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Summer School Schedule Set for 2017

Summer school sessions for Knox County high school students will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday from May 25 to June 22, 2017 at all high schools. During this time, classes will be offered for makeup credit and new credits.

The cost to attend summer school sessions is \$10 for all courses, besides Driver's Education, which is \$150. These non-refundable fees must be paid the first day of the student's summer session.

Courses offered for summer school are: English I, II, III and IV; Personal Finance; Economics; Government; U.S. History; Works History and Geography; Geometry; Bridge Math; Algebra I and II; Physical Science; Ecology; and Wellness.

All classes will be taken online, except Driver's Education. Every student will be required to attend class from 8:30 a.m. to noon for the first 10 days. If adequate progress is shown, the student may then choose to complete coursework from home, or any other location. All students will return to school to complete the End of Course test. If a student fails to show continued progress while working from home, he will be required to return to school to complete work.

Driver's Education will be offered at only two locations—Central High School and Hardin Valley Academy. Enrollment for these courses will take place from 4-7 p.m. on April 24-25 (Central) and April 26-27 (Hardin Valley). If a student does not enroll during one of these enrollment periods, he/she will not be enrolled in Driver's Education. Driver's Education students will attend five days of class (May 25-31) from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and then complete Range and Driving during one of three seven-day blocks in either a two-hour morning or afternoon session. Space is limited for Driver's Education to 32 students at Central and 36 students at Hardin Valley.

There will be no summer school for middle school programs this year.

Rezoning meeting held at Holston Middle

By Pete Gawda

Only a handful of people attended a meeting Tuesday evening at Holston Middle School that was to explain the proposed rezoning for the new Harden Valley and Holston middle schools and answer their questions. The small number was in contrast to the large crowd that attended a meeting several weeks ago at the same location to receive input to be

used in developing the rezoning plan that was presented that night.

Interim superintendent Buzz Thomas opened the meeting by saying, "We are here to listen." In previous meetings to formulate the rezoning plan Thomas said "We heard you say 'don't be any more disruptive than you have to be, keep families

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Rick Grubb, director of enrollment and transportation for Knox County schools, uses a map to point out proposed new school zone boundaries at a meeting held last Tuesday evening at Holston Middle School.

Touring Knoxville Locomotive Works



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Knoxville Locomotive Works President Pete Claussen (left) guides a tour of the Knoxville company's facility. Pictured are Commissioners Michelle Carringer, Brad Anders, Charles Busler and his wife Sharon and Pete "Doc" Claussen.

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Three Knox County Commissioners took a guided tour of Knoxville Locomotive Works Friday hosted by KLV President Pete Claussen and his son, Pete "Doc" Claussen, vice president.

Present for the lunch and tour were Commissioners Michelle Carringer, Brad Anders, and

Charles Busler and his wife Sharon.

The tour began with a catered lunch in The Tennessee Private Passenger Car and a meal prepared by Bradford Catering Events of Greenway Drive. Claussen, Sr., told railroad stories and shared a bit of the history of the company.

KLV began in 1998 to service

Gulf and Ohio Railroad locomotives. It entered the market in 2011 specializing in "green locomotives." Now the company is widely accepted as the green company for single engine models ranging from 1,000 to 3,200 horsepower. Their engines are known for consuming less fuel, emitting less, and doing more.

Crowded field for Daniel Brown's Council seat

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Damon Rawls picked up a petition last week from the Knox County Election Commission and became the 13th person to enter the race to replace Councilman and former Mayor Daniel Brown. Brown became the first African-American mayor in Knoxville when then Mayor Bill Haslam was elected governor and served until Madeline Rogero was elected.

Rawls joins the crowded primary campaign in the traditional African-American 6th District. Other people who have picked up a petition include John A. Butler, Andre S. Canty, Maurice L. Clark, Sr., Michael Covington, Therea Cox, Kelsey Finch, David Gillette, Lincoln Lincoln, Gwen McKenzie, Jennifer Montgomery, Shawnee Rios and Brandy Slaybaugh.

Only Lincoln, Montgomery, and Slaybaugh have returned their petitions so far to officially enter the

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Ridgedale uses grant for garden, outdoor classroom

By Ken Lay

Ridgedale School students began preliminary work on what will eventually become the school's outdoor classroom on Friday morning.

One of the school's Special Services teachers, Miller Foutch, helped Ridgedale receive an \$8000 TeacherPreneur Grant from the Great Schools Partnership to build and maintain a garden on campus.

"This will eventually become our outdoor

classroom," Foutch said. "We hope to have it completed by the end of this school year."

Other schools in Knox County have outdoor classrooms, but Ridgedale's students have been involved in the entire project since Foutch received her grant in December.

"Our students have been involved with this the whole way," she said. "Through the community, they went and purchased

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Khann Chov of Beardsley Garden works with a Ridgedale student to build a raised bed for the school's garden and outdoor classroom.

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Can you be arrested for peeping?

In my years in the legal profession, there are some laws for which I have never seen someone arrested. The "Peeping Tom" statute is one of them.



By **Jedidiah McKeehan**
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

the language of the law, the person doesn't even have to be undressed, they can be completely clothed. They could say they were offended or embarrassed that you saw them watching old rerun tv shows.

Tennessee Code Annotated 39-13-607, titled, "Observation without consent," states:

(a) It is an offense for a person to knowingly spy upon, observe or otherwise view an individual, when the individual is in a place where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, without the prior effective consent of the individual, if the viewing:

(1) Would offend or embarrass an ordinary person if the person knew the person was being viewed; and

(2) Was for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification of the defendant.

(b) It is not a defense to a violation of this section that the defendant was lawfully on the premises where the offense occurred.

So let's break this down, you can be charged with being a Peeping Tom even if you're somewhere that you're allowed to be. That means that you could be charged if you're standing in your own house!

Not only that, who determines whether someone is offended or embarrassed by someone viewing them? According to

But wait! It has to be proven that the Peeping Tom observed the person for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification. I will try to keep this PG rated, but how in the world could this be proven unless there is VERY clear evidence?

So, for those who have seen Back to the Future, Marty McFly goes back in time and finds his dad up in a public tree watching his mom through a window. Could he be charged with a crime? I simply do not know how you would PROVE that he received any gratification or arousal from such, even if he did. That may be part of the reason why no one ever gets charged with this crime.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knoxville and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including criminal, personal injury, landlord-tenant, probate, and estate planning. Visit attorneyknoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

Crowded field for Daniel Brown's Council seat

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race. Candidates have until May 18th to qualify and May 25th to withdraw. The primary election is August 29th and early voting begins August 9th.

The general election, which would see the top two candidates with the most votes face off, is November 7th. Both the primary and the general

election are non-partisan contests although both the Democrats and the Republicans are closely watching the campaigns in the Sixth District. While only residents of each district may vote in the primary the general election is different and any registered voter in the city may vote

in all the district races. June 31st is the deadline to register to vote. Including the 6th District, city elections will choose five new city council members. The other four races are also developing into lively contests.

Vying to replace Nick Pavlis in the 1st District seat are Ken Bradley, Debbie Helsley, Greg Knox, Rebecca Parr and Andrew Wilson.

In the 2nd District race to replace Duane Grieve are Brandon Bruce, Wayne Christensen, Andrew Roberto, William P. Slone and David Williams.

In the 3rd District James Edward Corcoran, Jody Mullins and Seema Sign Perez have picked up petitions to replace Councilwoman Brenda Palmer.

Departing Councilman Nick Della Volpe would be replaced by Albert O. Gaah, Dan Davis, Lauren Rider or Harry Tindell.

Currently there are 30 people who have picked up petitions for the five seats with more than a month left before the deadline. The field could get more crowded as interest in the City Council races grows among potential candidates.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Christa Cuccaro of the City Law Department answers questions from homeowners about the various proposals within the developing ordinance on short-term rentals.

Many question Short-Term Rental proposal

By **Mike Steely**
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The city's effort to regulate short-term rental (STR) properties is moving forward but not without some opposition and many questions. The public meeting Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church on Third Avenue was well attended and many people were current owners of homes that they rent to visitors.

City of Knoxville Chief Policy Officer Bill Lyons, Communications Director Jesse Mayshark and Law Department's Christa Cuccaro spoke and reviewed the current proposal. The recommendations that are garnered at several public meetings, online and in person may be included in the final report that goes to the Metropolitan Planning Commission and then to City Council for adoption.

Lyons told The Focus prior to the meeting that he has learned the state has backed off of forbidding municipalities to regulate the rentals.

"We were really worried about that and couldn't be happier," he said.

The proposed ordinance is being presented as "not new restrictions but new permissions." Currently STRs are not regulated and, in the opinion of the three speakers, are illegal and operating outside city codes.

Several of the homeowners present disagreed.

"There's no proof the regulations need to be put in place," one South Knoxville homeowner said.

Some remarks had to do with the proposed restriction of allowing only one home per homeowner be rented to short-term visitors. A question about renting a duplex was taken by Lyons who said that needs to be considered.

At two points audience members were yelling at one another.

A member of the Sequoyah Hills neighborhood said that R-1 zoned houses should not be permitted to become short term rentals. Another question was about the proposed regulation of requiring a homeowner or representative be available within 45 minutes when the home is rented.

Cuccaro said the average STR in Knox County receives about \$3,700 each year according to Airbnb Corporation and the average stay is 2.5 nights. The cost of a permit is being proposed at \$70 for one category and \$120 for another. The homeowners would also pay a 3% hotel-motel tax. A business license would not be required if the STR makes less than \$2,999 per year.

If revenue goes above \$10,000,

the homeowner would have to get a business license.

There were also questions about who could be called with complaints about rentals. Depending on the complaint, enforcement would come from the police department, the codes department, the fire department or other city department.

One resident asked about converting his monthly rental properties into to STRs and learned that he would only be allowed to do so for one of the houses and he would have to purchase the permit. Long-term rentals are not regulated by the city except by the same regulations that apply to all residential houses.

Lyons and Mayshark both emphasized the idea is not to take long-term rentals off the market; the city wants to keep homes available to low income people. Lyons said the city is already experiencing the loss of low income rental houses.

Another resident, who uses Airbnb when traveling and also rents out part of his home to visitors, suggested the city find "a middle ground" and allow 2 or 3 homes from one owner be permitted for a few years to see if that policy works. The short term rental proposal now goes to the planning commission.

Ridgedale uses grant for garden, outdoor classroom

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all the materials from Wal-Mart and Home Depot.

"They did this through our classes that teach shopping and social skills. We've had so much support from the community."

The school is receiving assistance from Beardsley Farms, the Knox County Planning Commission, the Knox County Health Department and the Florence Crittenton Foundation.

"It's great to have all of these people offer to volunteer," Fouch said. "We had so many people who wanted to volunteer that I had to turn people away

and that's a wonderful problem to have."

All of Ridgedale's students, who range from kindergarten age to 22 years old, participated in Friday's activities. They built raised garden beds.

"We have students from all over Knox County," Fouch said. "We have some with disabilities and some without. But we're working to make sure that they are on a plan for post-secondary success."

"We're working to teach these skills to these students, so that they achieve their plan. We have students

who work off campus and they will get the chance to hone their skills here during the day before they go off to work."

The school has a kitchen and Fouch said that the school intends to plant fresh produce for use in Ridgedale's cooking classes.

"We are hoping to eventually plant produce for our kitchen and cooking classes," she said. "We're also hoping to plant produce and send it home with our students who receive Second Harvest food bags."

"And all of the students

who are in this work-based program will receive high school credit or work toward their plan. We want our students to leave here and have success in life and we want the students to return to their base schools with skills so that they can have success."

Once the garden and outdoor classroom are complete at Ridgedale, Fouch said that the high school students will perform vocational tasks. She also noted that some of the school's older students will teach the younger students how to maintain the garden.

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Publisher's Position

The Transformation of America

THE FIGHT FOR THE SOUL AND FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

The United States of America is undergoing a transformation that ought to concern folks. Today there are two very different and distinct Americas. Resistance to the federal government of the United States is prevalent in our society today, led by the corporate media in this country blatantly trying to destroy the president. No president in our country's history has ever faced the unceasing attacks as has Donald Trump. Allied with Hollywood celebrities, cultural warriors, and other members of the left, the corporate media makes little pretense in reporting news and no longer attempts to

hide its bias.

This attitude is prevalent in those on the left who refuse to acknowledge Trump's election. Of course they don't acknowledge the Constitution or the Congress either, especially if the majority in Congress happens to be Republican. Nor are these people shamed by their egregious hypocrisy. These folks adhere to the old adage "hypocrisy is the tribute vice pays to virtue." Squeeze a leftist hard enough and it guts that ooze out, but the pure goo of hypocrisy.

The left in this country believed the dawn of a new America had arrived with the election of Barack Obama. They mindlessly drove their own agenda to the point where the left began to be repudiated in election after election. Yet the final straw for the leftists was the election of Donald Trump, a possibility they never even remotely entertained. One had but to watch the news coverage on Election Night in 2016 as the corporate media talking heads waited for the results to roll in confirming Hillary Clinton had been elected in a landslide.

For those watching that night, one could see the visible change in expressions and body language as it became increasingly apparent Trump might very well win.

The very idea the left's cherished notions might not be the prevailing opinion in the country was utterly unacceptable to them. It was unthinkable, after all Obama was the Messiah come to earth. That is one big reason why they latched on to the idea the Russians somehow manipulated the votes to elect Trump president like an angry snapping turtle. Months later, with not a solitary piece of evidence to support the contention the Russians somehow hoodooed the American voters, they still cling to the idea like a kid who can't live without his favorite blanket.

These people wake up in a new world every day and make no concession to anything that has happened before. Furious with Trump's nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch for the U.S. Supreme Court, they rail against the GOP-dominated Senate for utilizing the

so-called "nuclear option," a tactic they approved of when Harry Reid initiated it to confirm a host of Obama-appointed judges. The left exulted in the near total executive authority exercised by Obama, yet began squealing about the sanctity of the states under Trump. They make the argument the laws of the states take precedence of those of the nation, an argument made by the leaders of the Southern states when they seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America.

The left squirmed with delight when Obama ignored the rulings of judges and nearly pass out in ecstasy when judges attempt to void any action taken by President Trump. They hailed the bold leadership of Obama when he issued executive order after executive order to circumvent Congress, yet howl when President Trump issues his own executive orders. Clearly the left recognizes no legal authority unless the government is in the hands of someone like Barack Obama. The new resistance is described by the left's allies in the

corporate media as activism, protesting, or perhaps even civil disobedience, but it all comes down to the fact they have few real principles. What they do have is an ideology. To the left, Donald Trump and the Republican Congress epitomize everything that is wrong with this country and they have never believed there was much right with America to begin with. The left believed its call for social justice and identity politics was the inevitable future of the United States until the voters set them back last November.

That is precisely why the American left has been positively hysterical ever since. It is impossible their own worldview could not be the overwhelming opinion of every intelligent American. It was inconceivable the "deplorables" had taken over the country and, worse still, the government; for the government is the instrument through which they intend to inflict their own personal ideology on the rest of us. The left has been used to conservatives or those who disagreed with them ultimately

backing down after being beaten with brickbats from the corporate media or accusations of prejudice.

Make no mistake, the ideology has been effective in some quarters, especially universities and colleges. We are raising a generation that doesn't value or even believe in free speech. The utter intolerance of the left has helped to polarize the country and they still openly despise and demean anyone who doesn't share their views. This new cultural war is fully out in the open for anyone to observe as the left refuses to acknowledge the legal government of the United States.

Eventually, one side or the other must win. The left smugly presumes its own ideology will triumph in the end and that same ideology, cloaked in compassion and understanding, is totalitarian. It is easy to see why bipartisanship is a thing of the past and compromise is dead.

The fight for the soul and future of America is underway.

Compassion in Action Purse Sale

More than 300 gently-used designer purses will be sold next Monday, April 17th with prices starting at only \$1 and going to about \$25. Yes, it's true.

The sale runs from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Emerald Room at Physicians Regional Medical Center, at 900 East Oak Hill Street, in Knoxville.

Several designer purses from Michael Kors, Vera Bradley, Coach, Cole Haun, Liz Claiborne and others will be available.

Proceeds from the sale benefit ACS "Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk" and the "Compassion in Action" fund.

Compassion in Action Fund started in 2009 and is now a 5019c(3) non-profit independent corporation. Compassion in Action serves communities in East Tennessee for those who are uninsured and underinsured to receive breast imaging and provide financial assistance to cancer patients in need.

Anyone wanting more information may contact Janine Mingle at (865) 607-9664 or email her at Janine.mingle@compassioninactionfund.com.

Rezoning meeting held at Holston Middle

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together, and no busing." Rick Grubb, director of enrollment and transportation for the school system, gave a detailed description of the boundaries for the proposed district for the new Gibbs Middle School.

Buzz Thomas emphasized that high school zones have not changed. He said the proposed rezoning plan had to do solely with middle schools. "We made the rezoning with as little interruptions as possible," he added.

In response to a question about bus routes, Grubb replied that there would be major changes in bus routes to correspond with the new zones.

Buzz Thomas said that one of the dangers in starting a new school was enrolling too many students because new schools draw people. He predicted that in six years Gibbs would be crowded. For that reason, it is school system policy not to transfer students from outside new zones into zones for brand new schools.

Parents who desire to do so can request a transfer for their children. Transfers to new schools and overcrowded schools are not granted. However, 80 percent of the transfers requested are

approved.

"We do not zone by streets," explained Grubb. "We zone by property lines." He went on to explain that the zone lines went along the back side of properties.

Grubb also stated that it is the desire of the school system to have all the students in a given district transition from elementary school to the same middle and high schools. However, with fewer middle schools than elementary schools and even fewer high schools, that is not always possible.

A number of people from Shannon Valley farms subdivision were present. They are zoned for Holston Middle School and Gibbs High School. They would like their children to go to Gibbs Middle School. "We are thinking about it," was Buzz Thomas' reply. He noted that they were closer to Gibbs.

In closing Buzz Thomas urged responses to the proposed rezoning be emailed to rezoning@knoxschools.org. Complete details of the rezoning can be found on the school system website. The interim superintendent then

introduced his successor, soon to be superintendent Bob Thomas.

Bob Thomas then presented his three major goals. The first was increasing achievement by all students. His

second goal was building a positive culture with students, parents and community. The third goal was to eliminate disparities in such areas as achievement and discipline.

Bob Thomas also expressed a desire for "the very best education opportunities for all our students." He stated his wish to make a good school system even better.

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Superintendent Bob Thomas to serve on a two-year contract

By Pete Gawda

The length of the new superintendent's contract, a donation for a library at South-Doyle High School and a dress code policy change for students were topics of discussion at last Wednesday's regular session of the Knox County Board of Education.

The proposed contract for new superintendent Bob Thomas was for two years. Tony Norman made a motion that the term be changed to three years. He noted that Thomas was well known to the board, having been with the school system for 44 years. He said for a person not as well known a two-year contract might be better. He said it would take a year to develop programs to accomplish Thomas' goals and another

year to implement them. Then the contract would be over.

Other board members disagreed with Norman. Susan Horn asserted that the community preferred a shorter contract. Gloria Deathridge noted that if the board let the superintendent go they would have to buy out his contract. Thus, a shorter contract would be better. Terry Hill thought it would fiscally responsible to have a shorter contract.

While preferring a three-year contract, Thomas said he would work just as hard whatever the length of the contract. Norman's motion failed by a vote of four to five with Norman, Owen, Patti Bounds and Mike McMillan voting for the three-year term.

The approved contract, as amended, would go into effect April 6, 2017, expire on May 31, 2019, call for an annual salary of \$200,000 and contain a travel allowance that was increased from \$400 a month to \$600 a month. It passed by a vote of nine to zero.

Randy Boyd, Knoxville businessman and candidate for governor, has donated \$223,000 for a new state of the art digital library for South-Doyle High School which will allow students to access a multitude of services and information. There had been some question about the recurring costs of operating this library. Tim Berry, principal of South-Doyle, addressed that question. He stated the profits from the school store would make the library self-sustaining.

Several policy changes were on the agenda for the first and second readings. The only one that aroused discussion was the second reading of the proposed policy change establishing a student dress code. According to the proposed policy change faculty and staff would be held to the same dress code as students. Lynn Fugate explained that this proposed policy change was suggested by students. Sidney Rowell, student representative to the board, noted that students have been avidly following the progress of this proposed policy change. Horn amended the motion to delete the part that stated faculty and staff should be in compliance with the student dress code. She agreed that a policy for faculty and staff

was necessary, however she did not think this was the suitable place for such a code. She thought that would be something for the superintendent and the advisory council to work out. Fugate noted that if the substitute motion were passed the issue of dress code for faculty and staff would have to be addressed. "It is hard for a student to be sent home when faculty violates the dress code," she said.

Deathridge stated that teachers say there is not a dress code for them. Since there is nothing in writing, she said it is hard to enforce professional dress. As amended the motion unanimously passed with the issue of faculty and staff dress deleted.

She urged board members to contact their legislators and ask them to vote "no" on this and all other bills concerning vouchers.

BoE discusses new superintendent's contract

By Pete Gawda

Discussion of new superintendent Bob Thomas' contract and donation of a library to South-Doyle High School were major topics of discussion at last Monday's work session of the Knox County Board of Education.

After considerable discussion several items in the proposed contract for the new superintendent were unresolved and would have to be worked out before Wednesday's meeting of the board. One of those issues was the length of the contract. The proposed contract was for three years. Earlier discussions centered on two years. Bob Thomas said he

preferred a three year contract, however, he was willing to conform to the wishes of the board. Gloria Deathridge expressed the opinion that a two year contract would be too short and a four year contract would be too long.

The other issues were: the amount of mileage to be paid, dates of evaluation and contract end date. Chair Patti Bounds and deputy law director Gary Dupler were to work out those issues before the regular board meeting.

The proposed contract calls for an annual salary of \$200,000 which may be increased by action of the board without having to

negotiate a new contract.

At their Wednesday meeting the board will vote on acceptance of \$223,000 from Randy Boyd for a new South-Doyle High School Library. In the spring of 2016 the current library had to be closed because asbestos was discovered. The proposed library has been described as "A prototype high school library for the digital age." By combining print and digital resources it will allow students to access multiple services and information.

Jennifer Owen was concerned that there was no accounting of what it will cost over time to maintain the new library. She also

stated that the new library would create disparity with some of the other schools.

Amber Rountree responded by stating that different schools have different unique programs that other schools do not have. She did not think this created disparity. She called the proposed library, "the only one of its kind in the state."

"It is an extraordinary gift," was the opinion of interim superintendent Buzz Thomas.

Turning to other items, interim superintendent Buzz Thomas announced that after a series of public meetings, new superintendent Bob Thomas would present the rezoning proposal for the

two new middle schools to the board in November. He also announced that a new fact-sheet on immigration and deportation will be prepared to relieve uncertainty among parents and students. He also announced the appointment of Tammy Campbell as ombudsman, a move he said would make the school system more parent friendly.

Owen gave an update on the current session of the state legislature. She expressed concern about a bill that would create a school voucher program in Shelby County. Owen stated that the program would take money from public schools and give it to private schools.

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Merle Norman opens in The Gallery on Kingston Pike

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

A twenty year Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio owner has moved her studio from Knoxville Center Mall to The Gallery Shopping Center at 7240 Kingston Pike near West Town Mall. Many people are pleased to see the store open and former customers are following Edith Jackson to the new location.

"We've just opened," she told The Focus. She said she and her associate, Kendall Blankenship, are pleased with the new location and said the shop has been welcomed by nearby business owners and well-wishers.

"Our first customers, Jan Hoffman and Martha and Hershel Lusby, came by as we were opening," she said. Jackson said she's planning to announce a

Grand Opening date at a later time.

The shop has custom-designed cabinets, a full selection of Merle Norman products, and also features Vera Bradley bags, accessories and jewelry. Jackson said they also do makeovers and manicures, and recommends the three steps to beauty: Cleanse, Tone and Moisturize.

"Our most important value is quality and service," she said.

"Our new location means our customers have adequate parking within close proximity to the studio," Jackson said.

Jackson's former Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio was located at Knoxville Center Mall, also known as East Towne Mall, for 14 years, and prior to that her shop was in Farragut.

"We're excited to be located just one-tenth of

a mile from West Town," she said.

The Merle Norman Company began in the 1920s when Merle Norman began experimenting with various forms of cosmetics. She started in her kitchen and began selling her products. Her efforts carried her through the Great Depression and by 1934 there were 94 studios in the nation.

The company remains in family hands today and is an international corporation.

Jackson invites everyone to call the store at (865) 525-9595 or visit them on Facebook at "Merle Norman Cosmetics at the Gallery."

The studio is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday and 12:30 until 4 p.m. on Sunday.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Edith Jackson (left) and Kendall Blankenship welcome customers to the new Merle Norman Cosmetics in The Gallery on Kingston Pike.

'Rock of Ages' is all about marble

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Why was Knoxville known as "Marble City" once?

Back in the 1880s and for many years the marble industry in Knoxville and East Tennessee was booming. As early as the 1850s East Tennessee marble was chosen for the interiors of the state capitol and inside the House and Senate Wings of the U.S. Capitol. Area marble was used in recent years in the door of the U.S. Capitol's Visitor Center and the "First Amendment Tablet" at the Newseum in Washington.

This Saturday, from 9 a.m. until noon, the East Tennessee Historical Society hosts the "Rock of Ages Exhibition" with a discussion of the stone, photographs, documents and stories relating to the industry and its workers.

Susan Knowles, Ph.D, of the Center of Historic Preservation of Middle Tennessee State University, will moderate and members of four families associated with the marble industry locally will talk. Those include Sonja Jones, Finbarr Saunders,

Jean Vestal and Beth Wolf.

The program is free to the public and visitors can tour the museum and see the "Rock of Ages" display.

Marble from East Tennessee grace places around the nation like Union Station in New York City, Union Station in Toronto, The National Gallery of Art, and the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D. C.

During the boom marble was quarried in Knox, Blount, Loudon, Union and Hawkins Counties.

Local marble was used at the Ramsey House, the Old Stone House in Friendsville, and the Chilhowee Park Bandstand. In the 1880s there were eleven marble quarries in Knox County and within a decade the number of works doubled. The historic community of Concord became a major shipping port for the stone.

The U. S. Post Office and Federal Building in Knoxville is made of the local marble. The U.S. Customs House, now the East Tennessee Historical Museum, also contains the local marble.

City Council

Sale of property near old Knoxville High School debated

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

The sale of a piece of property across from the former Knoxville High School drew some attention recently when it appeared on the city council agenda for routine approval.

Carolos A. Mesa and Patricia H. Mesa bought the property from the city for \$40,000, about \$4,000 greater than the estimated value.

Councilman Duane Grieve objected to the purchase and moved to deny the sale and to ask the city to reissue the proposal for sale. He said that council approval was "not automatic."

The motion brought a response from Councilman Nick Della Volpe who thought Grieve's motion was inappropriate. Della Volpe said the council shouldn't "second guess" the process and that the property has sat unused for more than three years.

Grieve countered that the Old City area is developing more today than it was a few years ago. The renovation of Old Knoxville High

School is underway as are other changes and improvements in that area. The property is near the Central Street crossing. He suggested that the property is worth more than the bid price.

Councilman George Wallace called on Mrs. Mesa and she told the council that there's no specific use planned for the property adding "We did everything fair."

"We got the highest bid, it's that simple," she said.

Wallace said the couple "met all the terms and conditions."

"I agree that it is a strategic piece of property," Wallace said but added the Mesa bid was accepted and said he supported approving the sale.

Councilman Marshall Stair asked Mrs. Mesa what she might do with the property and she replied, "We might put it up for sale again."

City Attorney Charles Swanson told the council that it the bid is rejected the process starts over again but added the council "clearly has the right to refuse"

a bid.

Stair suggested that the city's Department of Redevelopment look at the property and determine if it is "strategic."

"Everyone followed the rule," Grieve said but said the "property management group" was not aware of the property's importance.

Wallace said that the property is "not a key piece of property by itself."

"It is way too late for second guessing," Della Volpe said. He called the issue "a fair sale and a fair bid."

Deputy Mayor Bill Lyons told the council that the property "is a critical piece" and said they should not "underestimate the importance of this property."

Council member Brenda Palmer said that the Mesa couple "acted in good faith."

Stair countered that the process is "clearly legal" and the council has a right to vote on it but, again, declared it a

Continue on page 2

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Honoring those who serve

Vietnam veteran Bob Tobey is greeted by his wife, Sue, and neighbors on return from HonorAir Flight 23 last week. HonorAir Knoxville takes WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans from East Tennessee to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built to honor the sacrifices they made to ensure our freedoms.

Audit Committee hears from internal auditor

When the Knox County Audit Committee meets next Monday at 1:30 the agenda calls for several items including a report from the internal auditor on the contract with River Sports Outfitters. The committee will also hear an update on the county's audit hotline, and reports from the finance director and external auditor.

The internal auditor's segment on the agenda calls for a report on health code inspections, the library inventory, a follow-up to the hotel-motel tax collection, and a report on upcoming projects.

River Sports has been approved by the county commission for a 10-year renewal of the agreement to service The Cove at Concord Park. Kevin Hill, owner of Uncle Lem's Mountain Outfitters, was also a bidder and had complained that River Sports had an unfair advantage in the bidding and didn't do day to day maintenance and building improvements. The report may deal with the previous contract and the percentage paid to Knox County on purchases made at The Cove.

Sale of property debated

Cont. from page 1

"significant" property.

"Slow down and we'll get there faster," he said of the development of that section of Knoxville.

The motion to reject the bid failed with only Grieve, Stair and Finbar Saunders voting to reject the highest bid. The motion to accept the bid then passed 6-2.

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Easter is just around the corner. As we all know, it is the most important time of the Christian religion. In the 19th century, the Easter Bunny and Easter eggs became part of the celebration because both are symbols of new life. Just like Christmas, the special day is defined by the special traditions that families follow.

The first of these traditions is coloring Easter eggs. Mother boiled a potful of eggs and set them on a rack to cool. She'd then fill several cups with a bit of vinegar and color tablets or a few drops of dye. The whole kitchen reeked with the mixture of the vinegar and boiled eggs.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

We boys circled around the kitchen table and dipped eggs into the dyes. Some of the eggs were colored with several different shades while others were solid. Invariably,

at least one egg clunked into a cup, and a spider web of cracks ran along the shell. That meant the egg inside would soak up the color. Dal spent time applying stickers or other unique decorations to some eggs. Most important was that we took the clear crayon and scribbled our names on eggs. By the time we finished, all the eggs were replaced on the rack to dry, and our fingers were stained with a variety of colors.

Easter morning, we

boys found baskets in the kitchen. The "Easter Bunny" had loaded them with plastic grass, several eggs, and two or three types of candy. Jelly beans were placed in plastic eggs; marshmallow bunnies and chicks (Peeps) sat on the grass; and M&M's in a plastic bag lay in one corner.

After breakfast, we put on our new outfits, and the whole family moved outside for picture taking. Then we hopped into the car and rode to church for Sunday School and church services. The minister always made the sermon especially long, either because he felt that Easter was the time to drive the Christian message home or because he delighted in torturing children who wanted to hurry home to check out their baskets.

Mother always made us change our clothes when we arrived home. The task lasted only a brief time, and we stood in the kitchen and waited as she and Daddy hid the eggs in the yard. We flew through the screened door when they gave the okay and scoured every corner and shrub for eggs. It took only a few minutes to find them, and we begged for another round. Eventually, Mother called a halt to hunting because she needed to finish the special dinner that she'd begun.

Every year, an egg or two were never found. We grew tired of hunting and gave up on the lost prizes. Of course, at some point in late spring or early summer, the egg reappeared. One of us would crack it open, even though we knew the stink

that would emanate from it would send us running in a different direction.

At the end of the day, many of the egg were cracked from having been handled by little hands. Mother took the damaged ones and made a big bowl of egg salad; it would be the makings for school lunches the next day. Eggs that survived whole were returned to the refrigerator until we boys retrieved them for snacks.

Years later, my own children are grown and living in their own homes. No egg coloring or basket making is done at our house anymore. I miss those good times as a child, and I miss the people who made Easter Sunday such a special time.

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Tennessee and American Neutrality Part Six

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Tennessee's senior United States senator, Kenneth D. McKellar, had declared himself solidly behind Secretary of State Cordell Hull's plan to revise the neutrality act. McKellar had also urged President Franklin Roosevelt to call Congress into special session to consider neutrality legislation following Adolf Hitler's invasion of Poland. McKellar had visited with reporters while in Nashville following his return to Tennessee from a brief vacation in New England. The reporters were eager to discuss American neutrality. Senator McKellar was confident of success after the Roosevelt administration had suffered a humiliating setback during the summer. "Of course there will be opposition from Senators Borah and Nye," McKellar acknowledged, "but the law will be passed."

William E. Borah of Idaho and Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota were both progressive Republicans and rabid isolationists. The wily McKellar was quick to point out the economic advantages of repealing the arms embargo. "There are vast surpluses of cotton, wheat and other commodities in the United States and when the foreign nations now at war start purchasing these, business will begin to boom." As ever, Senator McKellar was acutely aware of the impact repealing the embargo would have on Tennessee. "Unemployment will disappear," McKellar said.

On September 1, 1939, Senator McKellar urged President Roosevelt to call Congress back in special session to amend the neutrality act "in the interest of world peace." McKellar believed "a large majority" of those members of Congress who had been opposed to the cash and carry provision advocated by Secretary of State Hull "would favor the real substance of these proposals now." "With the present Neutrality Act in force," McKellar insisted, "the United States is powerless to exert her powerful influence for world peace." "Germany does not have to bother about us; Japan can ignore us and will," Senator McKellar said. "By reason of the present laws, in world affairs our influence is about on parity with any minor power..." McKellar made clear his disdain for the dictators and had been a critic of both Hitler and Benito Mussolini longer than most congressmen. "I abhor war and war threateners and war-makers," Senator McKellar said. "Apparently they are permanent fixtures in Europe today. Let us not help them by keeping on our statute books laws that give them aid and confidence."

From Nashville, Senator McKellar traveled to Winchester, Tennessee, home of his junior colleague, Tom Stewart. The two Tennessee senators were lunching together when they received word President Roosevelt had called Congress to meet in special session. It was no coincidence that McKellar was on President Roosevelt's list of telephone calls to make just after issuing the call for a special session of Congress. After leaving his lunch with Senator Stewart, McKellar beamed at the news of the called session. "I will be there on September 21," McKellar promised. "And Senator Stewart will be there, too." Senator McKellar hurried off to Murfreesboro, Tennessee where he conferred with Congressman Albert Gore about the neutrality legislation.

Tennessee was also sending a new member of Congress to Washington for the special session. Estes Kefauver, had resigned from Governor Prentice Cooper's Cabinet to run for the Congressional seat left vacant by the death of Sam McReynolds. Kefauver won the Democratic nomination and faced Republican Casto Dodson of Sparta, Tennessee, a former state senator. GOP Congressman J. Will Taylor traveled to the Third District to speak on Dodson's behalf, while Senator Tom Stewart stumped the district for Kefauver. Senator McKellar made a radio address in support of Estes Kefauver, telling the people of the Third District the Democratic candidate "is conscientiously in favor of the principles and policies of the administration and just at this time the presence of a man like him to take Sam McReynolds' place is almost imperative."

Senator Stewart had made his own announcement in support of revising the neutrality laws on September 8, 1939, adding he would support the cash and carry provision. "This country needs the trade," Stewart said. "That is one of the troubles with our economic system - - - we have too much surplus of commodities which other nations of the world can use." "If we don't sell to them," Senator Stewart pointed out, "other nations will, so we might as well get the business."

Stewart arrived in the Capitol for the joint session of Congress, only to turn around and leave for Atlanta hours later. The senator had been notified his wife, Helen, had been stricken with appendicitis while visiting their eldest daughter in Atlanta. Mrs. Stewart was taken to Emory hospital for an emergency surgery. Stewart intended to remain at his wife's side before returning to Washington, D. C. Senator McKellar was at his desk in the Senate Office Building, still pleased with

his tour of Tennessee. "I suppose I met more than 6,000 people in 29 counties," McKellar told a newsman. "Every single person, with exception of one man, favored amendment of the present neutrality law." Senator McKellar predicted, "The Senate will amend the law overwhelmingly." The Tennessee senator added, "I want to handle the matter so as to keep us out of war. It is a dangerous mess over there." With Senator Stewart having departed the Capitol to be with his wife, only Senator McKellar and Congressman Jere Cooper were in Washington, although Representative-elect Estes Kefauver was expected to arrive later that evening by automobile and would take the oath of office the following day.

The flurry of activity by McKellar won the senator editorial praise from the Nashville Tennessean; the Tennessean noted McKellar had "been bombarded with letters and telegrams opposing repeal of the arms embargo provision of the Neutrality Act." The Tennessean pointed out "... Tennessee's senior senator has the advantage of keeping in personal touch with his constituents" and only recently completed visits to the county seats of twenty-nine of Tennessee's ninety-five counties. McKellar's personal conversations revealed Tennesseans were in favor of repealing the arms embargo provision of the Neutrality Act. The Tennessean did not doubt for a moment Senator McKellar "accurately reflects" the "majority sentiment of his state."

Congress convened in joint session at 1 p.m. on September 22, 1939 to hear President Roosevelt ask for repeal of the arms embargo and adopt neutrality legislation. Security was heavier than ever before for President Roosevelt's visit to the Capitol. Kenneth Romney, the House Sergeant-at-Arms, announced no spectators would be allowed to stand in the galleries and only those bearing special admittance cards would be allowed inside the House chamber. FDR's message was to the point and a pointed inasmuch as he directly hit at the heart of the isolationists. "Because I am

wholly willing to ascribe an honorable desire for peace to those who hold different views from my own as to what those measures should be, I trust that these gentlemen will be sufficiently generous to ascribe equally lofty purposes to those with whom they disagree." Roosevelt told Congress, "Let no man or group in any walk of life assume exclusive protectorate over the future well-being of America, because I conceive that regardless of party or section the mantle of peace and of patriotism is wide enough to cover us all. Let no group assume the exclusive label of the 'peace bloc.' We all belong to it."

Despite President Roosevelt's hope that good motives could be ascribed to every point of view, many congressmen and senators were not so generous after his speech. The press avidly collected opinion from senators and congressman immediately after the joint session. Senator Rush Holt of West Virginia snapped, "The President could have said it in a sentence: 'Give me the power and go home.'" North Dakota's Gerald Nye barked, "If the speech was intended to demonstrate the need for repeal of the arms embargo it was a miserable failure. There was nothing in it to indicate the need for a special session." Arthur Capper of Kansas agreed with Senator Nye. "I don't think the President showed any need for new legislation. I'm for the neutrality law as it stands." Senator Tom Connally of Texas, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a supporter of the Roosevelt administration, praised the President's address. "It was a splendid statement of international policy," Connally said. Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York said, "It was a magnificent and impressive plea." Tennessee's K. D. McKellar told newsmen, "It expressed my view completely, and I believe it expressed the views of nine-tenths of the American people."

Queried by another newsman about the President's speech, Senator McKellar replied with but three words, saying, "Fine, excellent, splendid." Most of Tennessee's Congressional



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Tennessee's Senator K. D. McKellar in 1938, as he prepared to leave for South America.

delegation approved of Roosevelt's message to Congress; Congressman Wirth Courtney, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said "95 per cent of the people of my district" agreed with the views of President Roosevelt. Congressman Albert Gore described the President's talk as, "A peace message - - - very strongly so." The newest member of Congress from Tennessee, Estes Kefauver, praised Roosevelt's message and added he had "no doubt the President will do all in his power to maintain this country's neutrality."

Congressmen were also divided in their opinions of the speech. Hamilton Fish was, as might be expected, less than impressed. "I was amazed to find that the President would put our unemployed back to work making war munitions for foreign nations for blood money profits," Fish growled. "Every dollar spent by belligerents for arms and ammunitions in the United States means a dollar less for American cotton, wheat, corn, pork, and other foodstuffs." Speaker William Bankhead said, "It was a very impressive statement of the President's attitude. He delivered it logically and delivered it temperately." Majority Leader Sam Rayburn said Roosevelt had given "a masterful presentation of the issue" and he believed "it voices the sentiment of an overwhelming majority of the American people." Mary T. Norton, one of the few women to serve in Congress, said, "I hope the Senate will act on the embargo and follow through on the President's suggestions. If it does, we stand a much better chance of keeping out of war." Representative Caroline O'Day of New York, a personal friend of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and usually a strong supporter of Roosevelt, lamented, "I hate to vote against the President and I dislike being put in the position of aiding Hitler and Stalin but war to me is the sum of all iniquity and I must support the policy which seems most likely to keep us out - - - an embargo on arms." Congressman John C. Schaefer of Wisconsin sounded the attitude of many Republicans in Congress, especially those

from the Midwest where isolationist sentiment was quite strong. "I am opposed to being a rubber stamp for the President once more," Schaefer snapped. "As for cash and carry, if these foreign governments have the cash to pay for what they buy for this war, they should begin passing the \$13,000,000,000 they owe us for stuff they bought in the last war."

The Philadelphia Inquirer collected similar statements from senators across the country. Senator Gerald Nye thundered, "Many members are now learning how their constituents back home feel in this matter. Their mail shows an overwhelming number of writers are against embargo repeal - - - and that goes for members who have not been aligned with us (meaning the noninterventionists) on this issue." Senator Warren R. Austin, a Vermont Republican, was less strident. Austin said, "What we want is peace. In my opinion, the surest way to get it is to repeal the act. After having repealed the law Congress should sit back and look at the situation while remaining in session." Senator Carter Glass of Virginia, whom President Roosevelt had once laughingly referred to as "an unreconstructed rebel", simply said, "I will be for cash-and-carry." Senator Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin evaded the question, replying, "I am thinking and not talking these days." Senator William Borah growled, "I've got at least one damn good campaign left in me." Hiram Johnson promised, "There will be no compromise."

Gerald Nye was right; congressmen and senators began hearing from their people back home.

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Those were the days



Rosie's World

Before we had TV, we had radio. My grandmother and I would listen to Amos 'N Andy, Fibber McGee and Molly, The Shadow, and Charles Fuller's "Heavenly Sunshine" program. That was in the evenings. In the afternoons we listened to the original "soap operas" such as, Stella Dallas, Life Can Be Beautiful, One Man's Family, Romance of Helen Trent, and Our Gal Sunday.

Rochester), Have Gun will Travel, and the Lone Ranger? To wax nostalgic, think of the "happy days" of the drive-in movies, or, I should say the "happy nights." Sadly, they're not making a comeback in the U.S. although there are now 348, compared to 443 in the year 2000. Tennessee alone has fifteen drive-ins, the closest one to Knoxville is in Maryville, Blount County. But who can forget the "partying" of going to the movies in the car, sitting on blankets on the hood, indulging in popcorn and hot dogs or cuddling with a loved one in the front seat?

Yes, those were the days which Archie and Edith sang about in the sitcom All In The Family. Wouldn't it be nice to bring some of those days back? Just for a day or two, maybe, but, let's face it, the days we have now will be nostalgic to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren years from now. There are many, many other programs but these were the ones that came to my mind "in these days."

Thought for the day: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

Send comments to rosemerrie@att.net.

Mabry-Hazen House Hosts Park Day



Volunteers from Western Heights Baptist Center take a break from landscaping and gardening at Mabry Hazen House during last week's Tennessee Park Day. On Saturday, April 1, 2017, history buffs, community leaders and preservationists teamed up with the Civil War Trust at more than 130 sites in 30 states to answer the call to service on Park Day. Celebrating over 20 successful years, Park Day has attracted volunteers of all ages and abilities bound by their dedication to serving their communities at historic sites nationwide.

Have a Safe and Happy Easter Weekend!

SUBWAY

577-6715
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Council may rewrite rule on urban chickens

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Back in 2010 the City Council approved the raising of chickens inside the Knoxville city limits and placed several restrictions on that part of "urban agriculture." Basically you can have chickens in residential areas of you have 6 or less hens, no roosters, keep the animals fenced and their coop clean, and keep the chickens within the city.

The city puts poultry and swine into the same 500 foot category

in agriculture zones and that code is hindering the efforts by Knoxville Botanical Garden of raising urban chickens and providing educational demonstrations for the public on their grounds. Amanda Spangler, with the Center for Urban Agriculture at the Botanical Garden and Arboretum at 2743 Wimpole Avenue turned to the Animal Control Board, Council Attorney Rob Frost and Councilman Mark Campen for help.

Campen has a "placeholder" on Tuesday's City

Council Agenda that may drop the distance limit from 500 feet to 100 feet in the agricultural zoned areas.

Spangler worked with Doug Gordon of the city law department for changes in the rules by the Animal Control Board. Campen promised to get the change on the city agenda as soon as possible. He passed along the information to Attorney Frost.

"I support this effort 100 percent," Campen said.

"We'd like to host an on-site urban hen demonstration to educate Knoxville homeowners about how they can legally keep hens within the city limits," Spangler told Campen. The demonstration would incorporate the existing coop and chicken runs that have been approved by the city and provide instruction on how to submit a Domesticated Hen Application to the Animal Control Board. The exhibit would feature three hens purchased from 4-H students.

The Botanical Garden is zoned for agriculture and is not exempt from the current city ordinance requiring a 500

foot distance for hogs and chickens. Raising chickens within residentially zoned areas in Knoxville are not involved in the request

"I reached out to the Animal Control Board and they believe that poultry and swine should not be necessarily be grouped together in this way," Spangler said.

"On their February 23rd meeting they unanimously voted to propose a revision in the ordinance for agriculture zones," she said.

"The Animal Control Board recommended that we reach out to a member of City Council. We are reaching out to you as a member of the council who is knowledgeable about animals and a supporter of the Gardens. We want to serve as a community resource but we also want to keep hens in compliance with existing laws," Spangler wrote to Campen.

The 100 foot proposal specifies the distance from any street, park, playgrounds, schools, churches or similar properties but only within the few agricultural zones in the city.

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MERLE NORMAN

Edith R. Jackson
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Back When, Part 7

“Before school age we wore short pants, down to about the knees, and a little later on wore knickers. The short pants and even knickers often were made



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

handle. Every home had them back then.” he recalled. “For school days, the shoes for boys were made of leather and were the kind that reached above the ankles. They

summer.” Perhaps, many Focus readers can identify with Luttrell’s account of those earlier days when it was necessary for families to get the most out of their belongings. No doubt, many can remember the shoe-last described below.

“Sometimes the soles---the bottoms of the shoes---would wear out and start to have holes in the bottom. If they were still good enough, Dad would ‘half-sole’ them, by ripping off the old sole that had been sewed on the bottom and tacking on a new leather sole. Or, a new one might just be put on top of the worn sole,” Woodrow added. “He kept sheets of leather from which the right size repair sole would be cut and used an iron shoe-last and a special flat tack hammer for the job. The iron shoe-last was made especially for the

laced up with special strings of either cloth or rawhide, part of the way to the top, then had a few hooks the rest of the way for fast lacing and tying,” he added. “As I recall, they cost about \$2 per pair and were a bit too large so as to allow feet to grow some so that shoes would last until about the time school was out the next spring. If the shoes were a little too big when new, we would wear two pairs of socks. Hopefully, those new shoes bought at the beginning of school would also last for doing farm work all of the next

by Moma. She was an excellent seamstress. Material was usually bought at a dry goods store or at a country store that had cloth materials for sale,” he wrote. The late Woodrow Luttrell shared in great detail what life was like growing up in Luttrell House on Luttrell Farm, on Washington Pike, Corryton, Tennessee, in the early 1900s.

“As a very small child I remember the button shoes. They had to be fastened with a little wire type metal buttonhook, perhaps with a wooden



Picture dated 1923 when Woodrow Luttrell (front row, extreme right) was seven years old. The school picture gives readers an idea of clothing for the children almost 100 years ago, provided by Lisa Luttrell Crowe.

purpose and every family had one. They consisted of an upright iron bar, with a flat base, and a supply of various sizes of iron slightly curved shoe-shaped pieces could be placed on the top of the bar and be very secure.

These shoe-shaped metal pieces would bend the tacks when hammering on the new sole. Often, a tack would work loose and dig into the bottom of one’s foot and need to be hammered down again.”

Luttrell’s step-by-step description of the family’s shoe repairs is a reminder of how far our society has come in these many years---and just how much we take for granted today.

Holding on to Heirloom Seeds and Plants

So you may ask, what is an Heirloom Plant? Heirloom plant species are vegetables, flowers, herbs and fruits grown from seeds that are passed down from generation to generation (typically at least 50 years and some even have history reaching back 300 years or more).



By **Mike Cruze, Master Gardener**

for seed swaps or heirloom seed sales. Typically Ijams Nature Center has a seed swap annually as does Ramsey House. Beardsley Community Farm has an annual seed swap. There are many local gardening centers which sell heirloom seeds. You can find heirloom seeds at Knoxville Seed (they have an extensive selection including Cherokee purple tomatoes, Cherry Bell radishes and more...probably well over 100 varieties.) Mayo Garden Center offers heirlooms as well. You can also find heirloom plants at Stanley’s Greenhouses, Ellenburg Nursery and various other local garden centers.

Of course, you can also order heirloom seeds. Seed catalogs are abundant. There are also seed saving organizations as well as seed companies. The seed saving organizations usually promote garden biodiversity, utilization of rare heirlooms and the history behind the seeds.

The most popular is the Seed Savers Exchange. They have seeds for vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs. They are the largest, non-government nonprofit seed preserver in the United States, maintaining a collection of 20,000 heirloom and open-pollinated vegetable and herb seeds. There is also Southern Exposure Seed Exchange. Their seed collection is focused on varieties that perform best in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic. These can be ordered but can sometimes be found at Three Rivers Market.

As you can see, if you search out resources, you can certainly have access to quality heirloom seeds and plants. By planting these, then saving the seeds, you can pass them down generation to generation to keep these most tasteful vegetables growing and growing as well as the history and charm.

“Now seeds are just dimes to the man in the store

And the dimes are the things that he needs,

And I’ve been to buy them in seasons before

But have thought of them merely as seeds,

But it flashed through my mind as I took them this time,

“You purchased a miracle here for a dime.”---Edgar A. Guest, A Package of Seeds

Heirloom varieties are open-pollinated, meaning that pollination occurs naturally, with no outside assistance... without human intervention. It relies on natural pollination from insects and the wind. Some horticulturists define heirloom plants as any cultivar developed before 1951, the year that growers introduced the first hybrid cultivars.

Benefits of heirlooms are their time proven attributes such as superior flavor, color, size and production... providing diverse colors, bright flavors, rich nutrition and fascinating history and you can save your own seeds from year to year.

Stories of heirloom vegetables are part of their charm. In addition to their charm, these vegetables offer local hardiness, disease and pest resistance developed over a number of years and again, the ability to grow and harvest your own seed. Another practical heirloom advantage is their adaptability to both climate and soil conditions.

One thing to keep in mind with heirloom seed planting is to be sure to have lots of space to maintain seed purity and to prevent cross-pollination.

Also at the end of the day, by growing heirloom vegetables, you are preserving biodiversity. Genetic diversity in food crops is vital for global food security. The ability of the gardener to gather non-hybrid seeds at the end of the growing season ensures that the plants that perform best in a particular climate will continue to survive and provide food for the future. Also seeds saved from heirloom vegetables will produce plants that are true to type, unlike hybrid seeds.

So you may be asking yourself, what if I don’t have heirloom seeds that have been passed down by my grandfather, great-grandfather or others, where do I get heirloom seeds?

You can buy them locally— look

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Night Out

Knox County At-Large Commissioners Ed Brantley and Bob Thomas are headed to East Knoxville for their next Ed & Bob Night Out in Knox County. Ed and Bob will be at Chandler's Deli, 3101 Magnolia Ave., Thursday, April 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to meet the people of east Knox County and listen to their concerns. There is no agenda. There will be no votes taken, but there will be a LOT of ribs consumed!

Fountain City Town Hall April Meeting

This month's meeting will be held April 10, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 5337 Jacksboro Pike.

Vickie Williams-Baumgartner, Dogwood Arts Program Manager, will present the highlights of the 2017 Dogwood Arts Festival. Students from Gresham Middle School will be recognized for outstanding achievement in citizenship and scholarship.

KCC Spring Concert

The Knoxville Choral Society presents the Knoxville Chamber Chorale Spring Concert on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension located at 800 S. Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919.

The Knoxville Chamber Chorale is a 31-member choral ensemble auditioned from the membership of

the Knoxville Choral Society and conducted by Dr. John R. Orr. The Chamber Chorale is Knoxville's premier chamber choir.

The program features choral arrangements of classics as well as newer music arranged for a cappella choir. The concert includes classics like Jauchzet dem Herren and Richte Mich, Gott, Psalm 43 from Mendelssohn. Also included are many other selections such as Hear My Prayer, O Lord from Henry Purcell, Amazing Grace from Eriks Esenvalds, and Lord, If I Got My Ticket Can I Ride? arranged by Sheldon Curry. The concert provides a full evening of beautiful choral music and is not

to be missed.

This event is free and open to the public.

The 2016-2017 concert season is sponsored by Rush's Music, the Tennessee Arts Commission, the Clayton Family Foundation, the city of Knoxville, WJXB 97.5 FM and WUOT 91.9 FM. For more information, please visit www.knoxvillechoral-society.org.

New Beverly Baptist Church

New Beverly will hold its annual Egg Hunt for children 12 and under at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 15.

The Easter Celebration on Sunday, April 16 will include Son Rise Service at 7:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10, Easter Morning Worship

at 11 and Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

PK Hope is Alive Parkinson Unity Walk

PK Hope is Alive Parkinson Support Group of East Tennessee is sponsoring their 6th annual Parkinson's Walk on Saturday, April 15, 2017 at Bissell Park Pavilion in Oak Ridge. Registration will be 9:00 a.m. and Walk will start at 10:00 a.m. The Walk route will be 1.2 miles. There will be free parking next to the Library. State Congressman John Regan and retired WOKI radio talk show celebrity Dave Faulk are the speakers. There will be live music by local favorite Brandywine, free healthcare information

and handouts, free goodie bags and drawings! The Walk will take place rain or shine! Come walk, support a walker or make a donation online at www.unity-walk.org (specify team: PK Hope is Alive). 100% of donations go to research funding for the six major Parkinson's organizations.

PK Hope is Alive Parkinson Support Group welcomes people with Parkinson's and their care support partners to join the support group. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. in Oak Ridge at Kern United Methodist Church in their Family Life Center.

www.pkhopeisalive.org.

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

SATURDAY, April 15 @ 10:30AM



**Charlie Cunningham Estate
Home/Adj Tract/Personal Property
1314 East Hendron Chapel Rd.
Knoxville TN. 37920**

**Public Preview
Friday April 14th 2:00-6:00 PM
Auctioneer: Chad Williams**

Cunningham Estate - 2.43 ac. being sold in two tracts. 2 bdr home, equipment shed and outbuildings. Level lay of ground in an excellent neighborhood / full of merchandise! You set the price! Absolute Auction, No Minimum, No Reserve!

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- Older Frame Home first time on the market
 - 2.43 acres being sold in two Tracts
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 - Mature Shade Trees with Multiple Garden
- Partial Personal Property List: Tag-a-long Camper, Utility Trailers, Misc older farm equipment, Lawn Art,

General Household Merchandise, Coke Collectibles, Antique (non-running) Truck.

Directions: From Knoxville, travel 7 miles south on Chapman Hwy to left onto East Hendron Chapel Rd then 2.5 miles to auction site on your right.

TERMS: 10% Down day of sale, balance due at closing within 30 days. Personal Property Terms: Cash, Check day of sale.

10% Buyer's Premium added to all successful Bids. This house was built prior to 1978 and may contain lead based paint.

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A-E sophomore is Knox County girls' scoring champion

By Steve Williams

Austin-East sophomore Larrianna Bullard is aware that her high school coach played for the Tennessee Lady Vols and she dreams of doing that too someday.

She may be well on her way.

Bullard was Knox County's top scorer in girls basketball during the 2016-17 season, averaging 24.7 points per game as she accumulated 667 points in 27 games.

"She is a force to be reckoned with," said Coach Gwen Jackson, former UT player. "Her skill level is just as good as any male athlete. She has the ability to take over a basketball game by herself. She is hard to guard one on one and makes everyone around her better. I have coached her for two years, and her skill set just keeps getting better and better."

The 5-7 Bullard had a personal best 42 points in one game this season. Other big scoring nights included 38, 41, 28, 32 and 36 points.

On the middle school level at Vine, which plays 6-minute quarters, she once scored 32 points.

"Larrianna is a joy to watch, because she still has yet to reach her full potential," added Coach

Jackson via e-mail. "She can play any position on the court and has done so for us this year. She has played the point spot, the wing and even played the five position as she has tremendous hops (jumping ability).

"By far she is the best all-around athlete in the state of Tennessee. She is a pleasure to coach and I look forward to watching her growth in the future."

Bullard also averaged 7.7 rebounds per game but feels point guard is her best position.

"For one (objective), I want to win the game of course," Larrianna said when being interviewed last week at A-E. "Score and lead my team to a big win, and have a good attitude.

"I felt like we did good this year. We made it to the region."

Despite pouring in the points, Bullard feels "dribbling" is what she does best on the court. She feels she could be a playmaker and hand out assists. It's a dream to do that someday for the Lady Vols.

"I love Tennessee," she said and has been a fan of its basketball program."

No, she hasn't met UT Coach Holly Warlick.

Continued on page 3



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

A-E sophomore Larrianna Bullard goes up for a shot against Central. Bullard topped Knox County girls scoring with a 24.7 average.

Thanks ... and more coming!

The Knoxville Focus is pleased to recognize Knox County's top scorers in high school basketball for the 2016-17 season and thanks the coaches who provided us with the statistical information.

There are 21 high schools in Knox County that are members of the TSSAA. Counting boys and girls, that adds up to 42 teams.

In our correspondence with coaches, in addition to scoring leaders, we also received noteworthy statistics in other categories, like rebounds, assists, steals and shooting percentages, so we plan to have a follow-up story in our April 17 issue.

Bobcats enjoy historic stay at Bearden Invitational

By Ken Lay

Central High School's boys soccer team is quickly establishing itself as a competitor in East Tennessee.

And new head coach Chris Quinn has stiffened the Bobcats' schedule in 2017 and Central has responded by going toe-to-toe with the Volunteer State's elite powerhouse teams.

Central recently competed in the Bearden Invitational, the top high school tournament in Knoxville, and the 'Cats held their own against teams like Gallatin, Christian Academy of Knoxville, Morristown West and Notre Dame.

The Bobcats closed out tournament play with a 3-2 victory over the Chattanooga's Irish on Sunday, April, 2 at Bruce Allender Field.

"We beat Notre Dame 3-2 and that was a big win for our program," Quinn said. "I wanted to compete in this tournament and I wanted to show our players that we could compete against these teams."

Well, the Bobcats (4-2-1 overall, 3-0 in District 3-AAA) certainly got a glimpse of just how competitive they can be. Kalulu Bamba had a hat trick against the Irish in Central's Bearden Invitational finale.

In the narrow loss to the Trojans Saturday afternoon, Josh Gibson's scored the lone goal of the match for the Bobcats, who were suffering from fatigue after pulling off the draw against the Warriors earlier in the day.

"Against Morristown West, we were tired," Quinn said. "After we tied CAK, we didn't get the chance to reflect and our guys didn't get to go home and think about it.

"They didn't get the chance to enjoy it."

It was a history making draw for the Bobcats, who salvaged a tie thanks to a pair of late markers by Bamba and overcame a 2-0 deficit to the defending Class A/AA State Champions.

"I was talking to [former boys coach] Russ Wise and he told me that that was the first non-loss to CAK in school history," Quinn said. "It was the first non-loss for both the boys and

Continued on page 2

T-ballers play in front of the 'Little Green Monster'

By Steve Williams

Improvements at Bower Field in South Knox County over the past year have totaled about \$100,000 and the "Little Green Monster" looked good as new as a couple of T-ball teams played on Field 5 Tuesday, April 4.

"Thanks to Knox County Parks and Recreation and a lot of volunteers, we got this field redone and it kind of reminds you of Fenway," said Carson Dailey, 9th District Knox County Commissioner who was on hand to recognize

the many improvements at the park.

"It's all about these little kids playing out there now."

The Aquasox and the Bears, 5 and 6-year-old T-ballers, had a beautiful early spring day to play in the annual Bower Field preseason tournament, with the Aquasox coming out on top 20-9.

Before their game, ballpark sponsors were recognized: Lowe's, Valspar, JAF, Blalock Construction and Realty Executives' **Continued on page 2**



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

With the "Little Green Monster" in the background, six-year-old Jacob Ward, rightfielder for the Aquasox T-ball team, is ready for action in a preseason tournament at Bower Field.



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The Central Bobcats are emerging as a competitive force on the area high school soccer scene. They recently completed a historic run in the Bearden Invitational. They also kept their perfect district record intact with a 4-1 win over Halls Thursday night.

Quinn finds happiness as Bobcats soccer coach

By Ken Lay

Chris Quinn is happy to be coaching high school soccer and he's even more excited to be Central High School's boys coach.

"I love the administration here and I'm grateful for the opportunity that they gave me here at Central High School," said Quinn, who is a former assistant coach at West High. "I'm proud to be a Bobcat."

While serving as an assistant under both Keith Robinson and Alex Walls with the Rebels, Quinn became acquainted with Bearden coach Ryan Radcliffe.

And it was Radcliffe, who gave Quinn and the Bobcats another big opportunity when he invited them to play in the 2017 Bearden Invitational recently. Central made the most of its chance to take on four of Tennessee's top soccer teams.

The Bobcats went 1-2-1 and defeated Notre Dame 3-2 to close their stay in West Knoxville.

That was monumental but Central also played defending Class A/AA State Champion Christian Academy of Knoxville to a 2-2 draw. They earned the tie with a pair of late goals against the Warriors, who have won multiple state championships since 2003.

"I wanted these guys to get the chance to play in that Bearden Tournament because I knew that playing against those teams would only make us better," Quinn said. "I was at West as an assistant for two years."

"I knew about the tournament and I knew about coach Radcliffe and the job he'd done at Bearden. And I knew about the teams that come to the tournament every year."

Central opened the tournament with a narrow 2-1 loss to Gallatin but the new coach said that his side learned a valuable lesson against the Green Wave.

"That game against Gallatin was a narrow loss and with that narrow loss, we learned that we could compete with those teams," Quinn added. "After that game, we went from that happy to be there stage to knowing that we could compete."

Quinn has a passion for soccer and he has a passion for teaching the game to high school players.

"I love coaching these young men, and I call them young men," he said. "I don't call them boys because I'm teaching them and they're learning to become young men."

"Soccer is only a vehicle to teach these young men life lessons."

Everyone who plays in Quinn's program gets the opportunity to shine; regardless of how long they've been in the program or what grade that they happen to be in.

"To me, it's not about seniority," Quinn said. "I don't look at freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors I look at players."

The beauty of team sports is that it forges a bond between teammates and coaches and Quinn prides himself on taking that to an even higher level.

"We are a brotherhood," said Quinn, who works as a personal trainer. "We are brothers on the field. I'm your brother and you are my brother."

That philosophy appears to be working for Quinn and the Bobcats, who had a 4-2-1 record as after defeating Halls Thursday night.. The Bobcats are off to a fast start in District 3-AAA and they have wins over Powell, Gibbs and the Red Devils in early-season league matches.

Quinn, 37, is all business on the soccer field but that doesn't mean that the game shouldn't be fun.

"I work them hard," Quinn said. "But if you see them in practice and you see how they play, they are having fun."

"I had a buddy come down to Bearden and the first thing he told me was that he could tell that they young men were having fun."

Quinn is a lifelong soccer player and says that the game is part of his culture. He didn't play for a high school team. He began coaching his siblings in the American Youth Soccer Association.

"I didn't play in high school and I started coaching when I was about 18 when I coached by brother and sister in AYSO," Quinn recalled. "I'm from Knoxville, Tennessee but I was adopted out of Brazil."

"So I was going to play soccer and I didn't really have a choice. Being from Brazil, that's just what you did. I never played tee ball in my life, but I remember playing soccer when I was young and I still play soccer."

Soccer may be his first passion but Quinn has become an NFL junkie.

"I'm a huge NFL fan. I tape the combine and I watch the draft," he said. "I have the NFL Sunday Ticket and I watch a little bit of every game on Sundays."

He also follows the NBA and he grew up rooting for the Chicago Bulls, when they were winning championships in the 1990s.

Bobcats enjoy historic stay at Bearden Invitational

Cont. from page 1

girls."

Central dropped a 2-1 decision to Gallatin despite a late goal from Eli Holbert, who signed to play football at Carson-Newman just hours before he and his teammates notched another key District 3-AAA match.

After four tough matches at Bearden, the Bobcats were idle until Thursday night. But they returned to the pitch and promptly knocked off Black Oak Ridge Rival Halls 4-1 at Dan Y. Boring Stadium.

Bamba and Michael Duarte each scored a pair of markers against the

Red Devils, who notched league wins over Powell and Gibbs earlier this season.

For now, Central may be the best-kept secret in Knoxville's high school soccer circuit, but that all may be about to change.

"We have talent on our team," Quinn said. "It's there."

"We don't play the same style as Bearden or Farragut. We can't play the way they do. But we play a high-tempo offense. We play in a tough district. It's not District 4, but it's tough."

For several years, Oak Ridge has dominated District 3-AAA. Central,

Karns, Powell, Halls and Gibbs have all had sporadic success but the Wildcats, it seems always win the district regular-season or tournament and wind up playing in the Region 2-AAA Tournament.

Oak Ridge appears to always handle its district slate with little difficulty. But the Bobcats certainly won't fear the Wildcats in 2017.

"We're not going to be intimidated by Oak Ridge or anybody," Quinn said. "We will respect every opponent we play; we will respect them no matter what their record is and no matter what the name is on the front of their

jerseys."

Quinn, who previously served as an assistant at West High School, stresses hard work, but he also wants his players to have fun.

"I work them hard but they're having fun," he said. "We are a brotherhood. We're all brothers on the field."

Central will return to action Tuesday when it entertains Karns in a district match at home.

Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m. The Bobcats will then entertain West in a non-league game Thursday night.

HVA gets offense going, routs Lady Bulldogs

By Ken Lay

Throughout the early stages of the 2017 season the Hardin Valley Academy softball team has played in its share of close games.

The Lady Hawks have had four of their last five games decided in the final inning and have posted four late-inning comebacks.

Hardin Valley finally reversed that trend with a 10-0 District 4-AAA

victory over Bearden Tuesday night.

HVA did, however, win the game in its last at-bat. But this time, it wasn't close. The Lady Hawks (7-4 overall, 3-1 in the district) scored seven runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to invoke the 10-run rule.

"Four of our last five games have been walk-off games," said Hardin Valley assistant coach Michael Wright, who coached the

team while coach Whitney Hickam-Cruze missed the contest for personal reasons. "We've won two of those games and we lost two."

"Today, it was nice to score some runs and get some hits. [Hickam-Cruze] will be happy with the way the girls played today."

While HVA pounded out 12 hits against the Lady Bulldogs (1-10, 0-4), Bearden couldn't get a hit.

Hardin Valley sophomore Emalee McCord pitcher faced one hitter over the minimum as Bearden got its lone base runner when Christina Kosier reached on an error with two outs in the top of the fourth.

McCord was simply dominant in the circle. She struck out 11 of the 16 Bearden batters she faced. She also finished the game with three hits, including a

Continued on page 3

T-ballers play in front of the 'Little Green Monster'

Cont. from page 1

Wanda Hendryx.

Doug Bataille, Director of Knoxville County Parks and Recreation, was on hand for the event. The Parks and Recreation Department built new restrooms, ADA compliant sidewalks for the picnic

shelter and the green wall and fence for Field No. 5, which runs along Chapman Highway.

The department also provided dirt and sand for the new field that the athletic program built and installed lights for the area. The park received a portable pitching mound from the department, and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett approved a small tractor for the program to keep at the park.

Dailey said Bower Field and Park manager Gary Rader and his "second hand man" David Tallent are the two main people behind taking care of the facility on a regular basis. Both Rader and Tallent have been involved at Bower Field for

years and in many capacities.

In fact, Tallent was one of the umpires on Field 5 for the three games that night, while Rader was in his office taking care of pre-season paper work in preparation for the start of league play on April 24.

"We built Field 5 probably 10 years ago," said Rader. "We had a chain linked fence around the outfield and the area behind it sloped going downhill and we had a lot of rain, so we put up a green fence and just started calling it the green monster."

That nickname stemmed from the Boston Red Sox' Fenway Park and its famous Green Monster outfield wall in left field.

Workers reinforced the "Little Green Monster" with new wood backing.

Bower Field has been in operation since the middle 1970s and is leased to Knoxville County Parks and Recreation by the Ben Bower family of the Camel Tent Manufacturing Company, said Dailey.

Bower's home is still located high on the hill and overlooks the park and six fields.

"He loved kids and he wanted to see a baseball field when he looked down from his house," said Dailey.

Bower Field will have league play for 30 baseball teams and four 10-under softball teams this season.

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Bradley unpacking his 'Spread Coast' offense at GCA

By Steve Williams

Rusty Bradley may have a little extra motivation in the back of his mind when he coaches his first football game for Grace Christian Academy come Aug. 18.

Bradley's Rams will be taking on two-time Class 3A defending state champion Alcoa that night, but that's only part of the story.

The last time Bradley faced Alcoa turned out to be his last game at Christian Academy of Knoxville. That state quarterfinal game in 2015 went to Alcoa by a score of 24-0.

It marked the only time a Bradley-coached team had been shut out in his nine seasons at CAK.

An entire season has come and gone since then, but it's very doubtful Bradley has forgotten the final score against Alcoa that night.

Offensive football is what the new GCA head coach has built his reputation upon. Even going into that playoff game at Alcoa in 2015, his Warriors were averaging 37.2 points per outing.

After his Tornadoes blanked CAK, Coach Gary Rankin said, "Those guys have not been shut out forever. That's pretty big. When you shut them out, you're playing some mighty good defense."

In 2012, when Bradley guided CAK to its second straight Class 3A state championship, the Warriors averaged 45.7 points per game.

Bradley, of course, took his offense with him to University School of Jackson in 2016 and he'll



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Rusty Bradley, new Grace Christian Academy head football coach, stands outside the entrance to the Coffey Field House, where his office is located.

have it on display at Grace Christian this season.

"The offensive system will stay intact for sure," said Bradley last Thursday, completing his first week on the job at GCA. "It will be the same.

"It's a West Coast offense with spread formations, so I gave it the name Spread Coast," laughed Rusty. "I got creative (with the naming of it)."

Grace Christian fans, no doubt, are already looking forward to it.

Rusty, who turns 43 this Thursday

(April 13), was a walk-on receiver for one season at UT before going to Georgetown College (Ky.) to finish his college career.

After coaching as a graduate assistant at Tennessee Tech, Louisiana Tech, Colorado and Indiana, he was an assistant at CAK for four seasons before becoming head coach in 2007.

Rusty's dad, Mark Bradley, was an assistant coach for Tennessee before joining his son at CAK in 2005. He's been coaching with him ever since.

Bradley led USJ to the Division II-A state semifinals last season. His Bruins posted a 9-4 record after bowing to eventual state champion Lausanne 30-14.

Bradley (97-34) is only three wins away from his 100th coaching victory.

He succeeds Randy McKamey, who resigned in December to take the head job at Clinton High, he and his wife's alma mater. McKamey was 89-32 in his 10 seasons at GCA and had the Rams in state title contention in Division I, Class 2A.

"I'm just excited to be here," said Bradley. "The people have been awesome. It's been a whirlwind this past week... I've jumped in with both feet. It's been hectic, but it's been easy."

The Rams will be playing their first season in Division II-A (private schools that can offer its athletes financial aid).

Having coached the one season at University School of Jackson, Bradley believes that gives him an advantage as GCA heads into the new classification.

GCA's spring football practice will be April 24 through May 11. Bradley said the Rams would not have a scrimmage or an intra-squad game.

"We'll be teaching and installing," he added. "I don't think we would be ready for one anyway. We're just going to have 10 days of practice."

Bradley, who is single, said he really doesn't have a hobby outside of football.

"Honestly, no. I like to run - that's really about it," he said. "Football is my hobby. I'm allowed to get paid to do it. I love all of the things involved with football."

In announcing Bradley as the new coach, Grace Christian head of school Rob Hammond tweeted a statement: "I am confident that he will exceed my expectations in furthering a positive, Christ-centered culture in our football program. His desire for excellence and his coaching experience in TSSAA Division II football will be great assets during this transition."

Knox County's Top High School Basketball Scorers for 2016-17

(Minimum 13.0 average, 15 games played)

BOYS

Player, School	Games	Points	Average
Nick Rogers, Farragut	26	565	21.7
Chase Ridenour, Webb	32	630	19.7
Luke Smith, Catholic	33	627	19.0
Ques Glover, Bearden	32	602	18.8
Josh Lett, FBA	22	411	18.7
Noah Harris, FBA	24	441	18.4
Jack Richards, Powell	29	529	18.2
Trent Stephney, Bearden	30	532	17.7
Isaiah Sulack, CAK	32	566	17.7
Connor Arnold, GCA	36	626	17.4
Hunter Reynolds, CAK	34	557	16.4
Brock Jancek, Catholic	33	533	16.2
Myles Rasnick, Webb	35	562	16.1
Grant Ledford, GCA	37	590	15.9
Chris Hunter, A-E	24	370	15.4
T. Hodge-Harper, Karns	26	389	15.0
Darius Harper, A-E	27	392	14.6
Preston Piper, Berean	20	276	13.8
C. J. Gettelfinger, GCA	34	449	13.2
Tyrone Patterson, West	23	299	13.0

GIRLS

Larrianna Bullard, A-E	27	667	24.7
Trinity Fisher, Karns	26	474	18.2
Haley Schubert, Powell	22	373	17.0
MarCreshia Phillips, TSD	21	350	16.7
Cassie Peters, GCA	28	463	16.5
KeKe McKinney, Fulton	34	540	15.9
Abbey Cornelius, HVA	38	506	15.3
Trinity Lee, Bearden	28	402	14.4
Bailey Trumm, Carter	31	439	14.2
Adalys Brown, S-Doyle	28	394	14.1
Che' Davis, Carter	30	401	13.4
Morgan Carbaugh, Farragut	26	339	13.0

(Compiled by Steve Williams)



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Larrianna Bullard, Austin-East sophomore, has impressed her coach, Gwen Jackson, who is a former UT Lady Vol. Bullard led Knox County girls in scoring this season with a 24.7 average.

A-E sophomore is Knox County girls' scoring champion

Cont. from page 1

But if Larrianna's game continues to progress and she continues to shine as a student-athlete, maybe someday she will.

BRYAN BOUND: Karns senior Trinity Fisher, who ranked No. 2 in girls scoring with an 18.2 average, was scheduled to sign Friday with Bryan College, said Karns coach John Marsh. Fisher scored over 1,000 points in her four-year prep career.

BOYS' SCORING CHAMP: Nick Rogers of Farragut was

the boys' scoring champion in Knox County with a 21.7 average. Webb's Chase Ridenour ranked No. 2 on the list with a 19.8 average.

HVA gets offense going, routs Lady Bulldogs

Cont. from page 2

surrendered two runs (one earned) in her first inning of work. Both runs scored with two outs.

She was obviously thrilled after the win. "It felt really good out there today and it's good to know that we all had each other's back on both offense and defense," McCord said.

Hardin Valley got the scoring started in the bottom of the second after both McCord and Bearden starter Jersey Patterson pitched a flawless first inning.

McCord doubled to open the bottom of the second and was lifted for courtesy runner Macy Beard, who later scored on an RBI single by Jodie Parham.

Patterson was able to avert any more damage as she notched a key strikeout with the bases loaded.

Patterson left the circle after two innings and Rachel Colwell pitched the remainder of the game.

Colwell, a sophomore

found some positives. "We play in a tough district and we're getting better," she said. "I'm really pleased with both of our pitchers."

"We played pretty good defense behind them and we were able to stay in the game until that last inning." In the bottom of the fifth, Parham and Anna Spates each had a two-run double. Michaela Chavis closed the game with a scoring single. Gray drove in another run with a double and pinch hitter McKenzie Green knocked in a run when she grounded out.

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Sense of urgency needed as Currie takes over UT athletics

I read John Currie's April 6 open letter to Vol Nation on UTsports.com with interest, and I'm glad the new Tennessee athletics director had a "busy, but very rewarding six days!" in his first week on the job.



By Steve Williams

I'm also glad to hear Currie is going to be writing such letters on a regular basis as part of fulfilling one of his objectives to have a transparent program. Too often in the recent past UT fans have been kept in the dark particularly when things weren't going Tennessee's way.

Former football coach Derek Dooley disappeared for months after that embarrassing loss at Kentucky and Dave Hart, the last AD, was unheard from so long after he announced his retirement last summer, he had to set up a press conference to basically tell us he was still alive and busy.

Currie tells us he's going to be upfront in his dealings with Tennessee's fan base, and promises to explain his decisions even if they might be unpopular ones. That's fair, because as we all know, you can't make everybody happy all of the time.

So, Currie had a good first week, got around to see a lot of people, including athletes and coaches, and did a lot of listening to what they had to say.

His first morning on the job started with a "cup of coffee and a great chat" with football coach Butch Jones. Boy would I like to have been a fly on the wall for that.

As many of my friends know, I like to have a good cup of coffee to start my day as much as anybody, but I do hope Currie totally realizes the seriousness

and concerns many Tennessee fans have about the football program.

Currie just got here. Tennessee football fans have been going through tough times since Phillip Fulmer was forced out in 2008 (and John, from what I've heard, you certainly know about that).

As he evaluates the football program, Currie needs to keep in mind too that last season was suppose to have been the breakthrough year for Butch. His Vols were preseason picks to win the SEC East for the first time since 2007. They didn't. They lost to South Carolina and Vandy!

One might say Coach Jones had a free pass at the end of the disappointing 2016 season, with Hart a lame duck AD.

Currie must remember these things when he evaluates this football program. It shouldn't be Season 1 going forward. That wouldn't be fair to Tennessee fans that have been suffering for years.

The athletics program overall at Tennessee, when looking at the winning and losing aspect of it, is not where it needs to be and has seen much better days.

Tennessee hasn't won a SEC championship since back-to-back titles in 1997 and 1998. It hasn't won the SEC East Division since 2007.

The Vols' basketball program has captured only one SEC title (2008) in 50 years. Rick Barnes will be going into his third year as head coach next season. How long should it take a veteran coach with his resume to put the Vols in a post-season tournament? Would an up and

coming young coach suit Tennessee better?

The Lady Vols under Holly Warlick captured a SEC regular season basketball crown in 2015 and a conference tournament title in 2014. Their last Final Four appearance was 2008. Holly does have the nation's No. 1 rated recruiting class coming in.

This is suppose to be Dave Serrano's make-or-break year in baseball and he knows it. In fact, Serrano has said himself that just making the SEC tourney isn't enough and he considers making an NCAA Regional a legitimate post-season berth.

Currie won't have to make a decision on the future of the baseball program. It will be made for him on the field, one way or the other. For the record, Tennessee's last SEC title in baseball was 1995 and its last NCAA tourney appearance was 2005.

Tennessee's softball program under Ralph and Karen Weekly is a perennial contender, although the Lady Vols haven't won a SEC championship since 2007. They were runners-up to Alabama in 2011.

Tennessee finished eighth overall in the 2015-16 SEC All-Sports rankings, with its men placing 12th and its women fourth.

As Currie can see and should know, a sense of urgency is needed from him on this subject.

Our new AD concluded his first letter to Vol Nation by writing, "My family and I share your high expectations and are honored to join you on the journey!"

Welcome aboard. Enjoy your coffee. Now get busy, please.

My ticket buying experience with the Nashville Predators

By Alex Norman

So, let me start this story by telling you that in the end, everything worked out. You don't have to feel sorry for your favorite Knoxville sports columnist.

That would be me... Alex Norman.

So, I'm a big hockey fan, and try to go to games in Nashville any chance I get. It's the closest NHL city, and the Predators have turned into a perennial play-off team. Last year they advance to the Western Conference semifinals.

The Nashville Predators have been in existence since 1998, and while hockey in the south will never bring with it the passion of hockey in the northern climates, Nashville has turned into a solid hockey town. Tickets can be acquired for a fraction of the cost if you wait until right after the puck drops too. The bars and restaurants and tourist shops are right outside Bridgestone Arena, so the entire experience can be a great one.

Anyway, the Predators open the play-offs this week. Last week I got an email from the team with the opportunity to purchase tickets to their first round home games. Thinking that this would be fun to see, I shelled out the \$143 for two tickets to Game 3 of the Western Conference Quarterfinals. Didn't know the day or the time or the opponent, but I would take the chance that it worked out with my schedule. In the event that it didn't, I knew that I could always re-sell the tickets or give them away.

After all, Knoxville is a 2 1/2 hour drive to Nashville.

So when I go onto my Ticketmaster account, I can't find a place to print my tickets. Instead, I see a note that says, "Your ticket is your phone!"

This troubles me greatly, so I begin to text back and forth with a Ticketmaster representative. At this time I am told the following:

- 1) You can't print your tickets.
- 2) You can't transfer your tickets to a friend.
- 3) You can't re-sell your tickets, even on the Ticketmaster re-selling service.

So I ask the representative what I supposed to do if I can't get to the game, or if I'm there but my phone runs out of battery since, you know, my ticket is my phone.

The answer? "Sorry."

The only idea they had was to give the person I was giving/selling the tickets to my Ticketmaster account information so they could then use their phone to gain entry to the game.

Sure thing. I'll also hand out my credit card information and social security number while I'm at it. Great idea.

I'm not willing to chance the \$143 on my schedule allowing me to get to the game. So then I have to call Ticketmaster directly now to try to get my money refunded. After 30 minutes, a resolution is reached. Ticketmaster and the Predators have a 3-day Return Policy, and in the fine print they mention nothing about exceptions being made for playoff games.

Understanding that they were stuck, the Ticketmaster representative said that since I had bought the tickets that same day (actually within that hour) they would refund the \$143, and that includes the absurd fees. Facility charge, service fee, additional taxes... and a \$4.95 processing fee! I later learned that only fans in the Predators viewing market are allowed to purchase tickets, and it has to be through Ticketmaster. You can't even buy them in person at the box office!

The reason for the absurd rules regarding the tickets is because the Predators are trying to find every way possible to keep opposing fans out of the arena. They want to make sure they have as many Predators fans as possible in the building.

Nashville has built a solid foundation for hockey in the Capital City. There is no reason to play these kinds of games with the ticket buying public. So what if some Chicago Blackhawks fans get into your arena? Guess what? Those fans live amongst you. They aren't all driving in from Illinois.

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The Doctor is in
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Lexicon

I'm glad I already speak English. It's a complicated language with contributions from more than 100 other languages, and has more words than any other. I've watched our Burundi friends struggle with homophones such as "new" and "knew," as well as idioms like "it's raining cats and dogs." If you include technical verbiage, legalese and medecalese, English has more than a million words, though the average adult's lexicon is about 20,000 to 35,000 words. In medical school I learned a new language, the language of science contained in my three inch thick Stedman's medical dictionary.

When I write I enjoy finding the perfect word to express my feelings or thoughts. And I sometimes like to challenge readers with edgy words to stretch our common vocabulary and vision.

Our English lexicon contains the German word

schadenfreude. A friend's recent snarky posting about Trump on FaceBook made me think of schadenfreude, defined as taking pleasure in another's misfortune. My friend's politics are different than mine. His comment was clever, but gratuitous. And lest you think I'm being self righteous, I assure you I've fallen similarly from grace.

What defines a man - in the generic sense? In antiquity a person's name was a reflection of their character. In fact, the word character comes down to us from a Greek word for the imprint on a coin. Our Burundi friends have names far more descriptive than my Christian or surname.

What can someone know of me when we first meet? My picture shows a middle aged white guy. But there is more to me than surface appearances or would be branding by the PC culture. If I smile and extend my hand as we meet you

might deem me friendly. And social pleasantries and banter might confirm an initial impression - or correct them.

My readers "know" me from the half a million words I've penned in ten years of columns on science, philosophy, medicine, politics, history and spirituality. I believe all writers want to be read. However, for this introvert, the biggest hurdle to writing was exposing my thoughts to public perusal. Some have viciously attacked my thoughts and perspectives in this "opinion" column. Others have thanked me for a "voice" they do not have.

In the movie Les Miserales, the protagonist Jean Valjean sings a beautiful and poignant song of self reflection after encountering sacrificial love (agape). My friend's FaceBook comment caused me to reflect on how I view myself. We all wear different hats - so to speak - and have differing responsibilities. For example, I'm a doctor and the major breadwinner of my family, whereas my wife manages our home and wraps our family in love. I am also a man, but I identify first as a Christian, a husband, father and grandfather, an American and then philosophically as a conservative.

A prominent expert alleges that "liberals are always liberals first." I'm not sure about that, but it

has caused me to consider why some Americans seem to side with foreign governments and aliens instead of other Americans, or strive to circumvent the rule of law as contained in the Constitution. An example is sanctuary cities who refuse to obey Federal Law, opting to choose which laws they obey. I don't think the state trooper who pulls you over would side with ideology over law. It goes far beyond interpretation of the law. Ideology has morphed into a perspective of war on those who dare to have an opinion different from the left's.

There is a great divide in our country because we are at war with each other's opposing ideologies. There will always be differences of opinion, but now personal denigration has become the modus operandi, rather than debating the merits of an argument. I can understand personal attacks on Trump from people like Rob Reiner, aka Meathead, of the sitcom All in the Family, but I naively expected more from Congressmen or officials appointed to high office. If Maxine Waters, John McCain, Al Franken and Nancy Pelosi are the best America can produce, we are lost.

Many have asked when this civil war and lunacy will end. You must understand that there can be no peace until the defeated side acknowledges its

election defeat. Just like the election of George Bush in 2000, the Democrats now claim Trump is illegitimate, choosing to ignore the Constitution and the Electoral College (I shall not rehash "hanging chads").

In analysing the alt-left, the Democrat party and the media, some interesting concepts have arisen in the punditocracy. The media is now overtly leftist and seems to have taken over the role of Democrats in their zeal to destroy Republicans or anyone who opposes their ideology. In the past the media was assumed to be the outlet of the Democrat party. People are now asking if the Democrats are just a "faction" of liberalism and another operative of the progressive movement.

Furthermore, the notion that we are held together as a Constitutional Republic by the Constitution is being challenged by a group of people who believe this document is antiquated and a collection of "negative liberties" which should be overhauled by extra-Constitutional means (judicial fiat). Pointedly, the only reason we don't have a jack-booted police force to control Americans is because we Americans have previously adhered to and cherished our Constitution. Throw out the rule of law and we no longer have a representative republic, a system of government predicated on

the rule of law.

I must say I am at times discouraged. So few people seem to understand what's going on or even care. However, this may be a misconception perpetrated by the perverse "fifth column" media. It may be difficult to find, but Trump is systematically reversing the destructive mandates of Obama. We are no longer a paper tiger. The economy is booming with real jobs, not part time ones. My contractor is having difficulty finding workers because they're all booked three and four jobs ahead now.

I now take "fake news" for what it is and recognize the media as the propaganda arm of the liberal progressive movement. I believe there may be a few good men in Washington along the lines of Jimmy Stewart in Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. McConnell did "man-up" and reverse the 2003 Senate Democrat rule regarding judicial filibuster. It was never in the Constitution. Ryan and Trump may make political sausage and finally repeal/replace Obama-care.

It's early in our country's new direction and rejection of leftist heresy. Orange jump suits are awaiting operatives of the "deep state." We The People are watching.

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

Jehovah-Nissi

It has only been a few weeks since God revealed Himself at Jehovah-rophe, the God who heals, when the waters of Mara were turned from bitter to sweet so the nation of Israel could drink. Now



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

the nation has traveled to the region of Rephidim. Since leaving Mara, God has provided rest (Exodus 15:27) and manna to eat (Exodus 16). As they arrive at Rephidim, there is no water. Once again, they doubt that God can provide for them. They

grumble and complain. But God shows His great power by causing water to come out from a rock that Moses struck with his staff (Exodus 17:6). God is testing the people and revealing that He is more than able to meet their every need. He is about to show this in a powerful way as Israel faces a threat from the Amalekites.

The Amalekites were descendants of Amalek, a grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:12). This

powerful nation was a constant threat to Israel for many generations. Centuries later, Samuel came to King Saul with orders from Jehovah to wipe out the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:3). But King Saul failed to carry out this command which led to his own rejection as king and death. A thousand years after the time of Moses, Haman attempted to destroy all the Jews in Persia as recounted in the book of Esther. Haman was an Agagite, a descendant of King Agag of the Amalekites, whom Saul had spared.

As we come to Exodus

17, the Amalekites were living with their flocks and herds in the vicinity of Rephidim and they came up against Israel and the plan of God. They first harassed Israel. Then they resorted to guerilla warfare. Now, they come out against Israel in a large battle. Israel is untrained for warfare. They are undersupplied and without weapons. Amalek must have felt confident in their ability to destroy this slave multitude. But Israel has something Amalek doesn't. They have Moses and the rod of the God. God is fighting this battle.

Moses stands on a hill with uplifted hands holding the rod of God, the same rod which brought the plagues on Egypt, which parted the Red Sea, and brought water out of the rock. This rod, while being held high, brought victory for Israel (Exodus 17:11). The rod was a banner (we picture a flag but in ancient times it was a bare pole with a bright ornament attached which glittered in the sun). It was a sign of deliverance. Moses built an altar after the victory and called it "The Lord is my Banner" (Jehovah-nissi).

Like Israel, we are in a

battle, a spiritual battle with sin and the flesh (Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:23). We engage in this battle knowing God is with us. We have the armor of God (Eph. 6:11-17). But we can't fight by our own strength. We are strong in the power of the Lord and our victory assured. For our rod of victory is secured in Christ. He is the banner of our redemption and promises to always be with us (Matthew 28:20). We are more than conquerors through Christ (Rom. 8:31, 37). Thanks be to God for the victory we have in Jesus (1 Cor. 15:57).



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*87% reduction in symptoms is based on published medical studies. Offices following these protocols have seen similar results. Results may vary depending on age, condition, treatment compliance, genetics, diagnosis and other factors. Not all patients are candidates for treatment or are accepted for care. (c) 2017 Neurogenx. All rights reserved.

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Meet Your Neurogenx Doctor



Keri McFarlane, MD, is a Board Certified Family Physician with over 14 years of medical experience. With an extensive background in both traditional family medicine and emergency medicine, she also has special expertise in the treatment of neuropathy and chronic nerve conditions. As the Medical Director of both the Neurogenx NerveCenter and Northshore Urgent Care, Dr. McFarlane is committed to providing every patient with personal and individualized care.

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1 Knoxville in bloom

2017 Dogwood Edition | The Knoxville Focus

New Harvest Park Farmers Market season kicks off Thursday, April 13

The New Harvest Park Farmers Market will officially kick off its 2017 season on Thursday, April 13 at 3 p.m. with Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett ringing the bell to get opening day started.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at the park, located at 4775 New Harvest Park Lane.

"Come join the fun and kick off the 2017 season with your friends and neighbors," said Rebecca Saldivar, manager of the New Harvest Park Farmers Market. "This also provides visitors with an opportunity to talk directly with the farmers and discuss how they grew the crops."

The New Harvest Park Farmers Market will be open every Thursday through mid-November from 3 to 6 p.m.

The April 13th event will include roughly 20 vendors and will feature an assortment of locally-grown produce, meats, artisan food products, honey, locally roasted coffee, plants, herbs, flowers, crafts and much more.

The farmers market participates in the Fresh Savings program which works in conjunction with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Under it, participants who spend up to \$20 per transaction at the market will get a matching amount in tokens to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at the market.

For more information on the program visit: www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/our-work/hunger/info-2015/fresh-savings-shop-smarter-eat-healthier.html.

Cattywampus Puppet Council to Kick Off May 21st Open Streets with Giant Puppet Parade on Magnolia Ave

On Sunday, May 21st, Cattywampus Puppet Council will bring Knoxville its first-ever giant puppet parade, The Appalachian Puppet Pageant, as part of this spring's Open Streets in East Knoxville.

The Appalachian Puppet Pageant will be an East Tennessee inspired community puppet parade. It will bring together members of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate the ecology and culture of the region through visual and performance art, and feature puppets up to 12 feet tall. Community members will craft individual and collaborative pieces, and create a living, breathing art exhibit in the streets of Knoxville.

Participation in the parade is free and open to people of all ages.

Both Cattywampus and Open Streets invite the community to come play together. From 2-6 p.m. that Sunday, Knoxvilleans are invited to walk, parade, bike, jog or dance their way through the streets. Magnolia Ave., from Randolph St. to North Chestnut St., with a small loop onto East Depot Ave. will be closed to all motorized traffic, allowing revelers a day of playing, exercising, socializing, and shopping all on foot or two wheels. The parade will kick off the event at 2 p.m. and traverse the entire route. Open Streets Knoxville, hosted by Bike Walk Knoxville

with support from the City of Knoxville, Knoxville Regional TPO, Visit Knoxville and Knox County, aims to promote physical activity and community interaction during this free community event.

To prepare for the Appalachian Puppet Pageant, Cattywampus has been holding free puppet building workshops throughout the community. Workshop dates and resources for learning how to build a giant puppet for the parade can be found on Cattywampus's website. The group is also looking for volunteers for the day of the parade, as well as donations

Continued on page 5

Dogwood Events this week

Hikes & Blooms

Whether on a greenway through a historic park or on a natural trail through the woods, you will observe historic relics and beautiful wildflowers among the dogwood trees on this easy, four-mile hike. Wear comfortable clothing

and bring any water or snacks you might need. No pre-registration is required.

*Please arrive a few minutes before 9:00 a.m.

Where: Baker Creek Preserve led by Happy Hikers

When: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 AT 9:00 AM

GPS: 3700 LANCASTER DRIVE, 37920

Gather with leaders from the Happy Hikers group at 3700 Lancaster Drive to discover the meandering trails of Knoxville's Urban Wilderness just minutes from downtown. You'll take the easy Sycamore Loop 1.2 miles, where

you'll find native vegetation and giant sycamore trees, and then climb a more strenuous 0.8 miles on Best Medicine to a beautiful view of the valley at Pappy's Point. From here, you may be able to see the windmills on Buffalo Mountain to the north before returning to the base of the trail system.



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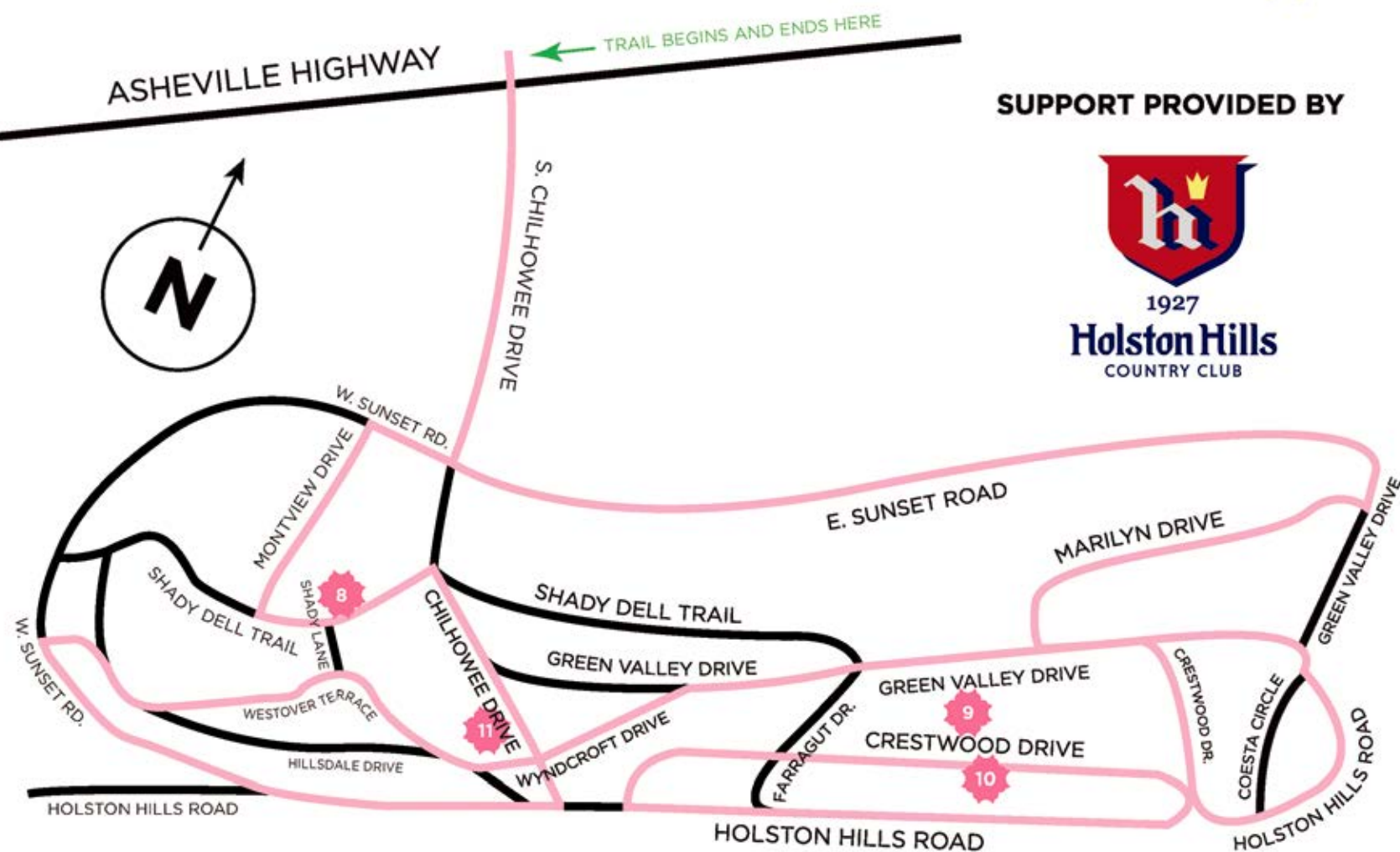
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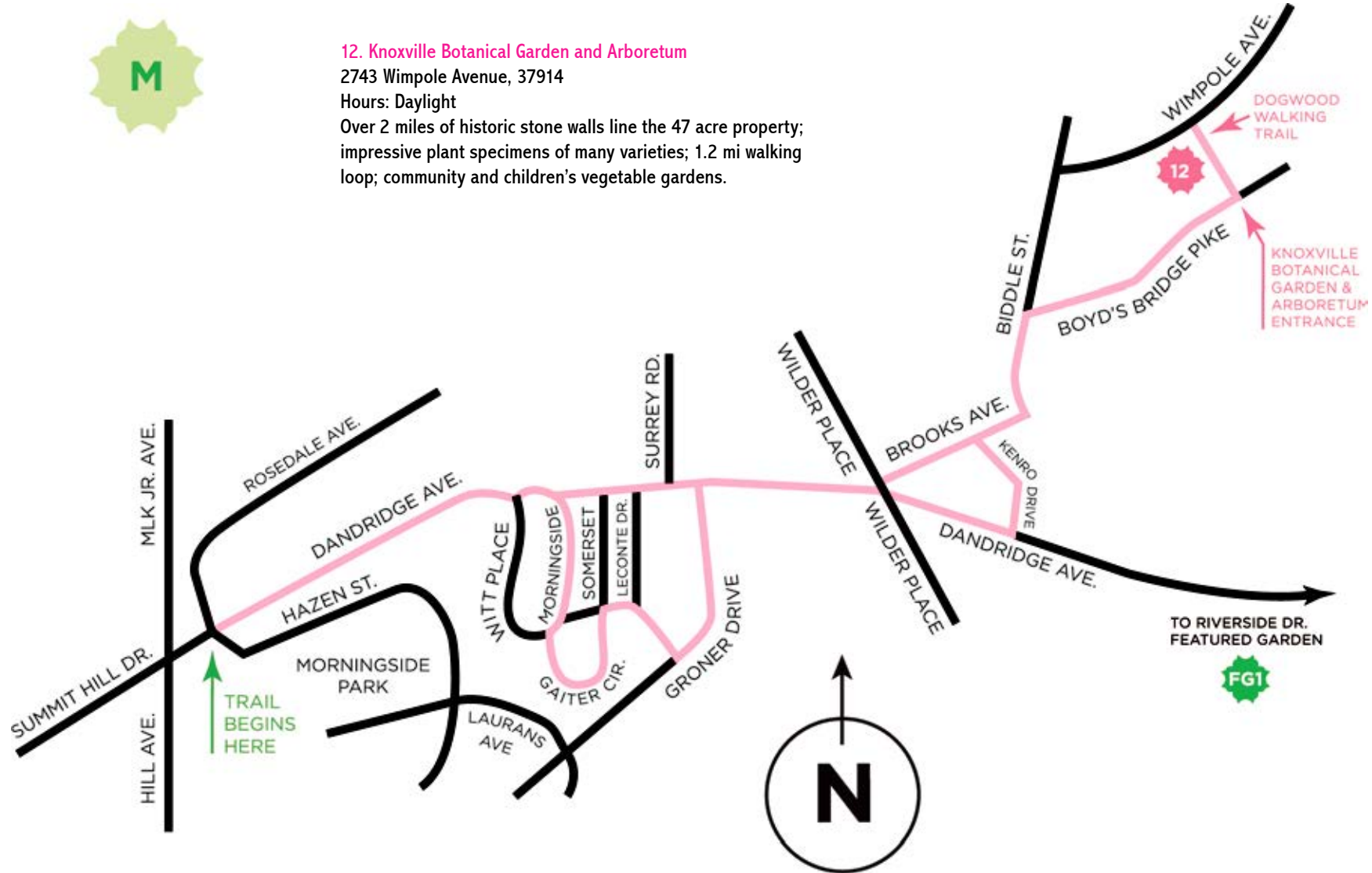
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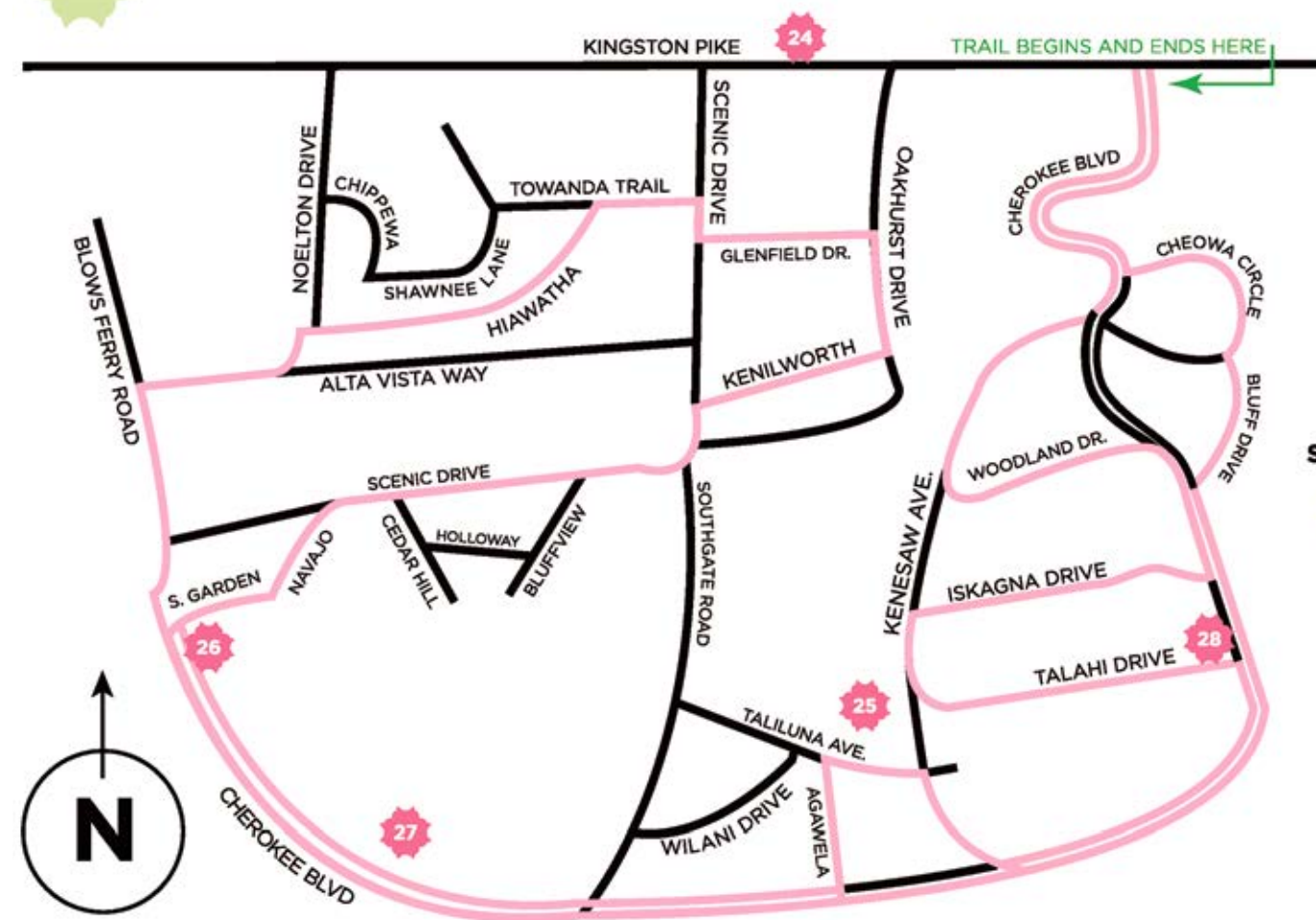
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City People Downtown Home Tour Tickets on Sale

Tickets are on sale now for the City People Downtown Home Tour, which has been showcasing urban living for more than 25 years, and returns May 5-6.

As the organization's only major fundraising event, the Downtown Home Tour helps City People build a vibrant

downtown community by funding its small grants program and events as well as encouraging people to adopt an urban lifestyle.

"We recently launched a new Small Grants, Big Fun program to support cool and unique projects in the downtown area," said Julie Boggs,

President of City People's board of directors. "The funds we raise from this year's Downtown Home Tour will help us establish and grow that program as well as support our operations and other events for downtown residents and visitors."

The first City People grant has been awarded

to Cattywampus Puppet Council for a Pop-up Luminary Walk on a First Friday this fall.

Tickets for the Downtown Home Tour will be available for sale March 15 through May 4 for \$25 and can be purchased the days of the event at check-in locations in downtown Knoxville for \$35.

Cattywampus Puppet Council

Continued from page 2

of supplies and financial support. Information about donating or getting involved with the parade is available on the group's website at <https://cattywampuspuppetcouncil.com/appalachian-puppet-pageant/>

Open Streets Knoxville is still looking for Sponsors and Activity Providers as well. Activity providers are asked to provide programming, with emphasis on interactive,

fun activities that promote physical activity, health, the outdoors, community, and safety. The free and family-friendly activities hosted by activity providers help make Open Streets Knoxville an enriching and fun experience for participants. To find out more, visit www.openstreetsknoxville.com.

Cattywampus Puppet Council was founded in 2014 by local artists Rachel Milford and Shelagh

Leutwiler. They are a registered non-profit corporation in the state of Tennessee and are fiscally sponsored through Community Shares. The mission of Cattywampus is to strengthen community and promote play through the puppetry arts. They do this through creating original shows, workshops, and puppet parades, involving members of the community of all ages and backgrounds.



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North Hills Garden Club to host annual plant sale on April 22

The North Hills Garden Club is hosting its annual plant sale on Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the North Hills Park, 2419 Kennington Road. The event will take place rain or shine.

This plant sale is a popular event for local gardeners who value native plants that thrive in our area. Residents of historic North Hills donate more than a hundred different varieties of hardy perennial plants and shrubs harvested from their own gardens. Some favorites are Lenten Rose, Solomon's Seal, Trillium, Arum, Columbine and Painted Fern, among many others that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

In partnership with a local nursery, the garden club also offers herbs, veggies and gorgeous blooming annuals. Several of the club's master gardeners will also be onsite to answer questions and give gardening advice.

While browsing through the plant sale, be sure to enjoy delicious

snacks like burger sliders, hot dogs and more at the accompanying grill station. In addition, there will be a garden shed with bargain prices for gently used items, arts and crafts booths, and even activities for the kids.

Additionally, the North Hills Garden Club is hosting a Garden Tour on Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The tour will feature five residential gardens located along the neighborhood's tree-lined boulevards, which are home to an official Dogwood Trail. Tickets are \$12 a person on the day of the tour, however, advance tickets will be sold at the Plant Sale for \$10 a person.

Proceeds from these events support beautification of the neighborhood's boulevards and park. For more information on the North Hills Garden Club visit the club's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NorthHillsGardenClub or website at <http://northhillsgardenclub.wixsite.com/nhgc>.

UT Arboretum Society presents program on the 2016 wildfires

The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society will present, "The 2016 Wildfires in the Southeastern U.S.: What Comes Next after Gatlinburg?" on April 13, 6:30 to 8:00 at the UT Arboretum Auditorium.

Renowned expert on ecosystems UT professor Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer, will address the devastating fires, their cause and what the future may be.

The UT Arboretum Auditorium is located at 901 S. Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge.

Henri D. Grissino-Mayer is a Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Director of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science. He studies ecosystem disturbance processes and uses dendrochronology, the science of tree rings, to learn how environments have changed over time. His research concentrates

on using tree-ring data to analyze the history of wildfires, the history of past climate, and the dating of historic structures and objects.

Dr. Grissino-Mayer has given over 460 professional presentations and invited talks and published over 130 peer-reviewed papers. His research was twice honored with Discover Magazine's Top Science Stories in 1992 and 2006, while the Weather Channel in 2006 voted his research as one of the 100 Greatest Moments in Weather History. At the University of Tennessee, he was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Professional Promise in 2005, the Chancellor's Award for Extraordinary Service in 2009, and the College of Arts and Sciences' Senior Research Award in 2013. In 2014, the National Council for Geographic Education awarded him the Geographic Excellence in Media Award

while the Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers awarded him their top Research Honors Award.

In recent years, he has appeared in television documentaries and news stories shown on CNN, the History Channel, BBC Television, the Discovery Channel, the Investigation Discovery Channel, the Learning Channel, the Weather Channel, the National Geographic Channel, Court TV, and many local stations.

This is a free program offered by the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society but donations are gladly accepted at the door to further the mission of the UT Arboretum.

To learn more about this lecture or the UT Arboretum Society, go to www.utarboretumsociety.org.

Celebrating 52 years in 2017, this program is one of many lectures and activities

that will be offered this year by the UT Arboretum Society. The program is cosponsored by the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center.

The Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014, is one of 10 outdoor laboratories located throughout the state as part of the UT AgResearch system. AgResearch is a division of the UT Institute of Agriculture. The Institute of Agriculture also provides instruction, research and public service through the UT College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, UT AgResearch and UT Extension offices, with locations in every county in the state.

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