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AREA ASSOCIATIONS PROMOTE COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Adam Major, Project Manager for Henry and Wallace who purchased Knoxville Center Mall last August, speaks to members of East Towne Business Alliance before conducting a tour of what will become East Towne Mall again. Major told the crowd that the owners are actively looking for new stores, medical and office renters and are considering creating a venue for children. The East Towne Business Alliance meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:45 a.m. at New Harvest Park.

Area business and professional organizations serve to connect and educate citizens in order to work together for growth and the future. Knox County has several such groups that work with each unique community.

The East Knoxville Business and Professional Association met recently at Pellissippi State Community College's Magnolia

Avenue Campus. Police Chief David Rausch was the featured speaker and told the group that although the Knoxville Police Department is ahead in all state statistics, it still needs community support to succeed in its mission. He remarked that in 2015 there were 330,000 police calls and in 2016 there were 250,000. The association will meet again

on Thursday, February 16 for breakfast at the Knoxville Chamber.

This week, the Fountain City BPA will meet Wednesday at noon at Central Baptist Church. Tim Petree will speak. On Friday, the North Knoxville BPA will meet at the Helen Ross McNabb Center at 7:45 a.m. Interim Superintendent Buzz Thomas will speak.

Local educator on short list for superintendent

By Pete Gawda

One local applicant is among the five finalists for Superintendent of Knox County Schools. At their meeting on Tuesday morning, January 31, the superintendent search committee whittled down the list of 24 applicants to five, all with impressive credentials.

One of the applicants, Bob Thomas, has over 40 years experience in public schools, all of it spent in Knox County. He is currently assistant superintendent. He also served as supervisor of personnel, personnel specialist, principal and assistant principal at Bearden High School and Junior High. Thomas was on each of the committee member's short list.

The committee has received several letters of recommendation for another candidate,

Susan Compton, who currently serves as superintendent of three districts in New Jersey. She had over 30 years experience in Kentucky public schools including eight years as superintendent of Russell Independent Schools. Compton has served as teacher, band director, principal, director of federal programs, director of instruction, assistant superintendent and school superintendent.

Applicant Stuart Greenberg spent 30 years with two school districts in Florida including 24 years with the sixth largest school district in the U.S., Broward County, Florida. He is currently Chief Academic Officer of Leon County (Florida) Public Schools. He also served as regional executive director and executive director for the Florida Department

Continued on page 3

MPC Schedules Public Meetings for One Year Plan Update

The Metropolitan Planning Commission has scheduled three meetings to gather public input for its annual update of the One Year Plan, a comprehensive development plan that covers the entire city and sets parameters for zoning decisions.

At these meetings, MPC staff will be present to discuss amendments occurring in the previous year, proposed amendments for newly annexed property, and proposed staff amendments for

2017. All meetings begin at 6 p.m. Meetings are specific to the MPC planning sectors.

Thursday, Feb. 9 - South Sector - Flenniken Landing, 115 Flenniken Avenue

Thursday, Feb. 16 - North, Central and East Sectors - New Harvest Community Building, 4775 New Harvest Lane

Monday, Feb. 27 - West and Northwest Sectors - Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 7234 Middlebrook Pike

Rogero announces grant to improve North Broadway traffic flow

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Anyone who travels North Broadway knows that the busy corridor is often a frustrating driving experience. Car, truck, bus and commercial vehicle traffic all seem to bottleneck in Fountain City. That's exactly where the city decided to hold a press conference Wednesday to announce federal and state funds being allotted to improvements.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, her staff, and many of city council members rode the bus from downtown to the press conference, held in the parking lot of Virginia College. They had to stand across Broadway for several

minutes before crossing. The little group of officials made it across just as the light changed and traffic resumed to whiz by

"We have the money and the plans," Rogero told about 20 media and public members over the roar of the traffic just behind her. She announced a new federal grant of \$6.4 million to improve traffic flow and transit experience on North Broadway between downtown and Fountain City.

She said the new grant will be managed by the city and the state TDOT department as the Accelerated Bus Corridor project.

Rogero said that the grant

Continued on page 2



Dawn Distler, Knoxville's Director of Transportation, speaks as Mayor Rogero and Councilmen Dan Brown and Finbarr Saunders look on. Distler said the new technology finance with federal and state funds will make the Broadway commute shorter and add bus shelters. Photo by Mike Steely.

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What's the Difference Between an LLC and a Corporation?

We all see business names listed all the time, and these business names often have either, "LLC," "Corp." or "Inc." written after the name of the business.



By Jedidiah McKeenan
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

What do those terms mean?

What's the difference between them? How did that company decide between one or the other? Just based on what sounded better with their company name?

Let's first discuss what those terms mean. The term "LLC" stands for "limited

liability company." The idea being that this kind of company provides owners liability protection against company debts i.e. the debts of the company are not debts that the owners have to

pay out of their own pockets. LLCs are a fairly new concept, having only been around since the 1970s.

The "Corp." designation is the abbreviation for a corporation. Similarly, "Inc." means that a business is, "incorporated." There is

no real difference between these two terms from a legal standpoint. An S Corporation is one type of incorporated business.

Now what are the differences between the two? The first big difference you see, but not always, between the two is that a corporation is a "big" business, while an LLC is a "small" business. Why is that? That's because LLCs are often companies which are owned and operated by the members of the LLC while a corporation is owned by shareholders, with the business being run by a board of directors or a manager. LLCs generally have less

formal reporting and management obligations, which often make them attractive to businesses run by only a handful of people. Further, if the LLC only has one owner, the LLC does not have to file a business tax return.

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. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

Rogero announces grant to improve North Broadway traffic flow

Cont. from page 1

will also permit new bus shelters, smart traffic lights, bus pull offs and track city buses so riders will know when the bus will arrive at their stop.

Jeff Branham, the City's Chief Traffic Engineer, told the gathering that the transit upgrades will help not only bus riders but citizens driving the route as well.

He said that North Broadway already exceeds the route's capacity by 130%

and noted that the grant comes because of the city's current investment in transit improvements. Rogero said that the city's \$2 million already committed to improvements combines with the grant to put more than \$8 million into the project.

Improvements along the Broadway corridor should be completed by early 2018 and Mayor Rogero said that she hopes it is finished by the time she leaves office.

Immigration order causes anxiety in the schools

By Pete Gawda

Immigration and school grades were topics of discussion at Monday's work session of the Knox County Board of Education.

In his report Interim Superintendent Buzz Thomas said the president's executive order banning immigrants from Muslim countries has caused concern in the school system. He said a Supreme Court decision stated that the schools are not concerned with an immigrant's status—school systems are only concerned that students live within the school system's boundaries. Thomas added that additional counselors have been provided at some schools to relieve the anxiety and that information has been sent to all the counselors. He suggested that politicians discuss the merits of the immigration ban while the school system keeps the students safe from anxiety.

On a happier note Thomas invited students and parents to attend Career Day February 16 at the Knoxville Expo Center.

Amber Rountree introduced a resolution in opposition to letter grades for schools. She stated that basically this type of rating system creates a false ideal. "Our students are more than a single letter grade," she said. "We need to be proactive. We do not think this is an accurate accountability system to show what our schools are about."

"What can we recommend in its place?" asked Gloria Deathridge.

Thomas thanked Rountree for proposing the resolution. "I think it is important

we speak in one voice," he asserted. He said Deathridge's question was a legitimate one.

"Our objection is not to being graded," he asserted. "Our objection is to reducing a school's performance to a single letter grade." He went on to say that a letter grade can't be the whole story about the school. "We don't give students just one grade, we grade them in multiple subjects." He suggested asking the state to use a different system.

Mike McMillan expressed concern that the current letter grade system is too complicated for the general public to understand.

Rountree agreed that an alternate system should be devised that the public can understand. She stated that in other states this system has not worked. She also suggested looking at how much money school districts spend per school.

"This system is heavily dependent on things we have decided are questionable at best" was the opinion of Tony Norman. "I think what we are doing with this resolution is consistent with what we have done before."

The resolution is scheduled to be voted on by the board at Wednesday's regular session.

Commenting on another matter Rountree said President Trump's nominee for Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, is the least qualified person that could be found. She said DeVos probably could not qualify as a substitute teacher in Knox County.

Board of Education adds second local person to short list for superintendent

By Pete Gawda

At their meeting on Wednesday evening the Knox County Board of Education added the name of Jon Rysewyk to the short list of applicants for superintendent. Rysewyk joins the list with fellow Knox Countian Bob Thomas and four other applicants that had been suggested by the superintendent selection committee.

Rysewyk is currently interim chief academic officer for Knox County Schools. He began his education career in 1999 as a teacher in Oliver Springs. In 2002 he came to Knox County Schools where he served as teacher and principal at Karns High School before he became supervisor of secondary education and executive director of innovation and school improvement for Knox County. From July 2014 through December 2016, he was the school director for Emerald Charter Schools.

Rysewyk was nominated

by board member Gloria Deathridge who felt that Tennessee applicants should be given first consideration.

The six applicants were to be notified the next day. They will submit video answers to interview questions and psychological testing questions by February 10. On February 21 the committee will meet to review the responses. Then on February 28 they will narrow the list down to 2 or 3 names to be presented to the board on March 1. On March 6 and 7 in-person interviews and public meetings will be held with each of the two or three finalists. The final selection could be made at a special called meeting on March 20.

Turning to other matters, the board approved a resolution proposed by Amber Rountree asking the state legislature to repeal legislation requiring a single letter grade for schools and to allow schools to use multiple measures alongside any summative designation.

Mike McMillan said he had no problem getting away from a single letter grade, however he expressed concern about the term "multiple measures." He feared it might be confusing to the general public.

Roundtree responded that the intent was not make information harder to understand. She felt a single grade would create a false impression.

Lynn Fugate, who was out of town on business and appeared via Skype, agreed that one letter grade was a bit much. However she would prefer to have conversations rather than a resolution.

Deathridge was not in agreement with the letter grade, either. However she felt the board should brainstorm to come up with alternatives.

The vote on the resolution was 8-1 with McMillan casting the only "no" vote.



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Publisher's Position

Change is on the Way, Part 2



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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Evidently the mainstream media learned not a blessed thing following the election of Donald Trump. The media is abuzz with varying headlines, barely bothering to hide their continuing bias,

impugning every choice Trump makes for his Cabinet. For instance, take the case of Congressman Tom Price of Georgia, slated to become the new Secretary of Health and Human Services. Headlines blare Price intends to dismantle Obamacare. What exactly is surprising about that? Trump campaigned long, hard and loudly saying he intended to dismantle Obamacare if he was elected. One would think President Trump would be expected to appoint an Obama acolyte to serve as HHS Secretary to preserve Obamacare. Of course nothing would suit the mainstream media better and naturally,

they would start to abuse Trump for not keeping his word. The media is howling about Trump's selection of Betsy DeVos to head the Education Department. Donald Trump wasn't elected to install someone anointed by the teachers' union. Democratic presidents almost always pick people for their Cabinets who have decades of experience in government; for the rare outsider, those same presidents find folks who are ready, willing and eager to spend the taxpayers' money. GOP presidents are more willing to go outside and choose experienced

businessmen to run government departments. The mainstream media naturally prefer presidents to choose from tax and spenders and advocates for growing the government ever larger, because that is what they believe. The media has attempted to dismiss or diminish Trump's accomplishment with the Carrier plant in Indiana. Van Jones, a CNN contributor, was quite frank while appearing on The View. "And I'm going to tell you something as a liberal, when those factories started closing, did the NAACP come help? Did Green Peace? Did the National Organization for Woman,

did any liberal group come? We as liberals can't be mad. We didn't ask them for a date. We didn't try to say come with me to dinner. So then Donald Trump shows up and takes them out and now we're mad." When reminded Nancy Pelosi had nonchalantly said there was no reason to worry that Donald Trump would be elected, Jones replied, "Arrogance and elitism, and I love Nancy Pelosi." The media still doesn't get it, or is simply trying to get its own way. What did they suppose Trump meant when he referred to draining the swamp? When Barack Obama was elected to succeed George

W. Bush, there was hardly a whimper of disapproval in the mainstream media lamenting Obama's intention to push back, dismantle or replace Bush's policies. That was, of course, about hope and change. They were quick to point out the Bush administration had been repudiated at the polls. Liberals can gnash their teeth, cover themselves in sackcloth and ashes and wail Hillary Clinton was a flawed candidate (which they certainly didn't think before she lost the election), but the truth is many Americans voted for Trump precisely to roll back the Obama agenda.

Residents express their frustration at rezoning meeting

By Pete Gawda

"Save our community school," and "We don't want our children bused long distances," were the themes of many speakers at the school rezoning meeting held Tuesday night at Vine Middle School. A large and emotional crowd in the school auditorium often broke into applause and shouted agreement with their neighbors' statements. This was the sixth and final meeting to receive public input on rezoning for the new middle schools at Hardin Valley and Gibbs. The new Gibbs school was

the focus of this meeting. In his opening remarks Interim Superintendent Buzz Thomas said he had heard a lot of rumors including the rumor that schools would be closed. "There are absolutely no plans to close our schools," he asserted. As at previous meetings, Russ Oaks, chief operating officer for the school system, explained the process of creating school zones. One speaker questioned the need to bus students from Vine to Gibbs when the actual enrollment at Vine is 349 and the capacity is 600.

"Why does it make sense to move children out of this district," asked one speaker, to a round of applause. He suggested moving other students to Vine to bring Vine closer to capacity. "We do not have an intent to move students from Vine," responded Oaks. Another speaker said that while Knox County preaches community schools, children are bused out of their community to go to other schools. "You are going to create segregation all over again," complained a speaker who grew up during segregation.

"We should not be as concerned with growth as with sustaining community," was the opinion of another speaker. "Students should be able to walk to school. If you have to bus students out of our community to fill a new school maybe you should build a smaller school. Don't destroy our school to make capacity for the new school" One speaker noted that geographic features make boundaries to school zoning. He said the Tennessee River looks like a boundary and kids in Vine community ride a bus across the river to South-

Doyle. He said Vine would be at capacity if the school zone were stretched to the geographic boundary of the river. "Bring our children back that you have already bused out," was the cry of a concerned citizen. "Build a bigger and better Vine before busing kids to Gibbs," one citizen suggested. When asked if the school system got money for busing inner city kids, Oaks replied in the negative. On a positive note one person urged everyone to pull together and to be proactive, not reactive.

"The problem is that for years you have heard us but not done anything about it," was the opinion of one speaker. "You took our comments and you are going on with your plans. We are not going to get the tail end of the stick. We are not going to allow this to continue." "Reassure us you will not bus our kids and build us a new school here," was the plea of another person. "We will give you a proposal before the end of the month," pledged Thomas "We are going to try to prove to you we did listen."

Local educator on short list for superintendent

Cont. from page 1

of Education and associate director for the Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University. Dale Lynch is currently the superintendent of schools in the Hamblen County, the school system in Morristown, where he has served since 2001. Prior to that he spent seven years in Elizabethon City School system as both assistant superintendent and superintendent. Before that he served in Washington County as an administrator, a middle school teacher and a high school teacher and coach. Duran Williams is currently employed by the Tennessee

Education Association. For the past 10 years he has served that organization as statewide membership/unified field services coordinator, assistant executive director and unified field services director. The previous 20 years he worked for Cocks County schools as literary coordinator, assistant

principal and principal. In his application cover letter he listed 15 basic priorities he would use to lead Knox County Schools. The five nominees were submitted to the entire board of education for approval at their regular meeting on February 1.



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How much is an attorney worth?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

No, that's not the beginning of a joke. The fact that the Knox County Pension and Retirement Board is paying two different law firms more than \$9,000 each month is not funny to some of the pension board members.

Having two different legal firms handling the Pension Board's business apparently dates back several years. Apparently the firms represent the board in different venues, one for litigation and one for the daily legal and tax functions. But the \$9,000 retainer for the firms doesn't include additional billings for unexpected telephone conferencing, outside conferences, research and legal drafts.

One firm invoiced the

Pension Board \$10,250 in January on top of the monthly retainer.

The law firm of State Senator Robert Overbey (Robertson and Overbey) gets \$4,000 a month on retainer and the Kimberly Montgomery and Finley law firm receives \$5,000 in retainer. During last month's Pension Board meeting two county commissioners who sit on the board questioned the expenditures and wondered why the Knox County Law Department couldn't handle the job without any money from the Pension Board's budget.

Deputy Knox County Law Director David Buuck spoke during the meeting and said that the Law Department is, in fact, the board's attorney and offered the services of

the law office. .

Board members and Knox County Commissioners Ed Brantley, Bob Thomas, Hugh Nystrom and John Schoonmaker quizzed representatives of the firms about how much each could do if only one represented the board after Schoonmaker and Brantley raised the question. The two, with Interim Chair Robin Moody, were reporting on their recommendation as members of the Legal Review committee and recommended Kimberly Montgomery and Finley.

Kim Bennett, Executive Director of Pensions and Retirement, was called on for her opinion and she lamented the possible loss of Robertson and Overbey, noting the firm "has been with me the whole time."

"If I'm going into a courtroom I want them on both sides of me," she said, adding this was the first time the board had asked for her opinion.

Finance Director Chris Caldwell, sitting in for Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, said that the board should spend about \$165,000 in legal fees throughout the year and asked "as food for thought" if each firm would consider \$65,000 annually in retainer with another \$40,000 be set aside for the director to use for unexpected legal fees.

He also suggested that the director meet with both firms to iron out "the scope of each firm." His motion went to a vote and was defeated.

Commissioner Brantley told the board the legal

representation couldn't be resolved during the meeting and suggested the board continue to operate with both attorney groups for the next six months.

"We've still got to do something to trim these costs, come hell or high water," said Commissioner Thomas.

Senator Overbey spoke briefly and told the board that his firm has "enjoyed working as your counsel for 17 years." He also said he has no problem working with the other firm on board matters.

Thomas said that when a new chair is elected a workshop to deal with the issue should be scheduled.

The board is in the process of changing and March may see the election of a new chair, vice chair and secretary. Past Chair Rick Trott

and Vice Chair Nick McBride are no longer members and McBride was honored briefly for his past service. A special called meeting earlier in January accepted McBride's resignation and elected Ms. Moody as the temporary chair person.

Ashley Huffaker, the school employee member, is leaving the board when her appointment expires on February 28th

Two new Pension Board members will be selected on a February 9 online election. One will be chosen from non-certified school employees and one from the Knox County-City Teachers Plan. Nine people have applied. Information on the election can be obtained from the Retirement Office at (865) 215-2323.

Willow Bay Gallery Reopens

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

You'll enjoy working with Lillian Williams at Willow Bay Gallery. This knowledgeable and talented woman certainly knows art and is proud to offer it to the public. Lillian, who owns Heritage Pools with her husband Bruce, has recently reopened her gallery.

Lillian designs and cuts the mats for each painting and Bruce makes the beautiful frames. The framed paintings by well-known area artists are featured in a beautiful showroom in her new location just to the rear of Heritage Pool Co. at 113 East Emory Road, just west of the new Kroger Market Place location.

The Willow Bay Gallery features prints and giclees by Sevierville artist Robert A. Tino.

"I will be featuring other local artists including Larry Burton of Townsend, Charlie Towle, and Rosemary Floyd who lives in Farragut," Lillian said.

"We have lived in Powell for over 40 years. My husband and I have had several successful businesses in Powell as well, including Heritage Pool Company, Heritage Pool Supply, Powell Roofing Company, Powell Insulation

Company, Willow Bay Gallery, we are part owners of Prestige Development of East Tennessee, Inc."

"I've been very active in the Powell Community and had served on several committees in the Powell Business and Professional Association. I was instrumental in acquiring a grant from the State of Tennessee for a beautification project on Emory Road and I-75. The work will be started soon and will be completed in the near future," she said.

"Since our retirement about six years ago we have decided to reopen Willow Bay Gallery. Bruce has always been a builder and developer and enjoys working with wood, which makes for a great frame builder. He makes our frames and I do the design work and assemble them which makes them ready for our customers to enjoy," she added.

Winter hours for the gallery are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. In April she said she'll probably stay open until 5 p.m.

You can call Lillian Williams at (865)938-0384 or drop by and pick the painting that you would love to have for yourself or for that someone special. Gift Certificates are available.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Willow Bay Gallery's owner, Lillian Williams, stands in front of several paintings by Smoky Mountain artist Robert A. Tino. The newly reopened gallery is located on Emory Road near the new Kroger Market Place and features works by various local and regional artists.

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A neighborhood watch may be the answer

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

During a recent neighborhood association meeting several homeowners reported a growing number of thefts and suspicious activity that appeared to be drug trafficking. The residents spoke with their neighborhood police liaison and then began talking of forming a neighborhood watch.

There is a smaller neighborhood watch in their area but it is restricted to a little portion of the community and the homeowners are now looking into forming a broader watch group to help secure homes and get homeowners in touch with each other.

The first thing to do in establishing a watch group is to contact the police or sheriff's department who can provide information, training, and even assign an officer to advise the watch group.

Then contact your neighbors. Go door to door if possible and ask

them if they are interested and get their signature, address, telephone number and information about number of people in the home. Ask people who seldom leave their homes to become watchers, looking out for children, strangers and unusual activity.

You might also think of contacting your local or nearby Neighborhood Association and attend their meetings.

When first establishing a watch group, the Knoxville County Sheriff's Department website recommends naming a coordinator and block captains, creating a neighborhood directory and map, and determining the size of the neighborhood to be involved. The directory should have the names of each household member, the home address, telephone numbers and an email address.

Once those guidelines are complete the information should be submitted to the sheriff's office. Neighborhood signs are available upon



Do you live in a neighborhood watch zone? Often the neighborhood watch areas have signs designating such at the neighborhood entrances. You can also check with Officer John Morgan at 865-215-1519 in the city or Katy Davis at 865-215-5632 if you are a county resident to see if you are already in a watch zone or to find out how to start one. You can find them by email at jmorgan@knoxville.tn.gov or katy.davis@knoxsheriff.org. Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods also can help and maintains a list of Neighborhood Association and Neighborhood Watch groups that register with the city. You can reach David Massey or Debbie Sharp at 865-215-3232.

request and the number of signs depends on the number of entrances to the neighborhood.

A coordinator would

oversee operations of the watch program, hold meetings or socials to encourage membership, work with a sheriff's

representative to get watch material and serve as a liaison between the sheriff's representative and the residents.



From State Representative Harry Brooks

The 110th General Assembly reconvened this Monday after a two week organizational period that takes place every other year. The organizational period provides the legislature with an opportunity to prepare for the upcoming session and change office assignments if needed once the Speaker announces the committee assignments. I am pleased to report that Speaker Beth Harwell has chosen to keep me appointed as Chairman of the House Education Administration & Planning Committee. I will also serve as a member on the House Education Instruction & Programs Committee, the House Education & Planning Subcommittee, and the House Calendar and Rules Committee. Education will be a major topic this session, and I fully expect these committees to foster meaningful discussions and progress.

Governor Haslam gave his seventh State of the State address Monday night during a joint session of the General Assembly. While the speech covered several important issues, the Governor made several announcements pertaining to education that highlight the progress our great state has been making. First, Tennesseans are the fastest improving in the country in math, reading, and as of this year, science. Our state has also narrowed the gaps between African American, Latino and white students while completely eliminating the gap between male and female students. These improvements would not have been possible without the hard work of our students, families, and phenomenal teachers. Second, the Governor has proposed one of the largest funding increases for public education in Tennessee history. Under Governor Haslam's plan funding would increase to help schools serve high

Continue on page 4

City accepting Community Agency Grant applications

The City of Knoxville is now accepting applications from non-profit organizations interested in receiving a Community Agency Grant (CAG) for Fiscal Year 2017-18, which begins on July 1, 2017.

Qualifying non-profit organizations must operate within the City of Knoxville and have been in operation for at least five years. All applicants seeking Community Agency Grant funding will choose between two categories and download the appropriate form for either "Arts and Culture" and "Community and Social Services." (Homeless service providers should apply for a separate Homeless Grant via the City's Community Development Department.)

Priority will be given to CAG proposals from organizations that contribute

to the goals and mission of the City of Knoxville.

"Non-profit arts and community groups contribute to the creative and social fabric that makes Knoxville so special," said Indya Kincannon, Special Program Manager for the City of Knoxville. "The purpose of these grants is to help those organizations do what they do best for the people of Knoxville."

The deadline for filing an application is 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, 2017. The City will not consider any application postmarked or received in the Mayor's Office after that time.

For additional information about the City of Knoxville's Community Agency Grant program, or to obtain an application, visit www.knoxville.tn.gov/citygrants or contact Indya Kincannon at 865-215-2267.

Cumberland Estates West Neighborhood Watch works well

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

About ten years ago homeowners in Cumberland Estates noticed an increase in petty thefts with cars and sheds being broken into and robbed. Several neighbors banded together to do something about the problem.

"We got the telephone number from another neighborhood watch's sign and called," said Connie Hughes, a founder of the watch group. She recalled, "Officer Michelle Goldsberry responded."

"We put a cardboard sign in a front yard about a meeting," she said.

"Our Neighborhood Watch meets regularly about four times a year and we have a speaker," said Anna Compton, coordinator of the group. The speakers have talked about things like the city's recycling program, animal control, health issues, and codes enforcement.

The Cumberland Estates West Watch also has an Annual Chili Dinner during

National Night Out.

There are about 400 homes within their watch area and the quarterly meetings usually draw 20 to 25 homeowners. The National Night Out event draws 100 to 300 people.

The group also maintains a Facebook page where members communicate about neighborhood issues, missing pets, suspicious people, thefts, etc.

The effort has been very successful and Compton explains that "part of it is getting to know each other."

"We empower each other. When a suspicious person is seen we call each other and then give the police information about when and where," Compton said. Hughes explains that keeping the police informed is a preventative measure and said, "Not everything is a 911 call."

"Crime is almost non-existent now and we're told we have the least amount of crime than any other neighborhood," Hughes said.

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City Council

Sign, beer sale ordinances not overturned

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Valiant attempts for an ordinance amendment and a sign ordinance variance failed Tuesday evening at the Knoxville City Council.

Councilman Nick Della Volpe introduced an amendment to the new ordinance which permits the retail sale of beer next to a church. His suggested amendment would have allowed that no-distance separation only for

storefront churches located in shopping centers. The idea failed along the same voting lines as the original resolution that removed the distance required for beer sales next to the houses of worship.

Della Volpe was joined in the unsuccessful vote by Councilmen Daniel Brown and Nick Pavlis with the rest of the council voting "No" on the motion.

The new Sign Ordinance also remains in effect city-wide

despite several attempts to get variances for the height of signs, signs on the sides of buildings, etc.

Bob Monday, owner of the site of a former Hardee's Restaurant on Alcoa Highway, asked the board to be permitted to replace a 40-foot sign there that was taken down by the state when the right of way was increased. Attorney Arthur Seymour, Jr. and Monday spoke on behalf of the appeal of a Board of Zoning

Appeals denial of a new sign.

Seymour said that Monday's site might be getting a "Grace's Chicken" restaurant there and said that TDOT removed the sign last spring. He said that the state has no sign regulations along the "Scenic Highway" designation there and the city's ordinance should not apply because the owner didn't remove the sign, the state did.

"Since Hardee's moved out we just want to replace the sign

and move it back 15 or 20 feet," Monday said.

The council voted not to approve the request although Councilman Nick Pavlis said he understood the request for the 40 foot sign but "can't see the hardship." The council voted unanimously to stave off the challenge to the new Sign Ordinance.

The council also voted to authorize \$35,000 in funds

Continue on page 4

Do they understand the common man?

As I've stated before, I'm a political junkie. For a week, my attention had been directed toward the committee hearings for those individuals who had been selected to become heads of the various agencies. Those sessions were spectacles that left Americans all the more troubled about the future of our country.

For one thing, the nominees are wealthy folks. For instance, Betsy DeVos, the candidate to head up the Department of Education, has a financial worth of approximately \$5 billion. Rex Tillerson, the State Department candidate, has approximately one-half billion dollars in assets. Even the Treasury nominee, Steven Mnuchin, is wealthy beyond what we regular folks can fathom. Now, wealth isn't a bad thing, but it does bring up



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

some questions.

I thought President Trump was going to "clear the swamp." Instead, he's merely replaced one set of rich people with another. I've yet to see a single candidate who is what I

call an "average Joe." These people have worked hard; I grant them that. However, I've worked hard all my life as well but haven't come close to making a fraction of the fortunes these candidates have. No, I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer, but like you, I'm not the dullest either. These proposed leaders have tricks up their sleeves for making huge sums, and they aren't about to let us know what they are.

The problem with these leaders is that they just don't understand the struggles of middle class folks. How could they? You and I work hard to pay for a home; we

fret when a new car has to be purchased. Our depression deepens when we see the cost of health insurance. These department heads have no such concerns. They have the best health care; they live in mansions that would house our humble abodes multiple times; chauffeurs ferry them from place to place. Their children attend the best private schools and then go on to any college that they choose without fear of not being able to cover tuition. Their lives are so far different from ours that they can't conceive of the daily worries that we face.

Many of these folks also have conflicts of interests. DeVos has long been a proponent of vouchers and charter schools and private schools. Neither she nor her children have ever attended a public school. She wants to take moneys from public schools so that children can use it for admission to a private school. In case you hadn't thought of it, that money is taken from

the funding of public schools. They will have a shortfall, and guess who will have to make up the difference: taxpayers. Your fair share will increase so private schools and charter schools can make money off students.

Steve Mnuchin owned a bank that foreclosed on thousands of homeowners who found themselves upside down after the economy went south in 2007. His bank foreclosed on one elderly woman who had a short payment by 27 cents. Another homeowner was faced foreclosure because it was said she didn't live in the house. However, when she was served with those papers, the processor handed them to her at the door of that residence.

Health and Human Services candidate Tom Price bought stocks in companies and then voted on legislation that proved to be advantageous to them. He denied that he'd done it directly, instead saying that a broker of his trust made the

purchases. Then, under further questioning, he admitted that he contacted the broker with instructions to buy the thousands of dollars worth of stock.

Do these folks have our best interests in mind? I just don't know. DeVos is dead set on crippling public education. She champions the use of vouchers that allow students to attend schools that have the same or less success rates with students. Rex Tillerson was awarded a friendship medal by Russia's Putin, and it's not clear if he is in favor of continuing sanctions against the country for its hacking of our election and invading Crimea. Tom Price has long advocated the end of Obamacare, even though his new plan does not insure coverage for all people. Instead, he pledges to make coverage "available" for everyone, not assuring that anyone will be able to afford it. He also has pushed for cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. His plan is to cut \$1.7 trillion from Social

Security and Medicare.

Most probably, these rich folks will become leaders of the major departments. What they do might well affect the welfare of us common folks. I'm more than a little worried about the future. Some might say we must cut entitlements, and to that I say Social Security is not an entitlement; we have paid into the fund every time we drew a paycheck. It is a savings account that the government declared that we have. If our contributions had been wisely invested over the years, we'd have more than enough to see us through our senior years.

This is not a Democrat versus Republican issue. It's a matter of qualified individuals leading the departments of government in such a way that takes care of ALL Americans, not just the wealthiest of us. Be vigilant and call them out when their actions aren't in the best interests of the common man.

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Cordell Hull & the 1922 Election

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Cordell Hull, for fourteen years the congressman from Tennessee's Fourth District, had lost his reelection bid in the 1920 Republican landslide. Tennessee had lost three longtime incumbents during the 1920 elections: besides Cordell Hull, Thetus W. Sims of Tennessee's Eighth District and John A. Moon of the Third District had been beaten. Sims, comfortable in Washington and sixty-nine years old at the time of his defeat, had lost the Democratic primary to Gordon Browning, a young veteran of the First World War. Browning had narrowly lost the general election to Republican Lon Scott. Congressman Moon, like Cordell Hull, had been defeated for reelection by his Republican opponent, Joe Brown. Neither Browning, Hull nor Moon ever stopped running to win in 1922. Moon had already been designated as the Democratic nominee for Congress in 1921 when he suddenly died on June 26, 1921. The sixty-five year old Moon had been ill during his last campaign for Congress and had apparently never really recovered.

The Republicans would be hard pressed to hold their gains during the 1922 campaign, although nobody counted out the irrepressible Governor Alf Taylor. Governor Taylor, despite being seventy-four years old, was an able and entertaining speaker and personally popular. Congressmen Wynne F. Clouse, who had defeated Hull, and Congressman Lon Scott were off and running for reelection. Congressman Joe Brown, who had defeated John Moon, opted not to run again and resume his law practice.

Cordell Hull was determined to regain his own place in Congress and during the interim had been elected Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. That position gave him even more prominence nationally and reinforced the notion with his former constituents that Hull was a national figure while the Republican incumbent was merely another freshman GOP congressman. Hull did not resign his position as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee to begin his own campaign to be elected to Congress; instead, he concentrated upon not only returning to Congress, but also electing as many Democrats as possible in the 1922 election cycle. Hull had kept his political fences mended and had spent more time inside the Fourth District than he had prior to his defeat. Not every Democrat in the Fourth District was ready to simply hand the nomination to Hull by default. A host of ambitious Democrats began to feel out the race, but all

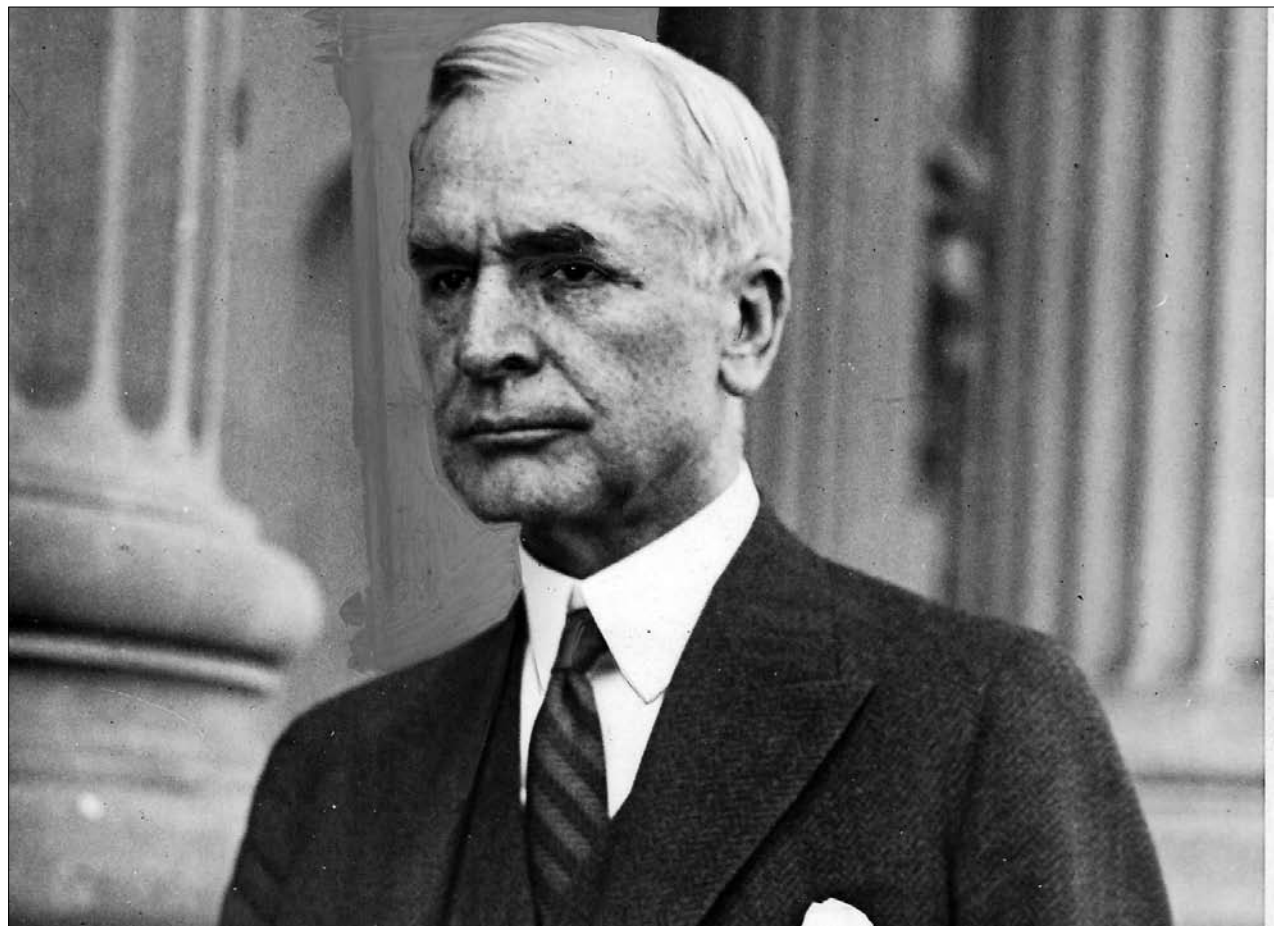
of them quickly concluded Hull's personal organization inside the Fourth District made him the overwhelming favorite for the congressional nomination. Colonel Nathan G. Robertson, a powerful Democrat from Wilson County, was rooted around the edges of the race, as was Thomas G. Baskerville, a prominent Democrat from Gallatin and Sumner County. Baskerville had gotten a taste of politics from having been a delegate to the 1920 Democratic National Convention in 1920. Both Robertson and Baskerville soon dropped plans to run when it became all too obvious most Democrats considered Hull's defeat not only a travesty, but a humiliation to their own community.

Holding heavy majorities in Congress, as well as the presidency, many Republicans discovered governing was no bed of roses. Republicans, out of power since the administration of William Howard Taft, were clamoring for jobs and appointments and the infighting for those positions was fierce. Longtime GOP Congressman J. Will Taylor maneuvered skillfully to preserve his own personal power and dominance over Republican patronage against his freshmen colleagues. Congressman Clouse tangled with James S. Beasley, Chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee, over patronage. Beasley did little to enhance Congressman Clouse's prestige when he snapped Clouse had been "nominated for Congress by chance and elected by accident."

Beasley had added insult to injury, describing Wynne F. Clouse as "the down on a tiny feather in the tip of the wing of a very small hummingbird that was caught on the crest of the Harding - Taylor tornado and swept into Congress."

Clouse's fellow freshman Republican Congressman Lon Scott, representing Tennessee's Eighth District, was also feuding with John Overall and James Beasley over patronage in his own district. Beasley paid a courtesy call on both congressmen during a visit to Washington and reputedly assured both he would support them for reelection, although it did little to smooth out the differences between them.

Many Republicans apparently believed the landslide of 1920 was the dawn of a new era of Republican domination and it was until the Great Depression. It remained to be seen if Tennessee would become a truly two-party state, yet Tennessee Republicans prepared to challenge Senator K. D. McKellar, who was up for his second six-year term in 1922. Rumors abounded that the seventy-four year old Alf Taylor



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Congressman Cordell Hull of Tennessee, circa 1928.

would abandon the governorship to challenge the popular McKellar, causing the hopes of others desirous of being governor to soar. McKellar, who knew something about patronage himself, was not sitting idly awaiting a challenge from the Republicans. A fierce partisan himself, McKellar officially filed charges against John W. Overall, Tennessee's Republican National Committeeman, for "alleged violation of the civil service act and the alleged selling or trafficking in federal offices in Tennessee."

Unlike 1920, McKellar would be heading the Democratic ticket and helped to heal the wounds left from a bruising gubernatorial primary between former governor Benton McMillin and attorney Austin Peay of Clarksville. McMillin, seventy-seven years old and the "Old Warhorse" of Tennessee's Democratic Party, quite nearly won the nomination, losing by a scant 4,018 votes. Peay's nomination came through the returns from E. H. Crump's Shelby County where the lawyer won 9,079 votes to 1,732 for McMillin. McKellar had been opposed for renomination by Captain Guston Fitzhugh, a wealthy attorney who was part owner of the Memphis Commercial Appeal. McKellar's candidacy had been bitterly opposed by his rival Luke Lea, whom McKellar had defeated for reelection six years previously. Lea's own newspaper, the Nashville Tennessean had regularly assailed McKellar at every opportunity, but the senator crushed Fitzhugh in the primary. Despite the hard fought primary campaign, Democrats entered the fall campaign united.

Cordell Hull toured the Fourth District and if Democrats had tried to woo the votes of newly enfranchised women in 1920, they redoubled their efforts in 1922. Hull paid special attention to female voters during his 1922 campaign. The former congressman urged women in particular to be sure they paid their poll taxes to be able to vote. Throughout the campaign, Cordell Hull campaigned as if he were the incumbent, not the challenger. Well financed and even better organized, Hull entered the 1922 campaign with an air of superb confidence, yet he was careful not to

appear to be taking his people for granted.

As Hull completed his first tour of the Fourth District, Congressman Wynne F. Clouse was busy opening his campaign headquarters in his home city of Cookeville. The congressman's campaign was run by Oscar Clarke of Algood, Tennessee, who had managed Clouse's winning campaign of 1920. Since then Clarke had become something of a controversial figure, wanting to become Tennessee's Collector of Internal Revenue. Clouse was not successful in securing the office for Clarke and the latter had to settle for a position as a mere cashier in the IRS office. Complying with federal law, Clarke had to give up his job in the Nashville IRS office to assume management of Congressman Clouse's reelection campaign.

Clouse was smart enough to realize that he began the campaign as the underdog and following the primary elections, instantly challenged Hull to debate the issues, a challenge the former congressman ignored. The Nashville Tennessean sniffed it was only proper for Judge Hull to ignore Clouse's invitation to debate as it would be terrible were Hull to neglect "the duties of chairman of a great party to participate in a debate where only his personal fortunes are at stake." Hull's refusal to debate his opponent, the Tennessean thought, proved the former congressman was worthy of "the confidence that the Democratic party has reposed in him..." The Tennessean chortled if Wynne Clouse wanted to debate someone, he should debate James S. Beasley.

Tennessee Republicans believed they had fielded a strong and respectable ticket headed by Alf Taylor and Newell Sanders. Sanders had served a brief term in the United States Senate by appointment and was the GOP's candidate against Senator McKellar in the general election. Still, even the most optimistic Republican held out little hope for Wynne F. Clouse's reelection to Congress in 1922. National Republicans did not exactly abandon Clouse during the fall campaign and sent in some speakers to aid the congressman's reelection bid, although none were widely known, especially

in Tennessee. When Leslie Shaw made a two-hour stem-winder in Crossville on behalf of Congressman Clouse's campaign, reporters noticed two thirds of the crowd had melted away before the speech's conclusion.

Hull had no intention of allowing the Republicans to pummel him once again on his record with respect to veterans. A letter signed by Colonel Harry S. Berry, a prominent Democrat and veteran of the World War, as well as an official of the American Legion, was widely disseminated throughout the fourth District. Colonel Berry stated, "Mr. Hull was at all times favorable towards the payment of adjusted compensation..." Berry went into painful detail to point out the only disagreement Congressman Hull had with the payment of the adjusted compensation was the method of financing it. One means of paying out the soldiers' bonus was implementing a national sales tax, which Hull did not favor. Cordell Hull's preferred method of financing the soldiers' bonus was levying a tax on "war profits." Berry explained, "There was never any opposition on the part of Mr. Hull as to the claim of ex-service men, but only a question as to how the funds should be raised."

Senator McKellar, who had amply demonstrated his own personal popularity by crushing his opponent in the primary campaigns, came to the Fourth District to make a plea for support by Democrats for gubernatorial nominee Austin Peay. McKellar also paid special tribute to Cordell Hull and urged Democrats to return Hull to Congress. Senator Tom Heflin of Alabama came to Carthage, Tennessee to campaign for the Democratic ticket and his assessment that Cordell Hull was "presidential timber" was met with "prolonged applause" from the audience. McKellar confidently predicted a Democratic victory, saying the statewide ticket would win "by at least 30,000 majority or more in the coming election." Senator McKellar had been "in half the counties in Judge Hull's district" and was certain of Hull's victory in the general election.

Hull's own speeches were more sedate affairs than that of the colorful

Heflin, but the former congressman was greeted warmly everywhere he went inside the Fourth District. When Cordell Hull visited friends in Wilson County, he gathered supporters at the courthouse in Lebanon, Tennessee and complained he was unable to spend as much time in Tennessee as he might like, as he was "being rushed to death" visiting counties all across the country on behalf of Democratic candidates. After stops in two other small hamlets, Hull was on his way back to Washington.

Individual counties inside the Fourth District reported Hull continued to gain ground in his bid to return to Congress. Fentress County was one example where Hull was the beneficiary of support from virtually every Democrat in the county and not a few Republicans who resented some of Congressman Clouse's patronage recommendations. Clouse had insisted in the appointment of J. D. Wright as postmaster for Jamestown, Tennessee, much to the chagrin of a number of other GOP aspirants who apparently were supporting Hull.

Election Day returned Tennessee to the Democratic column. Governor Alf Taylor lost to Austin Peay by more than 38,000 votes. Senator McKellar beat Newell Sanders by more than 80,000 votes and Cordell Hull won almost 63% of the vote in Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District. Congressman Clouse was able to carry only five of the fourteen counties while Cordell Hull won huge majorities in the remaining counties.

Cordell Hull was returning to Washington, D. C. to resume his career as a member of Congress.

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City Police won't ask immigration status

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Just prior to the start of the city council's meeting Tuesday Mayor Madeline Rogero spoke and addressed the recent immigration restrictions.

"Now is not the time to close our doors or our hearts," she said.

She said that although Knoxville is not a sanctuary city and plans to comply with any federal regulation, "Our local police are not immigration officers and it is not their jurisdiction."

"While we are not a sanctuary city we are, and will remain, a 'Welcoming City,'" she said.

Mayor Rogero said that any law violator will be stopped by police and, if the offense is major, be arrested. But for minor offenses like traffic stops she indicated the police are not to ask for immigration papers.

"We don't want our people in danger to not call 911," she said.

Sign, beer sale ordinances not overturned

Cont. from page 2

for Walter P. Moore and Associates to conduct a structural diagnosis of the "C" parking garage at the Civil Auditorium and Coliseum. The council also voted to apply for a grant of \$150,000 from the state to subsidize the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency budget for salaries and operating expenses.

KUB successfully sought approval to seek refinancing for wastewater, water revenue, electric system revenue, and gas system bonds. The total amount to refinance, at a lower rate, would be \$55.5 million. The bonds will be secured by KUB with no financial

obligation by the city and could save the utility entity about \$4 million.

The city's sidewalk replacement project was authorized \$1,132,635 in a contract with Design and Construction Services, Inc. and the council also approved just under \$60,000 with Adams Contracting, Inc. for sidewalks on Pleasant Ridge at Wilson Road.

Zoning Advisory Committee named by mayor

Twenty local people have been named by Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and approved by city council to become the Public

Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The group will provide feedback to upcoming major changes in the city's zoning code.

Rogero said that the city has hired a consultant to review and update the zoning codes and while the new committee will have no decision making abilities it will supply suggestions to the mayor, the consultant, the Metropolitan Planning Commission staff and city council.

The council gave approval Tuesday with one councilman making a suggestion that the group needed more business people.

Named to the Advisory Committee were: Rick Blackburn, Dr. Martha

Buchanan, Terrence Carter, Dr. Caroline Cooley, Mary English, Chris Folden, Duane Grieve, Brian Hann, Don Horton, Dave Irwin, Amy Midis, Amy Nolan, Joy O'Shell, Joe Petre, Patrick Phillips, Jennifer Roche, John Sanders, Jim Staley, Stephanie Welch and Brenna Wright.

The individuals represent business owners, MPC members, preservationists, the health department, and neighborhood activists.

Also approved to assist the committee were Crista Cuccaro, Scott Elder and Gerald Green.

From State Representative Harry Brooks

Cont. from page 1

need students and one hundred million dollars would be allocated for increasing teacher salaries, among other things. I know how difficult an educator's job can be, and this increase represents our state's commitment to improving the status and recognition of teachers and other staff. The Governor also used the State of the State address to announce the Tennessee STRONG Act, which would provide the men and women of Tennessee's National Guard with tuition free attendance to our state's great public universities and colleges.

This week I introduced a bill designed to provide proportional representation on municipal utilities boards. Under this bill, municipal utility boards would be required to be proportionately representative as per area served by the utility district. I will

provide updates over the next several weeks as its status changes. I hope the updating will also give insight into the legislative process.

As session gets underway, I am grateful to have my assistant, Tara, continue to work with me on constituent issues. This year I have also been assigned one full-time and two part-time interns. Daniel Cox is a senior from Carson Newman majoring in Religion and Leadership Ethics, and he will be with me full time. Myah Revis is a junior from Tennessee State University majoring in Psychology, and she will be splitting her time between my office and Senator Kelsey's. Carter Phillips is a senior from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville majoring in American Studies and Philosophy. He will be working in both my office and Lt. Gov. McNally's. These interns play an important role in

making sure everything runs smoothly, and I am happy to have them.

As many of you may know, my wife, Mary, was hospitalized for a pancreas attack back in December. She finally came home this week but is still recovering and slowly regaining her strength. I want to thank everyone for all the calls, cards, and prayers for Mary.

As always, please contact me if I can be of any assistance to you in any way. My office phone number is (615) 741-6879, and if you would like to reach me on the weekends my home phone number is (865) 687-5987. You can also email me if you would like to reach out or sign up for an electronic update at rep.harry.brooks@capitol.tn.gov. It is an honor to serve you and the great state of Tennessee in this capacity.

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Lett makes it a clean sweep for First Baptist Academy

By Steve Williams

It was senior night for the First Baptist Academy of Powell's basketball program Friday, but it finished up as Josh Lett night.

The senior point guard may have saved his best for last as he turned in an outstanding performance in leading the Eagles past rival Temple Baptist Academy 79-65.

Lett poured in 31 points, including 18 in the final period.

"I'm so proud of Josh," said Coach Matt Mercer. "He played phenomenal tonight. He probably had

one of the toughest games of his career on Monday night. He scored five points and it's rare when he's not in the 20s. Tonight he played phenomenal on defense and offense in the second half. It was sort of his night, senior night."

Lett's old fashion three-point play at the end of the third period tied the game at 51-all and capped a comeback that erased a 10-point lead by the Royal Crusaders. His 3-point shot from the left corner to start the final period gave the Eagles a lead they would never surrender.

The Eagles stormed the court at the end of the game in celebration.

"It was a huge night for us," said Coach Mercer. "It's turned into a rivalry for us right here in the heart of Powell. A great win to see the guys fight back, take the lead and finish it off."

The win by the boys varsity team also gave FBA a clean sweep. Its girls varsity team also avenged an earlier loss to Temple Baptist with a 34-24 victory and the First Baptist Academy's middle school girls team began the evening with a 20-18 win over

the Knoxville Ambassadors to capture the KISL tournament title – FBA's first-ever championship in any sport.

First Baptist Academy also was honored for winning the "Battle of the Bottles" fund-raising competition. The two schools, which are only about a mile apart, combined to raise \$9,000 for Hope Resource Center over a two-week period.

Freshman standout Noah Harris contributed 20 points to the Eagles' victory, which gave them a 16-9 season record, including nine wins in their last

10 games. Cameron Torney added 10 points and Jack Brown nine.

Temple Baptist, which defeated FBA by one point in their first meeting this season, had balanced scoring, with Jon Nicely and Nick Curton tallying 15 points each and Pierson Hickman 13. Braden Pepin chipped in nine.

The girls varsity game was a defensive struggle through the first half as cold-shooting Temple Baptist managed only a 3-point shot by Lily Cole with 3:29 on the clock in the opening period.

The Lady Eagles led 12-3 at halftime and were ahead 19-3 when the Lady Crusaders finally got their second basket, a 3-pointer by senior Alana Ford, with 3:02 to go in the third period. TBA got as close as eight (23-15) early in the fourth period.

Junior standout Julia Martin paced FBA (9-11) with 11 points. Ebony Wheat contributed eight points and Kelsey Hollifield five. Ford finished with eight points and Cole six to lead TBA (10-11).



PHOTO CREDIT CARLOS REVEIZ/ ASHLEY WATHEN WITH CRFOTO.COM

Cooper Hardin, wearing his orange cleats, rushed for 164 yards and three touchdowns in Farragut's come-from-behind 45-35 win over Independence in this past season's Class 5A state championship game at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville. Hardin, who was named the BlueCross Bowl Offensive Player of the Game, signed with Navy last week. He also was a standout linebacker for the Admirals in 2016, with 124 tackles.

Colorful Cooper is Navy bound

By Steve Williams

Cooper Hardin's orange cleats didn't go with Farragut's Navy Blue and Gray uniform color scheme. They stuck out like a sore thumb, you might say. But that was his reason for wearing them.

Cooper said he wore them simply to help his mom pick him out during games. Laura Gearhiser could have spotted him from miles away, too.

Hardin said he wore red cleats his junior season

and wanted to stick with that color.

"But when you have a size 14 foot, it's kind of hard to find the right cleats with the right color," he said.

So, the orange cleats became the first thing anyone would notice about Hardin this past season, but there were other things – more important things – that brought attention to this high school football player. Quite simply, he stood out on both sides of the ball.

Navy Head Coach Ken Niumatalolo no doubt saw his multiple talents and offered Hardin an opportunity to play at the prestigious academy in Annapolis. Cooper officially stepped aboard by signing scholarship papers Wednesday morning at FHS.

"It's a great honor to have the opportunity to serve my country at one of the most prestigious institutions in the nation," said Hardin. "It's really exciting to see all the opportunities I would

have after football that the Naval Academy might present me ... It feels like a deal that's too good to be true."

Eddie Courtney, Farragut's veteran head coach, pretty much feels the same way about Hardin, the student-athlete.

"You couldn't be any more proud for a young man," said Courtney. "Cooper has the grades, with a GPA over 4.2. He's a very bright young man and in our opinion a Division 1

Continued on page 3

William Blount edges Lady Hawks 53-49

By Ken Lay

William Blount High School's girls basketball team prefers to play an up-tempo game and when the Lady Governors played Hardin Valley in early January they had the pace to their liking. William Blount hit 1 three-point shots but lost the game.

The Lady Governors and Lady Hawks met again Tuesday night and it was a defensive struggle. And William had to play a slowdown game.

But the Lady Governors prevailed 53-49 at Hardin Valley.

"Hardin Valley does a good job and this was one of those games that we had to grind out," William Blount coach Todd Wright said. "We made 14 threes when we lost to them at our place but they beat us pretty good [77-66 on Thursday, Jan. 5]. We like to get the ball up and down the floor and this game really had a tournament feel to it."

The Lady Hawks, who were coming off two big wins, including one over previously unbeaten Bearden, struggled offensively from the outset. Hardin Valley (19-6 overall, 8-3 in District 4-AAA) missed several shots (including some layups) and managed just eight points in the first quarter and had just two field goals to start the game.

Hardin Valley didn't score from the floor until midway through the opening frame. Abbey Cornelius scored the Lady Hawks' first field goal with 4 minutes, five seconds remaining in the opening frame.

William Blount (18-6, 8-3) mustered enough offense to score 15 points in the opening quarter but the Lady Governors missed their first five free throw attempts. They still led 25-23 at halftime.

After the break, the Lady Hawks enjoyed a burst of energy and scored the first seven points of the second half. Hardin Valley took a 30-25 lead when Symphony Buxton grabbed an offensive rebound, scored and was fouled on the play and converted the old-fashioned three-point play with 5:50 remaining in the third stanza.

Continued on page 2



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Falcons survive scare from Powell 66-61

By Ken Lay

Fulton High School boys basketball coach Jody Wright had plenty to be happy about after his team outlasted a tough Powell squad on Monday, Jan. 30.

"We made some good defensive plays down the stretch and we got some big contributions from some guys off the bench tonight," Wright said after his Falcons survived a late scare to pull off a 66-61 non-district victory over the Panthers at Jody Wright Arena.

But Fulton's longtime coach, who guided the Falcons to a Class AA State Championship last season, wasn't completely happy. "We knew that Powell was going to give us all we

could handle," Wright said. "They're a really tough team and they're a talented team.

"But we've got to play smarter when we have a lead. We made this thing a little tougher on ourselves late than it needed to be."

Fulton (17-2) had a 43-37 lead heading to the fourth quarter but it evaporated quickly as the host Falcons missed shots and had a pair of turnovers.

And Powell's Charlie Richards was more than willing to make Fulton pay for its carelessness.

Richards, Powell's junior guard scored the first five points of the frame and pulled the Panthers to within 43-42 when he converted a free throw with 7 minutes,

25 seconds remaining in the contest.

The Falcons had the next two baskets and went up 47-42 when DeShawn Page made a steal and knocked down a transition layup with 5:53 to go.

The roller-coaster ride continued and the Panthers (17-6), who trailed throughout much of the contest, went up 48-47 when Richards converted another Fulton turnover into another easy basket.

Richards, who finished with a game-high 33 points, nearly kept things close for the Panthers single-handedly.

But the Falcons would answer. Fulton would regain the lead for good when Trey

Davis buried a 3-point shot to give the home team a 50-48 advantage with 4:07 remaining.

Richards would answer with a free throw to make it 50-49 just past the midway point of the final frame.

Fulton's pressure defense was crucial late as it forced the Panthers into multiple miscues down the stretch.

The Falcons took a 57-49 lead when Edwin Lacey knocked down a 3-point shot with 2:53 to go.

The Panthers had one last gasp and got to within 57-54 on a long-range jumper by Desmond Billingsley at the 1:43 mark.

Fulton, however, would prevail as its defense stole the show. The Falcons also made



Caleb Tripp (32) of Powell battles with Fulton's J'Coryon Anderson as Riley Bryant looks on. The Falcons edged the Panthers 66-61 in an intriguing non-district game early last week.

some crucial foul shots down the stretch.

Davis led Fulton with 17 points. Camecus Cates

added 12. Markese Sheely finished with nine and Donovan Filer had eight.

Lady Falcons need overtime to down 'scrappy' Powell

By Ken Lay

For more than three quarters of its recent win against Powell, the Fulton High School girls basketball team appeared to be in a slumber. But the Lady

Falcons answered a wake-up call in the nick of time.

After being lethargic for most of the contest Fulton finally got things together.

The Lady Falcons managed to force overtime. From

there, they went on a tear and recorded a 50-42 victory over the Lady Panthers on Monday, Jan. 30 at Fulton's Jody Wright Arena.

Powell (15-8) led most of the way and pulled ahead

32-25 when Haley Schubert buried a shot midway through the fourth quarter.

Schubert's basket appeared to be the wake-up call the Lady Falcons (18-4) needed. Fulton

and all but salted things away when Kiyah Latham knocked down a 3-point shot to give her team the lead with 1 minute, 44 seconds remaining.

Lady Falcons coach John Fisher admitted that his squad's victory wouldn't earn many style points. But he also said that this was a type of game that his team had to win if it was going to make a deep playoff run.

"Powell is a scrappy team and they played well. This had the feel of a [postseason] tournament game," said Fisher, who recently won his 200th game when the Lady Falcons defeated District 3-AA rival Union County.

"Powell was scrappy and they did some good things.

"We played when we had to."

The Lady Panthers had the upper hand most of the way in a close contest. Powell had a 15-14 lead just before halftime but got some separation when

Donna Raby's half-court buzzer beater when through the hoop to give the Lady Panthers an 18-14 advantage before the two teams headed to their respective locker rooms at the intermission.

Powell, which had scored in crucial situations throughout regulation, struggled in overtime. The Lady Panthers scored just five points in the OT period and converted just one field goal.

That came from Schubert with 47 seconds left and enabled the visitors to pull to within 46-40.

Latham and McKinney each scored 14 points for the Lady Falcons. Lay Manning added 10, including six after halftime. She also knocked down a key long-range jumper to Fulton to within 34-33 with 1:32 left in regulation.

Raby had 17 points to lead all scorers and Schubert finished with 12 for the Lady Panthers.

William Blount edges Lady Hawks 53-49

Continued from page 1

Offense continued to come at a premium for the two squads but the Lady Governors battled back to pull even by third quarter's end. The teams were embroiled in a 38-38 tie heading to the final eight minutes.

Alyssa Walker opened the scoring in the fourth quarter when she converted a three-point play to make the score 41-38 with 7:39 remaining.

Hardin Valley, meanwhile, was bitten by the turnover bug and had miscues on its first two possessions.

But the Lady Hawks would pull to within 43-42 when Paige Gentry hit a pair of foul shots with 5:24 to go.

But William Blount responded when freshman Jenna Kallenberg knocked down a huge long-range jumper to make the score 46-42 a short time later.

Kallenberg, the lone freshman on William's Blount varsity squad, scored

all six of her points in the second half and her fourth-quarter contributions were clutch as she helped the Lady Governors keep the Lady Hawks at bay.

HVA never led in the fourth quarter. The free throws that didn't fall early went down for the Lady Governors in the final frame.

"We were 0-5 from the free throw line to start the game, but we were 5-for-6 down the stretch," Wright said. "I guess, if we have to miss some, I'd rather we miss early and hit the ones late."

Walker and Maggie Bell each scored nine points for William Blount. Kallenberg and Taylor Goforth each had six while Lexi Campos had five.

Hardin Valley had three players score in double figures. Cornelius and Bekah Hampton scored game-high scoring honors with 15 points each and Buxton finished with 10.

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South-Doyle girls win as Knox Middle School tourney opens

By Steve Williams

Holston's girls basketball team held South-Doyle's feet to the fire Thursday, but the Lady Cherokees escaped with a 35-22 victory in opening round action of the Knox County Middle School League tournament.

After being held scoreless in the first period, the visiting Lady Hurricanes stormed back and eventually took the lead early in the final period. For a few moments, it looked as if Holston, the No. 10 seed, was going to beat No. 7 seed South-Doyle as it had done in their regular season meeting.

It was a three-point game, in favor of South-Doyle, with two minutes remaining. The Lady Cherokees then pulled away by scoring

the final 10 points.

The win advanced South-Doyle to the quarterfinals against No. 2 seed Carter. All quarterfinal action – girls and boys – were scheduled to be played this past Saturday at Karns Middle School.

The annual post-season tourney for Knox County's 14 middle schools is slated to resume Tuesday, Feb. 7, at Karns with the girls' and boys' semifinal games, starting at 4:30. Consolation and championship contests are scheduled to get underway Thursday at 4:30.

Powell's boys and Farragut's girls captured the regular season titles and earned the No. 1 seeds.

Terryaunn Griffin scored 21 points and MiKayla Dunn 13 to

lead South-Doyle's first-round win. Holston got 10 points from Shelby Blake. Morgan Webb chipped in six. Center Sadie Brantley added four points but fouled out with 4:04 to go.

The Lady Cherokees, who lost to Holston 36-27 in the regular season, jumped out to a 12-0 lead in the opening six minutes. The Lady Hurricanes cut the deficit to 15-10 at halftime and 19-16 after three stops.

Cassidy Johnson's jumper from the left wing completed the comeback and gave Holston its only lead (20-19) with 5:05 left in the game.

MiKayla Wilkerson scored in the paint – her only two points of the game – to put South-Doyle back

on top 21-20.

Later in the quarter, a short jumper by Blake pulled Holston to within three with 2:03 on the clock.

South-Doyle answered with what Head Coach Tony Cooper called the "dagger," a 3-point shot from the right wing by Dunn.

An interception by Dunn and two free throws stretched the Lady Cherokees' advantage to eight (30-22) with 55.9 seconds remaining.

Following Griffin's three-point play, Dunn stole the ball and capped the scoring with a break-away layup.

"In the first game we played them this season, we were back in a zone defense the whole time

because we weren't mentally ready," said Coach Cooper.

This time, Cooper said the team played solid "on-ball defense" throughout and that was the key to the win.

Cooper said he assigned Abby Sullivan to guard No. 3 (Blake) and Wilkerson to guard No. 12 (Webb).

"That was our game plan," he said. "We were going to live by it. We said in the locker room, 'If we lose the game by somebody else beating us, then we would accept it.'"

Holston Coach Alex Walker said, "We just didn't take advantage of our opportunities and didn't make free throws (2 of 11)."

Falcons sign with MTSU



Family members cheer as Fulton High's Chaton Mobley (left) and Zack Dobson ink scholarship papers with Middle Tennessee State University on National Signing Day Feb. 1.

Colorful Cooper is Navy bound

Cont. from page 1

type prospect. Navy loved him when they saw everything about him.

"Their head coach and two offensive coaches were here right before the dead period and sealed the deal."

The 6-2, 230-pound Hardin excelled as a running back and line-backer as he helped lead the Admirals to the Class 5A state championship in early December, the school's first-ever state title.

He'll start out as a fullback with the Midshipmen.

"Their offense is a double slot with a big fullback and a big running back," said Courtney. "They're going to give him a shot to play offense and that's what he wants to do."

Last spring, Navy became the first to offer Hardin a scholarship.

"Before they offered me, my Dad (Kevin Hardin) and I always watched the Navy-Army game on TV, but I had never thought of playing there," said Cooper. "I thought Navy would be a cool place to go and see what the whole Naval Academy experience was like."

He took an official visit to Annapolis the second week of January, and he said his choice "seemed pretty clear after that visit and meeting coaches and players."

Hardin said he also received offers from MTSU, Tennessee Tech, Dartmouth, Austin Peay, Army, Air Force, VMI and Furman and got a couple of preferred walk-on offers from Power 5 schools.

His finalists became Navy, Air Force, Tennessee Tech and Furman, he said.

Hardin, who will have a five-year commitment to serve after his four years at the academy, is considering cyber defense operations as a major or pre-med or engineering.

"I've had four or five former players go to the academies and did well after serving their commitments," said Courtney. "We're excited about Cooper. We think he will do well." Even without orange cleats.

William Blount uses runs to down HVA 60-53

By Ken Lay

William Blount boys basketball coach Kevin Windle couldn't have been happier than he was after his team notched a District 4-AAA victory at Hardin Valley Academy Tuesday night.

"Our games with Hardin Valley are always fun to watch because we're similar teams and we pretty much play the same way," Windle said after the Governors nabbed a 70-63 win over the Hawks at HVA Tuesday night. "We both like to shoot the ball and when the ball's going down, it makes things a lot of fun."

"We would get ahead and they'd make a run. I really like the way we responded when they made their runs. Good teams respond in those situations."

Hardin Valley (13-11 overall, 7-5 in District 4-AAA) and

William Blount were embroiled in an old-fashioned shootout last week and both the Hawks and Governors knocked down their share of long-range jumpers on this night.

HVA hit seven 3-pointers before halftime and that kept the host Hawks within striking distance. William Blount (17-8, 7-5) seized the upper hand early. The Governors, who completed a regular-season sweep of the Hawks with Tuesday's victory, led 20-16 at the end of the first quarter. The visitors went on to open the second period with a 6-1 run.

The Governors took a 26-17 lead when Nick Yoakum scored with 6 minutes, 13 seconds remaining in the opening half.

The Hawks, who outlasted geographical rival Karns in overtime 24 hours earlier, battled back and pulled to within 34-30 by halftime. When the

dust had settled, the two teams slugged through an even second quarter and combined for 13 3-pointers over the first 16 minutes.

William Blount's Isaiah Hannah hit five long-range jumpers and Joseph Ridenour made one for the Governors. Hardin Valley got a pair of treys from Aaron Dykes. Tristen Waite also hit two while Hunter Huff had three before the break.

In the third quarter the Governors were hot again. They boosted their advantage to 45-34 when Jordan Tarver grabbed an offensive rebound and promptly scored midway through the frame.

David Henson answered for the Hawks. He knocked down back-to-back 3's to make the score 45-40 with 17.1 seconds remaining. William Blount scored the final three points of the frame and would lead the

rest of the way.

The Hawks pulled to within 50-49 on a shot by Dykes with 4:20 left in the game. But HVA couldn't quite culminate a comeback as William Blount engineered a 10-4 run to seal its win.

"This is just like when we played them last time. They pulled ahead with a late run," Hardin Valley coach Shane Chambers said. "It was a late run again tonight."

"We have to be prepared to play anybody anywhere. We just didn't have what it takes to win tonight. We didn't execute offensively and we didn't execute defensively."

Dykes had 16 points to pace the Hawks and Hunter Huff finished with 13.

Hannah led all scorers with 21 points.

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Spring could still come early and 2017 Vols could still start 6-0

Surely you know figuring out how Tennessee football will do based on National Signing Day results is about as accurate as Punxsutawney Phil's forecast on Groundhog Day.



By Steve Williams

Still, after many Tennessee fans woke up last Thursday morning in Knoxville, it wasn't long before they were clicking on sports websites or reading the newspaper sports section or tuning in radio sports talk shows or watching the recruiting wrapup on ESPN to find out the latest direction of their favorite football program.

I'm guilty too and will share with you my findings and hunches a little farther down in this space.

Will Butch Jones' 2017 team have four more weeks of bad football, like it went through last season in losses to Texas A&M, Alabama, South Carolina and Vanderbilt? Or will happy times come early for the Vols with wins over Georgia Tech, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina and a 6-0 start?

Tennessee recruiting or "crutin'," as some like to say it, ranked No. 17 on the national level and No. 7 among SEC foes. Both Georgia and Florida moved back ahead of the Vols, and the Bulldogs' No. 3 national ranking really hurts as far as UT's future SEC Eastern Division title hopes are

concerned.

The Eric Ainge Show asked its listeners to tweet in a grade for UT's 2017 signing class. Out of 988 voters, 3 percent gave Coach Jones' recruiting report an A, 44 percent a B, 46 percent a C and 7 percent a D/F.

Based strictly on the numbers, it looks like Jones' rebuilding plan at Tennessee has slipped a little. But don't throw in the towel yet.

These rankings can be severely affected by many other factors ... like how the ball bounces, fumbles and interceptions, injuries and suspensions, wise coaching moves and wimpy coaching decisions, player development and player attitudes and more.

After looking over the thumbnail sketches of the new Vols and hearing this class may have a "blue collar mentality" instead of a galaxy of star status, I have a good feeling about it. Now, if we could just get a couple more offensive linemen like Trey Smith, 6-6, 315 and rated the nation's No. 1 prospect by some sites ...

I'm going to keep my cup half full for now, even if Butch did see his shadow last Thursday, just like Punxsutawney Phil did.

POOR PEARL: One thought that kept running through my mind as I watched Tennessee

pull away from Auburn on the road last week was how awful this Bruce Pearl-coached team looked. For much of the game, the Tigers just threw up 3-point shots and repeatedly got outhustled for rebounds. It looked like a very poorly coached team or his players aren't listening.

When Bruce first got the Auburn job, I really thought he might do well with the Tigers. I feared he might elevate them to great heights like he once did with the Vols.

I would really hate it if Tennessee had a team like Pearl has now.

Meanwhile, the Lady Vols really had a good week with its road win at South Carolina and the home victory over LSU. Tennessee deserves to be back in the Top 25 again.

TOURNEY TIME: Have you ever been to the Knox County Middle School Basketball League's annual post-season tournament? You can't beat it for the energy, excitement and tourney atmosphere.

Four semifinal games - girls and boys -- will be played Tuesday, Feb. 7, at Karns Middle School and the consolation and championship games are Thursday night. Games times each day are 4:30, 5:45, 7:00 and 8:15. Come and watch them cut down the nets!

27 New Vols in the Class of 2017

By Alex Norman

Recruiting is the lifeblood of any college football program, and Tennessee is hoping that the Class of 2017 will help them get to the next level in the Southeastern Conference.

The Vols certainly have their work cut out for them going into next season. It's no secret that Tennessee loses a lot of talent from a team that won 9 games in 2016. Defensive tackle Derek Barnett, running back Alvin Kamara, and wide receiver Josh Malone are all leaving college early for the pros. Senior captains quarterback Joshua Dobbs, linebacker Jalen Reeves-Maybin and cornerback Cameron Sutton will all get opportunities to make it in the NFL as well.

And don't forget about running back Jalen Hurd, who quit in the middle of the season.

"We're excited because we think we were able to add some dynamic football players, some players that have great grit, great tough and have that great competitive spirit," said Tennessee head coach Butch Jones in a press conference on Wednesday, February 1st (National Signing Day).

"We wanted individuals that not necessarily loved recruiting but love football, and they have a passion for football, and they have a passion to gain a college education, and that's what we think makes this class very balanced from top to bottom."

In all, Tennessee signed student-athletes from 10 different states. There are new 12 offensive players, 14 defensive players and one specialist on the roster.

Coaches talk about "building a wall" around the state, and Tennessee did well inside the state's borders, with 7 Tennesseans in this class. That group includes 4-star running back Ty Chandler from Nashville's Montgomery Bell Academy, and 5-star offensive tackle Trey Smith from the University

School of Jackson. Those were two major gets.

However, there were misses and two big ones close to home.

5-star receiver Tee Higgins from Oak Ridge and 4-star receiver Amari Rodgers from Webb School in Knoxville turned down Tennessee and instead will play at defending national champion Clemson. But Butch Jones seems to take issue with the perception that Tennessee's recruiting has slipped a bit.

"I think this is probably overall the most positive year that we've had in recruiting," said Jones. "Every high school I went into, whatever state it was... whether it is the principal the high school football coach the athletic director coming out saying... 'Wow, you know Tennessee's back.'"

But the reality is this... when the dust settles Tennessee likely has a Top 15 level class nationally. That's obviously pretty good, and a stature that Vols fans hoped for not too long ago. However, in the SEC that's only good enough to get Tennessee into the middle of the pack. And with division rivals Georgia and Florida a step above with their classes, this will make life even more difficult for the Vols going forward.

Jones did ask for patience from Tennessee fans going forward with the newcomers. "I do want to guard against this class though I think it is unfair to put any expectations on them at this point and time" said Jones. "As we all know each individual develops differently at their own stage."

2017 is shaping up to be a very important season for Butch Jones, his 5th in Knoxville. Tennessee hasn't won the SEC since 1998, nor has it played for a conference title since 2007.

Patience is something Tennessee fans are starting to run out of...



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

Euphemisms

Make no mistake about it, we are engaged in a civil war - even though we're not shooting at each other. The word civil is defined as being courteous or polite. The state of our country is now anything but civil. The acrimony is at a fever pitch not present since the American Civil War. As Congressional hearings wear on, I am struck by the courteous, but obviously disingenuous, verbiage of US Senators who engage in euphemisms to define their alternative reality.

According to Mr. Webster a euphemism is a mild word or phrase that is used instead of one that is unpleasant or offensive. The word derives from Greek eu- (good) and pHEME (speech). Words are the tools we use to express our thoughts. I can't read someone's mind. I can intuit their feelings through body language, but I get closer to understanding them if I combine their

body language with their spoken words. But what if words are chosen to misdirect or deceive others?

Let's look at several obvious euphemisms which circulate in the body politic and our modern lexicon and are used to deceive. The term conversation is a frequently used euphemism which I believe is actually dismissive, derisive and confrontational. The left says we should civilly engage in a conversation where thoughts are shared as between friends who have mutual respect for each other. Nothing could be farther from the truth because "conversation" is really a veiled polemic whose purpose is to score points and dismiss opposing views. Obvious examples are seen on any talk show.

Another magic word used by the left is the term mainstream. It is proffered as a centrist vision and reasonable position to promote

understanding and comity in the body politic. Actually, the left's use of this term is to denigrate any opposition to their world view. Lastly, Planned Parenthood may once have been where you received educational planning for parenthood. Now, Planned Parenthood is where you go to prevent parenthood or end it with an abortion.

At one time the notion of reaching across the aisle may have been a valid concept in Washington. The recent refusal of Senate Democrats to participate in various committee investigations of Trump's Cabinet appointments is a prime example of the lack of comity and civility which now exists in our Government. In 2013, while leader of the Senate, Harry Reid changed the deliberative rules of the Senate invoking the so-called "nuclear option." This removed the designed sixty vote "advise and consent" function of the Senate for Presidential appointments. Now, all that is necessary is a simple majority vote in the Senate, and as a result, Trump's appointments will happen despite the ridiculous Democrat whining and posturing. Furthermore, in October 2016, in the run-up to the expected Clinton victory, Harry Reid predicted that his successor, Chuck Schumer, would use the nuclear option to appoint Supreme Court

Justices. Schumer's recent "tears" weren't about immigration vetting, but actually his impossible position where the Democrats control nothing and whine about everything.

The term reaching across the aisle refers to the Congressional aisle ways which exist between the Republicans and Democrats. Perhaps physical separation between adversaries is advisable, and exists in the British House of Commons as well. A member of Congress once beat up another member with a cane. Perhaps it might be simpler to just turn Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer loose on each other and accept the victor's position.

Philosophical and political differences have always existed, but the divide increased after Thomas Jefferson and James Madison created the party system, largely in opposition to those who advocated a larger role for the Federal government. John Adams was a Federalist and so was Alexander Hamilton. (I wonder if the cast of Hamilton has any clue where the party system originated?) In times past, political differences have been overlooked for the good of the country. This seems impossible in the current state of war which now exists. The idealistic notion that we are all Americans is gone and has been replaced by Party ideology

with posturing, vitriol and a "scorched earth" policy of opposition. Democrats oppose all of Trump's appointments and policies as Democrats pander to their wacko base.

I believe movies are helpful in demonstrating a point because this medium offers valuable shared perceptions. The movie Arrival is a must see for anyone who is interested in language and communication. The story revolves around a linguist who develops a way to communicate with an advanced star faring culture. These beings are so different from humans that initially no planes of reference exist. My father-in-law had red-green color blindness and was often asked what "red" looked like to him. He would pointedly reply, "What's red look like to you?" demonstrating that red is a shared perception and has no rational definition other than its resonating wavelength of electromagnetic radiation (light).

I have to admit that I am no longer tolerant of the intolerance which spews from radical Islam, Hollywood and the unhinged left. Though I understand that the verbiage of Democrat leaders and their operatives is driven by fundraising for the next election cycle, I've quit listening. And the alphabet media, especially CNN, have made themselves

totally irreverent by becoming apostates of virtue and purveyors of fake news. One commentator purportedly counted thirty examples of fake news just last week. One example was the report that Trump was bringing both of the two finalists for his Supreme Court nomination to Washington for the announcement. It wasn't true, but the drive-by media, after creating "mayhem," just drove on by, bringing to mind the Allstate TV commercial character Mayhem.

It should be obvious to everyone that there will be no reaching across the aisle or compromise, unless done by the wannabe-Democrat, John McCain. Actually, I don't want to compromise with people like Ashley Judd or Nancy Pelosi. Interestingly, Senator Susan Collins of Maine and Alaska's Lisa Murkowski, who have Rs beside their names, are opposed to Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education. Both receive large campaign contributions from teacher's unions.

Remember the wisdom of the ages and follow the money. The Master explained it best, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matt. 6:22).

Food for thought...

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

Romance in the Garden

My article for December 2016 received many comments. I took the word Christmas...taking each letter and talking either about flowers or shrubs that bloom in December or trees, plants and shrubs that exemplify winter/December in Zone 7.

So... I'm using that same concept again for February. I had planned on using the word Valentine's Day but instead settled on using the word Romance.

R—R again stands for Roses. (That is the obvious choice... Roses emulate Romance, Valentine's Day, Love... That goes

without saying!) So you say... what roses are blooming in February? Knock-Out Roses are. However, since indeed Roses is the obvious choice, I would rather say R stands for the Red River Lily also known as Crimson Flag. These plants are a clump-forming member of the Iris family that grows from a rhizome instead of a corm. They generally bloom from late summer to autumn through early winter. They also make good container plants and if moved to a cold greenhouse during early winter, will provide a succession of flowers for several months. The flowers are well suited to cutting and decorating the winter table in the house.

O—O stands for Odora Daphne (Actually called Daphne Odora

or Winter Daphne or Fragrant Daphne). These are one of my favorite February blooming evergreen shrubs. This shrub typically grows to 3-4 feet tall and 2-4 feet wide. It features intensely fragrant reddish-purple flowers with pale pink to white insides. Blooms in February to March. It has glossy, leathery, dark green leaves but also comes in a variegated form with green leaves with yellow leaf margins.

M—M stands for Mahonia. Mahonia Japonica 'bealei' is also called Leatherleaf Mahonia or Bealei's Barberry or even Oregon Grape. Winter is when leatherleaf mahonias really catches you eye. You will notice the new year's growth when bright yellowish-green buds

swell from the tips of the stem. Then in February, spires of vivid yellow flowers open. If you have a warm spell in midwinter, be sure to step closer and enjoy the scent of spring.

A—A stands for Arum Italicum. Although this is not a blooming plant in February, it is still noteworthy. Few plants provide such beautiful foliage in the winter garden as Arum. It has distinctive white-veined leaves that are large and arrowhead-shaped. It is a great plant for botanical interest in the garden. Best suited for woodland gardens or in partial shade to full shade. They then have white creamy flowers in May. In summer, the leaves become dormant and disappear, but are replaced by a

grand display of orange berries.

N—N stands for Narcissi or Narcissus. Narcissus (daffodils) emerge in spring when gardeners are eager to see a cheerful floral face. They come in different flower shapes, colors and varied bloom times. The Narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' is a very early bloomer sometimes emerging and blooming right at the edge of melting snow or even poking their heads through the rock-hard ground and crunchy white snow. They are tough little guys and are easy to grow. Other early bloomers are 'February Gold', 'Little Gem', 'Tete-a-Tete' and 'Topolino'.

C—C stands for Crocus. Crocus are another one of the first blooms

Continue on page 4



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Back when...

By **Ralphine Major**

It started with a simple question. But, Woodrow Luttrell went way beyond the answer, describing a way of life most of us have never known. He communicated with family by computer well into his nineties, providing a treasure-trove of memories about his early years. Woodrow passed away in 2014 at the age of 97, which makes the memories that he wrote about all the more precious. His family is allowing me to share some of his fascinating family history.

"When Dad and Mom married, they lived with our Grandma Tarver family for the first few years in the Tarver House on Roberts Road," Woodrow wrote. Two of Woodrow's sisters, Mildred Luttrell Mullins and Brownie Luttrell Pelton, were born in the Tarver house. "It burned after Doctor and Macel bought the farm," he added. 'Doctor and Macel' caught my attention. They were names that I knew. Macel was Woodrow's sister who was married to the only doctor in Corryton, Dr. A. D. Simmons. For most of us in the community, Dr. Simmons was our family doctor; and many of us went to school with the Simmons children. It is tempting to branch out into the Simmons' story at this point because it is more familiar. But Woodrow's great insight into the Luttrell family's early years in Corryton

is much too intriguing to bypass. The six Luttrell children included, in birth order, Mildred, Brownie, Woodrow, Macel, Houston, and Betty.

"Grandpa Tarver operated a country store on the northeast corner of Washington Pike and Roberts Road," he wrote. "For a time Dad worked on the Tarver farm and/or ran the store. I have one ledger book of charge accounts made at the store. That must have been when Grandpa was a Squire or Justice of the Peace (an elected official) and had an office in Knoxville," he continued.

Around 1915 the Luttrell family moved to Corryton to the little two-story house on the corner of Foster and Davis Roads, across from where Dr. Simmons had his office. Woodrow was born in that house on October 20, 1916. There was a small barn back of the house, along Foster Road, where his father kept Molly and Prince, the horses. That house is no longer there.

Later, about 1919, the Luttrell family moved to a rental house on Childs Road, located on acreage that was formerly part of the property once owned by Woodrow's great-grandfather Tarver. The family's rented house was right next to Little Flat Creek. "I well remember living there and how the walls were covered with old newspapers to try keeping warm," Woodrow wrote. (Next week, the family moves to Luttrell House.)

Romance in the Garden

Cont. from page 1

to appear...also sometimes peeking up through a layer of snow with the promise of spring. They have low-growing, colorful, cup-shaped flowers. Flower colors include blue, violet, yellow, white and striped. Height ranges from 3 to 6 inches. They tolerate light shade to full sun with well-drained soil and do well in mass plantings.

E—E stands for Eranthis Hyemalis. The common names is Winter Aconite and is a late-winter bloomer (before crocus) that features cup-shaped, upward-facing, bright yellow, buttercup like flowers on stalks to 3-4 inches tall. These rugged

plants also often send their shoots up through snow. They are best grown in moist, humus-rich, well-draining soil in full to partial sunlight. This beauty may self-seed and naturalize over time, coming back year after year. They are virtually pest and disease free and deer resistant. They are stunning in beds, borders, along paths or walkways, rock gardens and great for containers, too.

So, put some "Romance" in your garden for February and don't forget the "Romance" in your life... remember your spouse, sweetheart or significant other. Happy Valentine's Day!

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