input. At the same time, a three-person search committee has

been appointed to design and oversee the actual search process. The committee is made up of Board Members Susan Horn, Tony Norman and Amber Roundtree, who will serve as Chair.

It is an exciting time for education in Knox County as both our community and our state continue our upward climb to the top. While some

Tennessee towns have become famous for barbecue and the blues or country music, it is my hope that Knoxville will become famous for something that matters more. Let's make Knoxville famous for schools.

Gladly,
 Buzz Thomas
 Interim Superintendent

School system policies under review

Cont. from page 1

"the word approval" would mean he must get approval "before I can do it."

"We should be aware of major changes," Owen said.

He noted that his contract as interim superintendent is his authority and explained several changes he's made including having the Human Resources and Finance Department report directly to him and taking Community Relations into the Communication Department.

"If you all think I'm screwing up you can give me one month's salary and fire me," he said.

Hill asked Owen if "your rub is the board didn't

approve it" speaking of Thomas and his reorganization of the staff. Hill then said there was "An elephant in the room" and added "This is a different time; we're not where we were the last eight years."

"This is about what's going on right now," Owen replied.

"Changes go on and we hear about them in the paper," said Norman, adding, "We should be considered in it, somehow to be informed and get into the loop."

Thomas said he's trying to be more transparent and noted an open letter he sent to the board members and the public, adding that as a result he "came

through with some good hires." The discussion was tabled and should be discussed at the next Policy meeting.

The board also briefly discussed the qualifications of a full time superintendent and Thomas suggested the board "tweak it" before hiring anyone. The policy change might include requiring more than a Bachelor's Degree, which is the minimum degree required by the state. It could also require teaching and administrative experience.

Also reviewed were the policies dealing with students who threaten or hint of suicide, bomb threats, and the credit recovery policy.

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What is Astrology?



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When I was a teenager I lived with my grandmother for nine years and I could have sworn she was a religious "fanatic". Now that I'm older, I realize that was a misnomer. She wasn't fanat-

ical just firm in her beliefs.

Except when it came to astrology. The first of every month I would have to walk to the corner drugstore and get an astrology magazine for her. She read it daily and adhered to it in various ways. For instance:

She started selling Avon to earn a little spending money. I would deliver the books then friends and neighbors would call and give her their orders. Then who would deliver their orders? Yes, me. (Does this sound familiar?) I should mention here that she was handicapped in a wheelchair. Before taking orders however, the astrology magazine was consulted. If it said something on the order of "not a good business day", then there was no Avon selling that day.

The dictionary says astrology is the study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world. Put simply, astrology is the study of the correlation between the astronomical position of the planets and events on earth. For centuries, humans have looked to the heavens for guidance. In fact, it goes back to Biblical times. Many of the Old Testament characters consulted their astrologists.

If that didn't sound very simple to you, it didn't to me either. So out of curiosity I read the daily horoscope in the paper. Sometimes I do see a correlation between my life and the little innuendoes that are paraphrased in their daily observations but I don't let it disturb me or make me break from my daily routine.

One day I read that I was being anxiously "obsessive" about something. This gave me food for thought. What could it be? Finally, after considerable thought, I realized I'm only obsessive about reading and writing. And that's a good obsession, right? I hope so.

Thought for the day: No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new heaven to the human spirit. Helen Keller

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

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Why is the city's newest park called "Suttree?"

The ribbon cutting at Suttree Landing Park and Waterfront Drive Wednesday across the river from downtown opened the first city-built park in twelve years. The 8-acre park has festival lawns, a playground, a put-in for kayakers, river overlooks with picnic tables and a public Riverwalk.

The new Waterfront Drive, almost 3,000 feet long, is a two-lane route and includes sidewalks, trees and landscaping. The park and the drive were built for \$6.6 million.

The park, at 901 Langford Avenue, also has parking and is served by a KAT bus route at Sevier Avenue and Dixie Street. Mayor Madeline Rogero and several others spoke at the ribbon cutting and noted that more than \$160 million has been committed in the South Waterfront commercial corridor along Blount, Sevier and Island Home area.

Rogero praised the Redevelopment Department, Parks and Recreation and Engineering staff for their work on a project that started many years ago but only was realized



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Knoxville Poet Laureate R. B. Morris reads from "Suttree" the 1979 novel by Cormac McCarthy during the ribbon cutting ceremony opening Suttree Landing Park, the first new park built by the city in 12 years.

now. She also thanked the city's contractors, past city officials, and the neighborhood associations for their promotion of the concept.

But why name the park "Suttree?"

Cornelius Suttree is a character in the first novel written by Knoxville's Cormac McCarthy. Set in 1951 Knoxville the book follows the life of a man who gave up his wealth and became a fisherman on the Tennessee River. The light-hearted novel features Suttree's misadventures along the edges of local society. He lives

on a houseboat after leaving his wife and son and abandoning his wealthy father.

Suttree interplays with the misfits he encounters at a work camp, a prostitute girlfriend, and other characters. When a black friend is killed in a fight with police, Suttree leaves Knoxville in search of a happier life.

McCarthy is said to have

drawn from his own life for the novel, his first in a series of successful books. The son of a wealthy family, his father relocated them from Rhode Island to Knoxville. McCarthy attended Knoxville Catholic High School and the University of Tennessee, where he dropped out to pursue his writing. He married and abandoned his father's household, renting a cottage in the foothills of the Smokies with no water or heat.

His marriage fell apart and his wife took the child and moved to Wyoming.

It is said that McCarthy's boyhood friend, Jim Long, was used as the model for the character of J-Bone in his Suttree novel.

Rumors of McCarthy's death last year circulated on the internet but were not true.

Other books by McCarthy include "The Orchard Keeper," "No Country for Old Men," "All the Pretty Horses" and "The Crossing" among others. Plays by McCarthy include "The Counsellor," "The Stone Mason" and "The Sunset Limited."

Thanksgiving comes once in a year,
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Our Neighborhoods

Along the Third Creek Greenway

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Are you into walking, running, strolling, dog walking and especially urban biking? If you are looking for a route off the streets and into the narrow wilderness in Knoxville than you may find Third Creek Greenway a perfect fit.

Stretching more than four miles from Bearden to the Neyland Greenway and intersecting Tyson Park and the Sequoyah Greenway, Third Creek Greenway is paved and accessible from several places. One of the most common entrances is on Sutherland Avenue where there's a small parking lot.

If users choose to use the Sutherland Avenue entrance they might also notice, along that street, that Sutherland is coming alive with new businesses from Marble City to Pond Gap.

From there the greenway

heads south and intersects with a connection to the Bearden Greenway, passes under an impressive railroad tunnel and then heads east along the creek, skirting the back of many Kingston Pike homes and churches. Should a person turn right at the Bearden Greenway the route leads you to the shopping center that houses Fresh Market and the new Everly Brothers Pocket Park along Forest Park Boulevard, the western entrance to Third Creek Greenway.

Here and there along Third Creek are concrete monuments to those people and groups that contributed to the establishment and maintenance there. The section was the first greenway route developed by the City of Knoxville under the late former mayor Kyle Testerman in 1973.

In May of 2015 a woman

was attacked and killed along the way in the evening. Police patrols were beefed up following the incident. Most of the walkers, runners and bikers use the greenway during the day and especially on the weekends. It is not unusual to see couples biking together, parents pushing strollers and runners and walkers. There are occasional benches and lots of trees, river cane and small wildlife.

Third Creek begins north of Merchant Drive near Clinton Highway and meanders south until it enters the Tennessee River. It passes through various neighborhoods before the Sutherland Avenue entrance to the greenway.

If you move along the greenway going east the route will pass through Tyson Park with its many recreational activities, a picnic shelter and a restroom. Third Creek

Greenway has a few easy hills and, for the most part, is level as it follows the stream.

Access to the greenway, aside from Bearden, is also available at Tyson Park, Concord Street and the Laurel Church of Christ on Kingston Pike. The greenway is part of the city's Cross Knoxville Race from Haley Heritage Square in East Knoxville to Bearden Elementary School in West Knoxville and is part of an interconnected greenway system of 18 miles.

Restoration of the Third Creek began in 2006 under Mayor Bill Haslam. Trees were planted and erosion protection and some stream rerouting were established. Mayor Madeline Rogero's administration revisited some restoration in 2015 near Neyland Drive.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

All forms of cycles use the Third Creek Greenway including one woman who used her unicycle to traverse the much used path, Knoxville's first city greenway.

Seymour Library hosts Nan Klee for author book signing

The Seymour Branch Library of the Sevier County Public Library System is hosting a book signing for local author, Nan Klee on November 29 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. In late July of 2016, Ms. Klee released her science fiction/romance novel, "DreaganStar," the first in the DreaganStar trilogy. The second novel in this saga, "DreaganThing," is scheduled for release on November 28, 2016.

Nan Klee has been an author since the age of seven years old. Currently, she has published short stories and a poem, along with the DreaganStar trilogy and her other published book, "Vinakti Duet" - also a science fiction/romance. Professionally, Nan Klee, a Navy veteran, has worked as technical writer and editor, teacher/trainer, journalist, and freelance writer. In her varied career, Klee was a flight simulation technician, and has taught computer sciences, office procedures, and college-level composition. She also teaches Shakespeare through Film seminars. In addition, Klee was director of the Naval Air Station Miramar, CA base chapel's choir in the 70s and 80s and later, Nan led a renaissance faire parade band for two years.

Meet Klee at the Seymour Branch Library, 137 W. Macon Lane, Seymour on November 29. Come and hear more about her life and this new and exciting book series. For more information about the DreaganStar trilogy, Vinakti Duet or about Nan Klee, visit nan@nanklee.com. For more information, call (865)573-0728.

MPC leadership will remain the same



BY MIKE STEELY.

The former Sevier Heights Baptist Church is becoming a mixed use property known as Baker Creek Bottoms. It may contain a hotel, apartments, a theater and a brewery.

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Despite growing split votes on developments and rezoning requests before the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, the leadership will remain the same.

The commissioners voted recently to keep Rebecca Longmire as chair and Janet Tocher as vice chair.

Aside from turning down a plan for a subdivision along Broome Road next to the historic Mars Hill Cemetery the commission voted to permit the use of a former Sevier Heights Baptist Church property on Sevier Heights Road and Wallace Drive. Tom Weiss asked that

Continue on page 2

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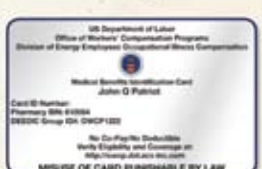
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Thankful for what I don't have



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

Yes, it's Thanksgiving time again. The world has spun around the sun and brought us once again to a day during which we count our blessings. We are supposed to pause for a moment to reflect upon the things for which we are grateful. This year, however, I've decided to list what I'm thankful NOT to have.

First off, I am immensely thankful that I no longer have the presidential election with which to keep up. You see, I'm a political junkie, and for the past two years I've had a daily fix of the lead stories from both sides. I rise early to view the latest news on "Good Morning Joe" and CNN. Now the election has been held, and a selection has been made. I'm now free to turn my attention and concern to much more important things, such as spending time with my wife, catching up on my reading, or raking and mowing mountains of fallen leaves.

Along the same lines, I'm thankful that I don't have to run this country. Why anyone would want to be the President of the United States is beyond me. The decisions to be made come in waves each and every day. It's a job where the person is

damned if he does and damned if he doesn't take a certain action. I have enough difficulty taking care of my life; being responsible for the well-being of millions more is too much. Look at presidents when they take office and then leave it. In a short time, they've aged far too quickly. Besides, the pay scale for the job isn't that grand.

I am thankful not to have to worry about my children's education. Lacey and Dallas have graduated from college and are established in their careers. I am glad that they aren't part of the public school system as it exists these days. The pressure on students to excel and make all A's is so intense. Many young people suffer from anxiety and depression over school and future admissions to colleges.

They also fret over the escalating cost of higher education and the mountains of debt with which they might graduate. My children worked to help with college expenses, and Amy and I paid for their studies toward a Bachelor's degree. I'm not sure we could do that today.

I am also glad that I do not teach in today's schools. I now substitute for teachers in high schools, and my sympathies are with them. The demands on them to meet each item on an evaluator's checklist many times keep them from being effective teachers. Sure, some teachers play the game, and then teach what they know students need. I would never achieve a passing evaluation grade these days.

I'm thankful that I no longer must work every day. At this point in life, I choose when I want to substitute. Most of the time, three days a week is plenty. The rest of the week is mine to complete "honey-do's" and other jobs around the house or on my computer. My stamina isn't enough so that I can put in a full work week, and I'm glad not to have to.

I am thankful not to have any serious health condition. Friends are now facing difficult times as they battle illness. Some family members slowly drift away from us as Alzheimer's takes them over. My life is filled with aches and pains in joints and muscles. I don't enjoy dealing with them, but they do serve as a reminder that I'm still alive and kicking, even if my pace is somewhat slower.

Last of all, I am thankful that I don't have hundreds of thousands of words trapped on the computer's hard drive. The Knoxville Focus has for several years allowed me to publish my thoughts and opinions and recollections and to share them with folks. Whether or not readers agree with me, I love to write and have them react. Writing is a supreme gift from God, and I am blessed to be able to have a forum for presenting them to the public.

I hope your Thanksgiving is filled with family and good food. Give thanks for your what you have and don't have. Blessings are bountiful in both areas.

MPC leadership will remain the same

Cont. from page 1

the R-1 zoning there be changed to GC, General Commercial, to repurpose the former church to possibly become a hotel, apartments, theater and/or a brewery.

Developer Tom Weiss said he has had "unusual cooperation" with the neighborhood. Initially about 100 local residents had voiced concern about the request.

Linda Rust of the South Haven Neighborhood Association said the 4.4-acre property is adjacent to the Urban Wildness and Baker

Creek Preserve and that she is "excited about restoring" the property.

She said the developer is respecting the needs of the neighborhood.

"This could be a model for developers and neighborhoods to work together," she said.

The MPC also approved an application from USA Compound to convert a former bank on Magnolia to become apartments aimed at housing Pellissippi College Students. The rezoning goes from C-3 Commercial to RP1, residential. It may house 10 to 12 apartments and the commission

had one restriction: the former bank sign must be taken down.

The MPC director noted that the rezoning doesn't limit the housing to only college students and Commissioner Mac Goodwin called the idea "the right kind of place" to blend into the proposed Magnolia Avenue revitalization.

The commission also approved the closing of an alley between 22nd Street and South 21st Street subject to a development plan review. Starboard Properties IV, LLC, made the request and told the MPC that the company owns the entire block and the closure will make room for an urban Target store and further development there.

Jason's Deli, located there, will be moved to another site in the complex. The idea is to create a "unique opportunity" in the Cumberland Form District and create a mixed use complex with restaurants, office and residential space.

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Senator Howard Baker PART SEVEN

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

There were those who believed Howard Baker's election to the United States Senate was an aberration; some believed Tennessee would return to its Democratic roots in the next election cycle. Yet Richard Nixon carried the Volunteer State in the 1968 presidential election. The Democratic nominee, Hubert Humphrey, had run a poor third that year while George Wallace was close on Nixon's heels.

Even more shocking to Democrats was the temporary loss of control in the Tennessee House of Representatives. There was worse to come. Bill Brock defeated Albert Gore for the U. S. Senate and Winfield Dunn beat John Jay Hooker to become the first GOP governor since Alf Taylor in 1920.

As 1972 dawned, many of the Democrats who had been popular with Tennesseans were gone. Governor Frank Clement had died in an automobile accident in 1969; Ross Bass had been defeated and became a lobbyist. Albert Gore had been retired by Bill Brock and Buford Ellington had left the governor's mansion in 1971. Ellington had little time left to live, dying while playing a round of golf in Florida on April 13, 1972.

A wide array of Democrats were eager to face Richard Nixon in the general election. The initial front-runner for the nomination was Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine, who had been Hubert Humphrey's running mate in 1968. Alabama governor George Wallace entered the primary contests and Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm of New York became the first black woman to become a presidential candidate. Senator George McGovern of South Dakota became the "peace" candidate and Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington, a legislator of real talent and ability, entered the race. Finally, the old warhorse of Democratic politics, Minnesota's Hubert Humphrey, was unable to constrain himself and sought the nomination yet again.

Muskie faltered in the New Hampshire primary, with McGovern running a strong second. George Wallace stunned the party establishment when he won every county in Florida. Wallace further shocked establishment Democrats when he ran just behind McGovern in the Wisconsin primary. Wallace won the Michigan primary with more than 50% of the vote and was campaigning hard in Maryland when he was felled by a gunman and left paralyzed.

George McGovern emerged as the Democratic nominee and it was a foregone conclusion he would lose Tennessee badly. Still, Democrats in the Volunteer State thought Senator Howard Baker might be

vulnerable. Redistricting had eliminated one congressional seat and Congressman Ray Blanton had been eyeing Baker's Senate seat for at least two years.

Blanton was a rural Democrat from West Tennessee and had topped long-time incumbent Tom Murray in 1966. Ray Blanton was known less for his legislative achievements than his modish wardrobe. Blanton believed if he could hold down the vote for Baker in East Tennessee, he would win overwhelmingly in traditionally Democratic Middle Tennessee and carry his own native West Tennessee for a victory in the general election.

Congressman Blanton was moving around the state well before officially announcing his candidacy. Speaking in Waverly, Tennessee before a gathering of the Humphreys County Livestock Association, the congressman said he believed farmers were treated poorly, both by the public and the government. Blanton claimed farmers had been "subsidizing every American consumer's living expenses for years."

While Congressman Blanton was in West Tennessee, Senator Baker was addressing McMinn County Republicans at their annual Lincoln Day Dinner gathering. Baker predicted President Nixon would carry Tennessee in the fall, but warned, "Voters who have thrown off the shackles of one party rule quite rightly will not swear blind allegiance to either party."

Blanton finally made his candidacy official when he hosted a fish fry in Shiloh, Tennessee on April 13, 1972. Blanton's announcement was a departure from the norm as most candidates had begun statewide candidacies by announcing in Nashville and touring the state for the widest possible media coverage. Congressman Blanton had kicked off every campaign by hosting a fish fry and his 1972 Senate bid was no different. Blanton opted to announce in a rural, West Tennessee location to broaden his appeal to rural and conservative Democrats.

Ray Blanton made a twenty-minute speech to declare himself a candidate and began by saying, "I'm not running against Howard Baker, I'm running for those Tennesseans who have no voice in the United States Senate."

"For the first time in decades, the majority of Tennessee Democrats and Independents have no representative in the United States Senate," Blanton claimed. "For the first time since the Civil War, both United States senators come from and reflect the views of one geographic area of our state."

Ray Blanton tried a populist message, lumping Republican senators Howard Baker and Bill Brock together.



Senator Howard Baker (right) with Special Watergate Committee Counsel Fred Thompson

The congressman felt sure "that the wealthy candy company executive (Brock) and the wealthy banker-lawyer (Baker) can or even want to articulate the views and needs of a majority of our people."

Congressman Blanton said, "Their record and reputation indicate they prefer to parrot the traditional special interests philosophy of an elitist party."

Blanton admitted he faced a daunting task in "seeking the Democratic nomination of a badly divided party" but felt he was the one candidate who could "unite the party."

Howard Baker's own announcement that he would seek a second six-year term in the United States Senate came on May 19 in Nashville. Newsmen were invited to attend a reception sponsored by the senator the night before his announcement. Baker's reelection announcement was held at the King of the Road Motor Inn, which had been built by singer/songwriter Roger Miller.

Senator Baker faced no serious opposition in the Republican primary while Blanton faced several minor candidates. Congressman Blanton was careful not to ruffle the feathers of his opponents in the primary, knowing his only chance of victory in the fall would be to enter the general election with a revitalized and united Democratic Party.

Howard Baker continued performing his duties in the Senate, all the while moving around Tennessee. Baker joined Congressman Jimmy Quillen in late May in Johnson City where both spoke to the Washington County Young Republicans. The genial Baker merely grinned and shrugged off charges he was a "rubber stamp" for the Nixon administration. During the course of his remarks, Senator Baker admitted he favored the most of President Nixon's program, but stressed there where those areas where he disagreed with the administration.

One of Blanton's opponents, Raymond Gibbs, put on heavy hiking boots and proposed to walk from Memphis to Bristol, a tactic employed with much more success by Lamar Alexander six years later. Gibbs bragged he would "blow Blanton right out of the state and go on to beat Senator Howard Baker."

While attending the Republican National Convention in Miami, Senator Baker pointed out Tennessee was one of only seven states in the nation

with a Republican governor and two GOP U. S. senators.

The August primaries indicated the relative strengths of the senatorial candidates. Howard Baker's lone opponent in the Republican primary, Maryville attorney Hubert Patty, won 3% of the vote. Baker won 242,373 votes to a mere 7,581 votes for Patty.

Blanton took just over 76% of the vote against his four opponents and actually outpolled Baker with 292,249 votes. Still, the fact that Senator Baker had tallied the highest primary vote ever given a Republican in Tennessee did not bode well for Congressman Blanton. The primary election saw the rise of a new face in Tennessee politics when twenty-eight year old Bob Clement upset long-time incumbent Hammond Fowler in the Democratic primary.

Referring to Democratic presidential nominee, Senator Baker quipped, "I would rather run with my president than his."

George McGovern would indeed prove to be a heavy burden for Ray Blanton to carry in Tennessee. Congressman Blanton immediately tried to disassociate himself from his party's nominee. "I don't ride on anybody's coattails," Blanton snarled as he claimed victory. "I'll run my own campaign - - - and I'm certainly no rubber stamp for Nixon."

Ray Blanton grudgingly said he would cast his own ballot for McGovern, as he was a Democrat and always supported the ticket, but that was as far as he would go. The defection of prominent Democrats in Tennessee had already begun with the popular Mayor of Nashville, Beverly Briley, who had become vice chair of Democrats for Nixon.

Even Tennessee's "Mr. Democrat" Herbert S. "Hub" Walters, who had served in the U. S. Senate by appointment of Governor Frank Clement, was rumored to be a Democrat for Nixon. A wealthy contractor, banker, and businessman, one of Walters' nephews was openly for Howard Baker.

By September even the most optimistic Democrat realized George McGovern's cause was hopeless in Tennessee. Volunteer State Democrats began to urge voters to split their tickets; they could vote for President Nixon while voting for Democrats for state and local offices. The Blanton campaign sent out a brochure headlined "All You Wanted To Know About Senator Howard Baker But

Were Afraid To Ask." The Blanton campaign tried to tie Senator Baker to the busing of students in Nashville. Baker had sponsored the appointment of federal judge L. Clure Morton, who had ordered the busing of Nashville students.

Howard Baker's campaign received a boost when Vice President Spiro Agnew made a campaign swing through Tennessee. In Chattanooga on September 21. Agnew, an obscure governor of Maryland when lifted into the national limelight by Richard Nixon in 1968, had become the bane of liberals and the hero of conservatives. Agnew hit George McGovern hard, noting the South Dakota senator's "compassion" for the North Vietnamese people.

"Now I would like to ask," Spiro Agnew thundered, "why he doesn't have the same compassion for the hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who have been ruthlessly exterminated by the North Vietnamese."

The vice president told his audience he would shed no tears for the North Vietnamese who were guilty of "premeditated murder by a scheming and ruthless nation whose goal was to conquer another country."

While speaking in Nashville at the Grand Ol' Opry, Agnew went after Ray Blanton for trying to blame the senator for busing students. Agnew noted Republicans had opposed busing "in every way they can." Calling Blanton by name, Agnew said, "This administration is for quality education. But there is no relationship between busing and equal opportunity."

Photographs of a beaming Spiro Agnew lifting Howard Baker's hand into the air appeared in virtually every newspaper in Tennessee.

Blanton announced some endorsements of his own; Tennessee Secretary of State Joe C. Carr, House Speaker Jim McKinney, Lieutenant Governor John Wilder, State Comptroller William Snodgrass, and House Caucus Leader Ned McWherter were all party regulars and backing the congressman in his bid to unseat Howard Baker. One can easily imagine which endorsement received the most attention from the news media.

Ray Blanton's attempt to tie Baker to the busing of Nashville students was further undermined when the senator abandoned his campaigning in Davidson County to return to Washington, D. C. while the Senate was considering a

busing bill.

Well into October, Congressman Blanton maintained Senator Baker was in trouble. When queried by a reporter as to just exactly how his campaign was going, Blanton replied, "We are ahead - - - even or ahead." Blanton insisted he would run far better than expected in the heavily Republican First and Second Congressional districts and estimated he would fare better still in the Third Congressional district. One skeptical newsman pointed out the congressman had barely bothered to campaign in East Tennessee since the August primary, Blanton had little choice but to admit it was true. The congressman said he had visited East Tennessee many times over the years and muttered a vague statement about East Tennesseans "have long memories."

While speaking to a group of Democrats in Kingsport, Blanton complained about "the shallow rhetoric of empty promises made by Baker in 1966 when he was running against Governor Frank Clement."

Howard Baker announced he would finish his own campaign by touring the state by train. The Baker campaign did a masterful job of incorporating local high school bands to serenade audiences while the senator spoke from the rear platform. Senator Baker noted he had made his first trip to Washington, D. C. by train when he was ten years old.

Howard Baker's old-fashioned "whistle stop" tour of the state began on October 30 in Bristol and ended in Memphis on November 2. The "Senator Baker Special" was pulled by a ninety-year old steam engine named "Rosebud" owned by the Clinchfield Railroad.

The whistle stop tour was a stroke of genius as thousands of Tennesseans flocked to hear the senator speak. Howard Baker's own campaign believed the senator would be reelected by 175,000 votes. On Election Day, Senator Howard Baker swamped Ray Blanton, winning by 275,000 votes. Howard Baker carried all eight of Tennessee's Congressional districts.

Ray Blanton gave his assessment for his defeat, saying, "Our problem was simply McGovern and money."

Two years later, the people of Tennessee would hear from Ray Blanton yet again.

Thanksgiving in our hearts

It is the day set aside to feast with family and give thanks. Pilgrims, pumpkin pie, and a platter of turkey can easily be overshadowed by the upcoming festivities of Christmas. But, it is so important to take time



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

harvested and were joined by the Indians who brought wild meat of turkey and venison. On November 26, 1789, President George Washington declared a day of thanksgiving, also. In

Thursday of November as a national holiday--Thanksgiving Day--the day set aside for Americans to celebrate their "harvest" and give thanks.

This Thanksgiving, may you enjoy time together with your family. May you enjoy a table full of food and know that you are blessed. May we all remember on Thanksgiving Day and every day to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for food, family, and all good things that are ours. "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms." Psalm 95:2 (KJV) Happy Thanksgiving!

UPDATE: "Piddle Diddle, the Widdle Penguin, Goes to Hawaii" is available at Barnes & Noble, 8029 Kingston Pike, Barnes & Noble and Amazon online, and www.majorbooksofjoy.com.



A little boy is having fun in the pumpkin patch on a beautiful November day.

from our hectic schedules and recognize the blessings from our Creator.

Our country has a lot to be thankful for. Our forefathers had much to be thankful for, too. As history lessons remind us, many colonists died during a brutal Massachusetts winter. Governor William Bradford declared the first thanksgiving day the next year on December 13, 1621. They celebrated for three days after a bountiful crop was

1863, President Lincoln declared the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving. With economics in mind, President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 declared Thanksgiving a week earlier to extend the shopping season! It is hard to imagine that even then, economics played such a vital role in our country. Today, the hours vary for many of the stores that open on Thanksgiving Day. Later, Congress officially declared the fourth

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PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

A-E boots Happy Valley, looks ahead to Marion County

By Steve Williams

Austin-East got a kick out of its state quarterfinal win Friday night.

Junior placekicker Eduard Hakizimana booted two short field goals in the Roadrunners' 20-13 win over Happy Valley in Class 2A playoff action at A-E.

"Our special teams field goal unit was huge for us," said Austin-East Coach Jeff Phillips via e-mail. "Who would have thought we make two field goals in a game that helps us win?"

Hakizimana has successfully kicked 100 percent of his field goals this season and was named Region 2-2A's special teams Player of the Year, said Phillips.

"Our defense played well, which was no surprise to me," added the A-E coach. "I knew we would come out playing better this week."

"It was a good playoff game. Hats off to Happy Valley. They had a great team."

A-E had given up 50 points in its 74-50 win over Hampton in the second round.

The Roadrunners will have a tough road assignment in the state semifinals

this Friday night.

"Marion County is the best team we have seen all year," said Phillips. "They have been the standard in the East two years in a row. So we know we have to bring our A game and that's what we want. We want to play the best teams."

MIDNIGHT MADNESS: Webb School's trip to Memphis to play St. George's in the Division II-A semifinals was a bit unusual in more ways than one.

The start of the game was delayed 90 minutes because of lightning and finally started at 9:30 Knoxville time, said Webb Coach David Meske.

The Spartans did win the game, which ended about midnight. The score? 69-48!

"It was a shootout," said Meske. "We were up 35-14, but they fought back to pull within 35-34 five minutes into the third quarter. They missed the extra point."

"I don't think we've ever scored 69 points or given up 48," said Meske.

"Their running back, Chase Hayden, who is the

Cont. on page 2



PHOTO BY JJ SPEARS.

Farragut wide receiver Braden Collins (23) eludes Ooltewah defender Rondarius Wash in the Admirals 56-49 overtime win Friday night. Collins had 12 catches including three touchdown receptions to help his team advance to the state semifinals.

Farragut wins in OT, will practice on Thanksgiving Day

By Ken Lay

When Tennessee high school football coaches begin preseason workouts on those hot days in mid-July, most tell their respective teams that they would like to still be practicing on Thanksgiving Day.

That's an opportunity that Farragut High School will get in 2016.

"We're going to practice on Thanksgiving Day," Admirals coach Eddie Courtney said after his squad nabbed an improbable 56-49 double-overtime victory over Ooltewah in the Class 5A Quarterfinals Friday night at Bill Clabo Field.

Farragut, which will play for a right to reach the Blue Cross Bowl this week, won

a quarterfinal game for the first time in more than two decades. The Admirals (12-1), who have won 10 consecutive games since losing to Oak Ridge just before Labor Day Weekend, last made the state semifinals in 1995.

And early Friday night, it looked as though that trend would continue as

the Owls quickly raced to a 21-0 lead when Cameron Turner scored on a 1-yard plunge with 10 minutes, 28 seconds remaining in the second quarter.

The Admirals would finally get on the board a short time later when senior quarterback Adam Fulton

Continued on page 2

Bobcats run past Fulton 20-6 and into state semifinals



PHOTO BY LEXIE GILLAND/FUL.COM

Jadarius Sackie, Central High senior running back, battles for yardage against a tough Fulton defense Friday night on Joel Helton Field. Sackie was a workhorse in the Bobcats' 20-6 Class 4A quarterfinal win in the Battle of Broadway Part II.

By Steve Williams

It's Central's turn to win a Class 4A state championship for Knoxville.

Catholic did it last season and Fulton the three years before that. Even Greeneville, just a little ways up the road in Region 1, captured the 4A title in 2010 and 2011.

Can the Bobcats keep the streak going? They are two wins away from hoisting the gold football after posting a 20-6 victory over Fulton Friday night at Dan Y. Boring Stadium. That was a fine way of thanking the Falcons for knocking out No. 1 ranked Catholic the week before.

Central therefore moves

on without having to face the Irishmen, who ripped the Bobcats 49-19 in Week 3 of the regular season. But that's how the pairings fell. Central avoided Catholic in the playoff bracket because it beat the Falcons 21-19 in their regular season meeting in Week 11.

The playoff rematch wasn't nearly as close.

Jadarius Sackie, 5-6, 220-pound senior running back, carried the ball 39 times for 191 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Central attack and the Bobcats' defense shut out Fulton after giving up a touchdown on the game's opening

possession.

Central (11-2) will play Marshall County (12-1) in the semifinals Friday night at Lewisburg. The Tigers earned their shot at the title game with a 53-13 win over Spring Hill. The Bobcats have won 10 in a row.

"They still don't respect us until we win the state," said Tony Reeves, senior wide receiver and defensive back who led the Bobcats' defense with seven solo stops, one assist and two pass deflections.

"Everyone in Knoxville thinks we're not that good until we win the state. And

Continued on page 3



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Bowden, Carter High product, off to a dreamy start as a Vol

It was great to see hometown Jordan Bowden make his first start as a Tennessee Volunteer and respond with a good shooting night on top of that last week against Appalachian State



By Steve Williams

at Thompson-Boling Arena.

The former Carter High star made a 3-point shot before the game was 10 seconds old and went on to hit four of eight treys as he scored 14 points in

his 22 minutes of play in a 103-94 win over the Mountaineers.

Bowden wasn't playing above the rim as he often did for the Hornets in high school. Instead he was playing on the wing and moved smoothly as he worked for open shots.

Continued on page 3

The Joshua Dobbs Legacy

By Alex Norman

I saw something on Twitter the other day that made me laugh out loud.

To summarize, the tweeter said that Tennessee quarterback Joshua Dobbs will not be remembered fondly by Vols fans because he never beat Alabama.

Let that hot take sink in for a moment.

Sure, Joshua Dobbs never beat Alabama. But you know what? Hardly anyone beats Alabama.

Dobbs won't be remembered like Heath Shuler or Peyton Manning or Casey Clausen or any of the other successful quarterbacks of the past quarter century. And that's fine. Because Dobbs will stand on his own in Tennessee history.

"The time flew by," said Dobbs. "It feels like I've been here a while, but it also feels like it has flown by. It has been enjoyable and I'm just trying to keep everything in perspective."

As the story goes, Dobbs was heading to Arizona State, but was convinced by then new Vols head coach Butch Jones to flip to Tennessee shortly before National Signing Day in 2013. He joined a quarterback stable that included Justin Worley, Nathan Peterson, and fellow freshman Riley Ferguson.

Dobbs and Ferguson were the future of the program. But in the middle of the 2013 season it became apparent that Dobbs was going to be the guy. Worley

was injured and Peterman was awful, so Dobbs came off the bench and gave up a possible red-shirt to play against Alabama. The Vols would finish the season 5-7 and miss a bowl game, but Dobbs showed some signs that he could be pretty good.

Ferguson would transfer following spring practice and in 2014 the pattern continued. Worley was injured and Peterman was not good. So once again the Vols called upon Dobbs and this time he led Tennessee to a bowl game, going 4-1 as a starter, including a memorable overtime victory at South Carolina and a TaxSlayer Bowl win over Iowa.

Peterman would then transfer to Pittsburgh (and he's good now!). The quarterback competition was over.

Despite taking a battering, Dobbs would start every game in 2015, leading the Vols to a 9-4 record, including the Vols first win over rival Georgia since 2009, and an Outback Bowl win over Northwestern.

And while there have been grumblings about how the highly anticipated 2016 season has gone, Dobbs was at his best in the Florida game, leading the Vols back from a 21 point deficit. He accounted for five touchdowns and 399 yards of total offense as Tennessee snapped an 11 game losing streak to arguably their most hated rivals. He

also had that memorable Hail Mary to beat Georgia.

Was Dobbs the most accurate passer in Tennessee history? No. But wins are what matters and considering the abyss that the Vols had been in when Dobbs arrived in Knoxville, a 21-11 career record as a starter (as of press time) is pretty darn good.

But off the field is where Dobbs' legacy is really cemented at Tennessee. Academically he is an Aerospace Engineering major. Whether he makes it to the NFL or not, his brain will take him far.

His friendship with an area youngster named AJ Cucksey, who has battled inoperable brain tumors, gave Tennessee some well needed PR at a time when so much negativity surrounded the program and the university.

Dobbs treats others with respect, and in today's world that really does mean something.

With over 8100 yards (and counting) in total offense, Dobbs will go down in the top 4 in Tennessee football history. His arm wasn't as strong as that of say Tyler Bray, but Bray's immaturity summed up the Derek Dooley era.

If Dobbs' maturity sums up the Butch Jones era, Tennessee will be a winner, whether they have an SEC championship on their mantle or not.

Farragut wins in OT, will practice on Thanksgiving Day

Cont. from page 1

connected with Braden Collins to make it 21-7.

Things went back and forth in the second stanza but Turner scored again with 24 seconds to play in the first half and the Owls (10-3) had a 35-14 lead and seemed to have the game firmly in hand.

Things got bleaker for Farragut in the third quarter when Ooltewah extended its advantage to 42-14 less than three minutes into the frame.

But then things got crazy as the Admirals rallied to tie the game.

Fulton threw two more touchdown passes to Collins to pull the home team to 42-28. Fulton's third TD pass with 2.9 seconds left in the stanza covered 20 yards.

Amon Johnson's 5-yard touchdown plunge made it 42-35 with 9:12 remaining in regulation.

The Admirals would pull even when Fulton connected with Jacob Warren on a 9-yard scoring strike with 1:05 left in the fourth quarter.

The Owls then drove to the 11-yard line where

Aleksander Toser missed a potential game-winning 28-yard field goal as time expired.

In the first overtime, Ooltewah struck first when Turner scored from two yards out to make it 49-42. Cooper Hardin answered and evened things with his own 2-yard touchdown plunge on Farragut's possession in the first OT.

Hardin then gave Farragut the lead as the Admirals had the ball first in the second extra frame.

Farragut would win the game when its defense stopped Turner at the 1-yard line on fourth down to end things and then the celebration was on.

Courtney was obviously elated after the game while Hardin rested on the field after his team notched its improbable win thanks to his overtime heroics.

"He's done this for us in the last three games," Courtney said of Hardin, who rushed for 168 yards and two scores on 24 carries. "I'm just so proud of these kids."

"I told them at halftime that we had two choices. We could either fight and

try to win this game or we could just roll over."

The longtime coach also noted that the latter choice wasn't really an option seeing what his team had accomplished this season.

"I knew that we weren't that team," Courtney said.

They weren't.

Fulton threw a pair of early interceptions but bounced back he was 22-for-36 and threw four touchdown passes. He also amassed 288 passing yards. Collins caught three of his scoring strikes.

Collins had scoring receptions 35, 20 and 12 yards. He finished the game with 12 receptions for 167 yards. He also rushed for 70 yards when he carried on reverse plays.

Farragut will host South-Doyle Friday as Knoxville will be guaranteed one team in the State Title tilt.

The Admirals defeated the Cherokees (8-5) in the regular season. South-Doyle beat Morristown West 41-34. The Cherokees also defeated Gibbs in the post-season and avenged another previous loss.

A-E boots Happy Valley, looks ahead to Marion County

Cont. from page 1

son of former UT running back Aaron Hayden and a Mr. Football finalist, rushed for 300 yards."

Fullback Morgan Ernst scored six touchdowns to lead Webb.

The Spartans will have a week off before playing in the state finals against unbeaten Lausanne on Dec. 1 at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville.

HAVING A BALL: South-Doyle erased a 21-point first half deficit to beat Morristown West 41-34 and earn its first-ever state semifinal berth in Class 5A. Sophomore receiver Ton'Quez Ball led the way with three touchdowns, including a 47-yard catch of a tipped pass that put the Cherokees (8-5) ahead for good with just under five minutes to go.

South-Doyle, coming off a 0-10 season in 2015, will be trying to continue the remarkable turnaround at once-beaten Farragut this Friday night.

SALUTE TO SENIORS: Halls Coach JD Overton praised his

seniors after the Red Devils were eliminated by Morristown West in the second round 20-17.

"I'm very proud of our seniors and where they have taken this program and community," e-mailed Overton. "Words can't express how much they have impacted this program and community for years to come. We thank them and we love them."

UNFORGETTABLE YEAR: Brad Conley of Gibbs said he was proud of his his team for producing a season to remember after the Eagles lost to South-Doyle 34-11 in the second round.

"Winning Region 2-5A with an undefeated region record and winning the first-round playoff game is huge for our program," said Conley via e-mail. "I'm grateful to our seven seniors for their leadership - Hunter Bell, Demarcus Hight, Gabe Martin, Tanner Rhodes and captains H.T. Fortner, Eli Mikos and Dalton Rodgers."

PREPS OF THE PAST: Thirty years ago, on Nov. 21, 1986

Halls, a 15-point underdog, shocked top-ranked Rhea County 19-9 in the Class AAA quarterfinals before an estimated 20,000 fans at Neyland Stadium.

What was expected to be the Andy Kelly Show turned out to be the Jason Julian Show. Julian scored all 19 of the Red Devils' points on two touchdown runs, two field goals and an extra-point kick. He carried the ball 29 times for 196 yards and also intercepted a pass from his free safety post. Both teams came into the game 12-0.

On that same night, Austin-East's Leroy Thompson scored four touchdowns and rushed for 189 yards at Jasper as the Roadrunners pulled away from Marion County 32-13 in a Class AA quarterfinal game.

With A-E leading only 13-7 in the third quarter, Thompson recovered a fumble at the MC 2 and cashed in the turnover with a TD run. Teammate Fred Lowery scored on an 11-yard run to make it 25-7 late in the quarter.

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Bobcats run past Fulton 20-6 and into state semifinals

Continued from page 1

we're going to prove them wrong."

Dorian Williamson scored on a 10-yard run to cap the Falcons' impressive start, an 85-yard, 12-play drive. Quarterback Xavier Malone, wrapped up by linebacker Xavier Washington, threw incomplete on a two-point try.

"We ran into a buzz saw after that," said Coach Rob Black, who saw Fulton's season end at 8-5. "We ran into a good football team that buckled down and made things hard on us. We weren't able to get anything going consistently after that first drive."

Sackie burst up the gut for gains of 11 and 10 yards on his first two carries - a sign of things to come for most of the game. But the Bobcats couldn't sustain their opening march after a sack by end Xavier Boatwright plus a penalty.

Jahvere Weste had a 20-yard run to the Fulton 37 to open Central's second series, but Boatwright sacked Trey Mitchell again and a holding penalty on the first play of the second quarter forced the Bobcats to settle for a 39-yard field goal by Eli Holbert.

Facing a fourth-and-17 at its 48, a fake punt by Fulton came up short and left Central with good field possession. The Bobcats cashed in with a 29-yard touchdown run by Sackie to go ahead 10-6 with 2:22 showing in the first half.

Mitchell rolled right and kept the ball for a key 16-yard gain at the start of the third quarter. Linebacker J'Coryan Anderson ended the Central threat by tackling Sackie for a six-yard loss and Holbert's 49-yard field goal attempt was short.

DaShaun McKinney hauled in two first down passes from Malone, but Sackie and

Weste stopped Williamson for no gain on third-and-2 and JaShaun Fenderson shanked a punt 18 yards.

Mitchell passed 16 yards to Louis McNair and scatback Michael Miburo scampered 16 yards to the Fulton 20. The Bobcats, however, had to settle for Holbert's 31-yard field goal, which glanced off the right upright and through for a 13-6 lead with 47 seconds to go in the third.

Fulton was still in the game when the fourth quarter began but couldn't get anything going on offense. Rondrow Peebles returned a punt to the Fulton 32 and Sackie carried the ball five out of six plays to put Central in the end zone. His sharp cut to the right produced a 3-yard TD run and made it 20-6 with 8:57 remaining.

The Falcons tried in vain to pass the ball to explosive Zack Dobson and had to punt

again.

Central put together four first downs and chewed up the clock. Holbert was wide on a 29-yard FG try. But only a minute remained.

Central Coach Bryson Rosser said his team has made its most improvement in the running game since the first of the season.

"We've been running the ball really well recently with Sackie and Weste and a couple of others," he pointed out. "Our guys up front are doing a heck of a job."

Rosser called his team's defensive performance "unbelievable. Our coaches did a great job of making adjustments."

Weste had six individual tackles, one assist and one pass breakup. Sophomore linebacker Marcus Johnson had five solo stops and one assist.

Bowden, Carter High product, off to a dreamy start as a Vol

Cont. from page 2

Coach Rick Barnes said after the game he started Bowden for offensive reasons. That's a good sign for Bowden early in his collegiate career. It means he has caught his coach's eye in practice.

Jordan also was a guest on the Vol Network's post-game show and sounded good as he spoke with Bob Kesling and Bert Bertelkamp.

"I always dreamed about coming to Tennessee," Bowden answered on the air. "But in my senior year in high school I really didn't know if I would end up here. Then I went the prep school route and got the offer and I took it.

"In prep school you go out against the best of the best every night. You've just got to be ready and there are a lot of scouts at every game, so I had a lot of exposure."

young man. I expect him to represent Tennessee well on and off the court in his college career and make Knoxville and Carter High proud.

SMOKIES AND CUBS: Doug Kirchhofer, Chief Executive Officer of the Tennessee Smokies and senior member of the club's management team, recently talked about his feelings in watching the Chicago Cubs, the Smokies' parent club, win their first World Series in 108 years.

"It really makes an exciting, historical sports event more personal because of 'knowing' so many of the players," texted Doug. "Unforgettable for all of us with the Smokies. It is extremely gratifying to be even a small part of a successful team effort."

Thirteen players on the Cubs' World Series roster were former Tennessee Smokies.

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS AT A GLANCE (Knoxville-area teams)

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| <p>SCORES (Friday, Nov. 18)</p> <p>QUARTERFINALS</p> <p>CLASS 6A Maryville 48, Blackman 28 Oakland 49, Hardin Valley Academy 7</p> <p>CLASS 5A South-Doyle 41, Morristown West 34 Farragut 56, Ooltewah 49 (2 OT)</p> <p>CLASS 4A Central 20, Fulton 6</p> <p>CLASS 3A Alcoa 17, Elizabethton 14</p> <p>CLASS 2A Austin-East 20, Happy Valley 13</p> <p>CLASS 1A Greenback 28, Coalfield 21</p> <p>SEMIFINALS</p> <p>DIVISION II-A Webb 69, St. George's 48</p> <p>SCHEDULE (All games start 7 p.m. local time) Friday, Nov. 25</p> <p>SEMIFINALS CLASS 6A Maryville (13-0) at Oakland (13-0)</p> | <p>CLASS 5A Cordova (12-1) at Whitehaven (13-0)</p> <p>CLASS 4A South-Doyle (8-5) at Farragut (12-1) Independence (13-0) at Brentwood (9-4)</p> <p>CLASS 3A Alcoa (12-1) at Sequatchie County (13-0) CPA (7-6) at Liberty Magnet (11-2)</p> <p>CLASS 2A Austin-East (12-1) at Marion County (12-1) Waverly (12-1) at Trezevant (8-5)</p> <p>CLASS 1A Greenback (13-0) at South Pittsburg (12-1) Wayne County (13-0) at Dresden (13-0)</p> <p>FINALS</p> <p>DIVISION II-A Thursday, Dec. 1 At Tennessee Tech (3 p.m. local time) Webb (11-1) vs. Lausanne (13-0)</p> |
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Lady Wolves continue building process with win over Cedar Bluff

By Ken Lay

For Coach Josh Ballard and the West Valley Middle School girls basketball team, the 2015-16 season is a building process. The Lady Wolves have wasted little time putting the foundation in place.

West Valley continued that season-long building process with a 38-7 Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference victory over Cedar Bluff at home Thursday night.

"For us, our biggest opponent is ourselves," Ballard said after his team outscored the Lady Giants 15-1 in the third quarter en route to recording a lopsided early-season league win over their longtime rivals. "Tonight, we were able to work on and use some of the things that we've been working on in practice.

"We're playing well and we've put a good foundation in place and now we can build a house. And we're going to build that house brick by brick."

Continue on page 4

Kesling asked Jordan what he felt his strength was at this point in his career and what he felt he needed to work on the most.

"I'm trying to get better at on-ball defense and trying to stay in front of the better players," replied Bowden. "The thing I think I'm good at is shooting the ball with the open shot and bringing energy to the team.

"We've got to be consistent defensively, get consecutive stops and don't relax on defense."

As cold weather finally arrived here locally, Jordan is in paradise this week for games in the Maui Invitational. The Vols, in fact, play Wisconsin in a game that will be televised this afternoon.

When Bob asked if this would be his first trip to Hawaii, Jordan laughed and you could hear the excitement in his voice as he answered "yes."

Bowden not only was a great and exciting player in high school, he was a good student and outstanding

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Freshman football player continues to battle cancer 'day by day'

By Steve Williams

The games are over, but Lane Lee's battle against cancer continues.

And so do the prayers, which are most important to the Lee family, including parents Ashley and John and younger brother Chase.

Lane Lee, 14-year-old Oliver Springs High School freshman, and his family were the beneficiary of proceeds from the fifth annual CAREacter Star Community Service Football Games played at Grace Christian Academy in early November.

A check for \$8,000 will be presented to the Lee family Wednesday either at their home or possibly at East Tennessee Children's Hospital, where Lane is a patient.

Lane started playing football as a "hopper" and only lost five games over the years, said his dad. Terry Hill coached him on the youth level and in middle school last year when he rushed for 993 yards as an eighth grader.

Lane had been told by Oliver Springs head coach Larry Green he would have a spot on the Bobcats' varsity team this season. Green had coached Lee in middle school before taking over the high school post in 2015.

But this past summer, Lee was not feeling well during workouts and told his mother, "There is something wrong in my body."

After several visits to the doctor, Lee went to ETCH for further tests and on July 12 was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, a rare form of childhood cancer. He spent 30 days at Children's

Hospital and completed 83 chemotherapy treatments.

Lee's parents and brother have been encouraged by the support from their community and are optimistic about the prognosis the doctors have given.

On Nov. 3, the opening night of CAREacter Star games, Lane's parents and brother were on hand at GCA to make the opening coin toss, while Lane was home and unable to attend.

"He's doing good," said Ashley that night. "He's not having a great day today. He goes back to the clinic tomorrow with possibility of being readmitted.

"It's day by day.

"His spirit's good. His friends help that."

Ashley said the Community Service Games are a "huge blessing" to the Lee family.

"We very much appreciate it. They reached out to us and asked us, 'Could they honor Lane?' We said yes, definitely."

Ashley added that it's good to know so many people care. "And it's good to know that everyone also is praying," she said.

Lane has been back at Children's Hospital since Nov. 4 and his mom updated his condition last Thursday (Nov. 17).

"Lane was moved into the ICU on Monday (Nov. 14) for pneumonia in his right lung," said Ashley via e-mail. "He was requiring more oxygen than the regular floor allowed. He was on 8 liters of oxygen Monday. However, he made a quick turnaround and required less oxygen (1.5 liters) and was able to return back to his regular room on the



Cancer fighter Lane Lee and family are beneficiary of this year's CAREacter Star Community Service Games. Mom says friends help keep Lane's spirit up.

second floor Tuesday. The doctors want to keep him in the hospital until his blood counts go into recovery. That could possibly be in over two weeks."

Lee earlier had been expected to undergo a bone marrow biopsy this month to determine whether a bone marrow transplant or stem cell treatments will be required to battle his cancer. The biopsy will not be scheduled until his blood counts go into recovery, said his mother.

Eight teams took part in the Community Service Games, including Sunbright, Union County, Cocke County, Seymour, Tellico Plains, Bledsoe County, York

Institute and Lane's Oliver Springs Bobcats.

Seymour junior quarterback Tyler Cooper said playing the extra game was "really special for our seniors especially. I think it was important to send the seniors, who've done so much for this program, off with a victory.

Cooper noted the extra game enabled running back Austin Brewster to break two school records, the Eagles to finish with back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 2006-07 and provided a "nice start" for next year's team, with 15 sophomores and freshmen, who got significant playing time this season, moving up.

"Although it was a reward to get to play that extra game, it was also an honor to get to play for such a worthy cause," added Cooper. "On Friday nights when the lights come on it seems those moments are the biggest in your life, but when you step back, you realize there's a lot of things in life that are so much bigger than football.

"I just feel blessed that I'm able to play this game and that we were able to use our talents to benefit someone who really needs it. From the Seymour football program all prayers go out to that young man and his family."

Lady Wolves continue building process with win

Cont. from page 3

The Lady Wolves (5-1 overall, 2-0 in the KCMSBC) opened a 7-2 lead by first quarter's end and methodically built out that advantage throughout the contest. They expanded their lead to 19-4 by halftime before really blowing things open with the huge third-quarter run.

And the victory left Ballard pleased.

"We did what we wanted to do tonight," he said. "We just have to get better at getting better."

So far so good. The Lady Wolves opened their league season by routing Halls at home on Monday, Nov. 14.

West Valley, the Lady Demons and Farragut, it seems, are always among the top teams in the KCMSBC and those three teams will again be in the fray.

Against the Lady Giants on Thursday, Zneyah McLaughlin had a game-high 14 points for the Lady Wolves and Cameron Carter added eight.

Jada Branner, Lydia Williams and Jakiah George each had two points for the Lady Giants, who dropped to 0-2 in league play.

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Inspect filters, belts & hoses • Inspect fuel delivery system
Other engine performance items additional • 12,000 mile, 12 month warranty, whichever comes first.
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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

The "New" American Revolution

I'm having trouble understanding the Trump "derangement syndrome." This syndrome seems to occur when a President other than a Democrat is elected. The syndrome was rampant during the Bush Presidency, manifesting as an unhinged reaction of liberal-progressive-Democrats to a Republican in office. Apparently, the same irrational panic, hatred and visceral emotions are again surfacing.

I can understand the media's apoplexy because they've been discovered and rendered irrelevant. They spent four months trying to destroy Trump and they couldn't, and now 70% of Americans say the media can't be trusted. Try getting 70% of Americans to agree on anything. The NY Times is the standard bearer of the media, and in desperation recently plead mea culpa and apologized to it's readers for

lying to them. But all the major media and most pollsters lied to America, and continue to do so. Their immediate soul searching will soon pass and they'll soon return to blaming stupid Americans for electing a Republican and their loss of power.

These same purveyors of the "big lie" now whine that Trump took his family out to dinner in NY and didn't tell them. They complain Trump doesn't let them fly on his airplane, and he hasn't held a press conference since the election. Hillary Clinton didn't hold a press conference for more than 260 days during her Presidential bid.

I feel sorry for those who were duped by the Grey Lady and other media propagandists. However, the hysteria is beyond: a CEO threatens to murder Trump on social media and loses his job; Cher says she's leaving the planet - she left long ago; anarchists

lead deranged millennials to destroy property and rant like three year olds in a tantrum; traumatized "snowflake" collegiates are given coloring books and Play-Doh to calm them; while counseling, hot coco and therapy dogs are made available to soothe their tears. I recommend these Peter Pans at campus cry-ins be introduced to Skeeter Davis' The End of the World, and then be given the counsel of Pat Summitt, "Toughen up buttercup."

I wish I could think about medicine again, but these are momentous times and the election is still on everyone's mind. There's even an online referendum demanding that on December 19, the College of Electors ignore the Constitution and vote for Hillary Clinton instead of Donald Trump. The argument is that Clinton won the popular vote and should be President. Perhaps she did garner more votes, but she lost the majority of states, and when illegals are finally tallied and excluded, she may have lost the popular vote. The Founders set up elections in the various states to give voice to ALL the people. Without the Electoral College, the President would be chosen by populous states like California, New York, and Texas. Candidates would ignore people in Tennessee, Wyoming

and Wisconsin because their votes would be largely irrelevant.

As a boy I was a big NY Yankees fan and I remember the 1960 World Series between the Yankees and the Pittsburgh Pirates. For many years I had a Bill Mazeroski baseball card showing his walk-off grand slam home run to win game seven. The series was unusual because the Yankees scored twice the number of runs as Pittsburg. However, the Pirates won four games out of seven and became World Champions. The Yankees didn't whine that the rules of baseball were unfair and must be changed to give them the Championship. My response to whining Democrats, who want the rules changed after the election, is change the Constitution. It has been changed twenty-seven times previously.

The word democracy comes from the ancient Greek words demos (people) and kratia (rule). The first democracy was in ancient Greece, but only men eighteen years and older could vote. Women had no suffrage and were treated as chattel - the same as they are treated in Muslim countries today with sharia law. And infanticide and slavery were accepted practices.

The Founders of our country were afraid of democracy because 51% could terrorize the

minority, as they often did in Ancient Greece. As a result our wise forefathers set up a representative republic, a system of government predicated on the rule of law. You begin to see why everything breaks down if the people or their leaders refuse to follow the law (the Constitution).

The alternative media and the internet are replacing the traditional "news" services who long ago sold their souls to the devil. These so-called "journalists" now beg forgiveness and ask us to again trust them. Trust is earned and they have not earned our trust. Most of us have heard the story The Devil and Daniel Webster. Did you know this 1934 story was based on Washington Irving's story The Devil and Tom Walker, which itself is based on the German legend of Faust? I believe in forgiveness because we have all fallen from grace. However, I don't believe even Daniel Webster could save the soul of traditional media.

We are in the midst of a "new American revolution." This is true of politics, but is also true of education. The internet is a powerful investigative and learning tool. It must not be controlled by the government, Google or FaceBook. Of course I believe in safeguards to protect children, but not at the expense of our

freedom. I highly recommend two educational videos for your reflection. Both are on YouTube.

The first is entitled The Five Basic Forms of Government. The second is under the heading Praeger University and discusses The Popular Vote vs. the Electoral College.

Of course the internet can present false facts. However, that's where your responsibility as a free citizen begins. All facts are conditional as I've discussed in previous essays. A compendium of facts is knowledge. Interpreting and using knowledge wisely is wisdom and may bring us to the doorway of truth. I trust Americans to use their common sense and virtue to sift and parse facts. I don't trust Obama, the New England Journal of Medicine or anyone else to tell me what is truth.

Someone needs to tell the snow-flakes it's not The End of the World. I believe in our Republic and the decency of Americans. I reject the monster of racist, homophobe and unChristian as alluded to by the folksy columnist at the News Sentinel. And if I'm labeled "deplorable" because I voted for Trump, then I'll stand next to my wife who IS a patriot and a plum of a deplorable.

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

The Grace of God as Motivation for Helping Others

"Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt" (Deut. 10:16-19).

Israel could relate to being poor immigrants in a foreign land



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

and of being slaves. Moses asks how they can then be so hard-hearted and tight-fisted toward others who were like them. They should be generous due to God's generosity for them. If someone truly grasps the grace of God in their own life, he or she will do justice. If you don't care about the needs of others, then you don't really understand the grace of God.

God's relationship with His people has always been based upon grace and forgiveness. When you have received

this, your life can't help but be changed. And, as they say, the proof is in the pudding. God says that those who fast and pray but still show pride and arrogance toward the poor and needy don't have a humble heart.

"Why have we fasted," they say, "and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?" Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for

people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" (Isaiah 58:3-7).

James points out that the ultimate proof you have a saving faith is the changed life you live

(James 2:14-17). If you see a need you can meet and don't do it, your faith is dead, according to James. Let's be clear. We are not saved by our good works, but for good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). Salvation is a free gift. Because of all God has given us, we in turn get to share the gospel, our lives and our blessings with others. It is the "love of neighbor" Jesus talked about that flows out of our love for God. When you realize Jesus gives you all you need and that your value and worth is not based on performance, you are then able to love others out of gratitude, not guilt.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beaver Ridge UMC

Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church would like to invite the Community to a free Thanksgiving Dinner! Church members are getting ready to cook, bake and whip up another wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner for you and your family and friends on Thanksgiving Day, November 24. Dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. No reservations needed. The gathering will take place in the Family Life Center. Carry-out meals will also be available. Don't cook or eat alone, come join the Beaver Ridge fellowship at 7753 Oak Ridge Hwy. in the Heart of Karns. For more information call the office:(865) 690-1060 or visit www.beaverridgeumc.org.

Happy Travelers Luncheon

Everyone is invited to the Happy Travelers

Thanksgiving Luncheon and Gathering on Tuesday, November 22 at North Acres Baptist Church. Music will be provided by Eternal Vision
 Call (865)254-8884 for information and reservations.

Mountain View Baptist Church

On Sunday, November 20, 2016, beginning at 11:00 a.m. "The Difference" singing group will perform and a Thanksgiving lunch will follow. Mountain View Baptist Church is located at 2974 Cecil Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917.

St. James Episcopal Church:

St. James Episcopal Church, 1101 N. Broadway, invites you to a Thanksgiving Day service with Holy Eucharist, Thursday, November 24, 2016, 10:00 a.m. For information, please see stjamesknox.org or call

(865)523-5687.

South Knoxville Senior Center Art Show

The South Knoxville Senior Center Art Class will be having an Art Show November 30 - December 2 at the senior center. Artists who meet each Wednesday will have their paintings on display from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. All pieces will be available for purchase. Berry's Funeral Home will sponsor an Open House on Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 8:30-10:30 to "kick-off" the show. Please come and support your local senior artists. Sandra Curtis is the Wednesday art class instructor. For more information, please call the center at 573-5843.

Southland Books Readings

Five Award Winning Poets and a Traveling Saleswoman Book Readings: Come for lunch and stay for readings on December 10, 1 p.m., Southland Books, 1505 E Broadway Ave, Maryville, TN 37804

Thanksgiving Tips from Knox County

Cont. from page 2

the holidays around the home and dinner table, and can sometimes be forgotten or inadvertently knocked over. Here are a couple candle safety tips to remember:

- Never leave any open flame candle, or fireplace, unattended.
- Consider using battery powered, flameless candles, which are realistic and safe.
- Remember to change your smoke detector batteries at least once a year. Pick a holiday or time of year, like Thanksgiving or daylight saving time, to replace the batteries. The entire smoke detector should be replaced every 10 years.
- More fire safety tips at <http://www.facebook.com/KCFPB>, <https://twitter.com/knoxTNfire> and <http://knoxcounty.org/fire/>
- During a burn ban,

Knox County Air Quality Management suggests avoiding the use of outdoor cooking methods that use open flame. For more information on the burn ban and air quality alerts, please visit: http://knoxcounty.org/health/air_quality.php

Waste Disposal

- Never pour oil or grease down the drain. This can cause costly problems for your home's plumbing and municipal sewers.
- Recycle used vegetable oil for free at six Knox County Convenience Center locations (NOT ACCEPTED AT CARTER) or the city's Household Hazardous Waste Facility:
- Dutchtown Convenience Center - 10618 Dutchtown Rd.
- Halls Convenience Center - 3608 Neal Dr.
- John Sevier Convenience Center - 1950 W.

Governor John Sevier Hwy

- Karns Convenience Center - 6930 Karns Crossing Lane
- Powell Convenience Center - 7311 Morton View Lane
- Tazewell Pike / Gibbs Convenience Center - 7201 Tazewell Pike
- Household Hazardous Waste Facility - 1033 Elm Street
- Waste vegetable oil must be in a closed, non-glass container.
- To avoid rodents and other pests around your trash, consider taking Thanksgiving Day food waste to one of Knox County's seven Solid Waste Convenience Centers.
- Centers are closed Thanksgiving Day, but will be open regular hours Friday, Nov. 25 and Saturday, Nov. 26.
- More information, including hours and locations, at http://knoxcounty.org/solid_waste

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ANTIQUE STORE CLOSING SALE

GATEHOUSE ANTIQUE MARKET CLOSING
 TENNESSEE VALLEY ANTIQUES is moving to Corner Antiques in Clinton. Everything in TVA booth 25% off at 620 Campbell Station Road, Knoxville. Toys, crocks, baskets, trains, marbles.

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 7440 OAK RIDGE HWY
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