

Board of education surpluses lot for proposed Lonsdale center



PHOTO BY PETE GAWDA.

Pastor Joe Smith addressed the Wednesday evening meeting of the Knox County Board of Education urging the board to surplus property to be used for the proposed youth recreation facility in Lonsdale.

By Pete Gawda

At a rather lengthy Knox County Board of Education meeting last Wednesday, board members, other government officials, interested citizens and parents expressed their opinions on discipline policies, the proposed Lonsdale youth recreation facility, school rezoning and transgender issues.

The board apparently had second thoughts about changes to school system policies on discipline. They voted to delay for 30 days the first reading of revised policies Policy J-191 Misbehavior and Disciplinary Options, Policy J-193 Student Suspension, Policy J-194 Zero Tolerance and Policy J-211 Harassment, Intimidation,

Bullying and Cyber Bullying.

“I am afraid the policy will start to erode the discretion of the principal and the classroom teacher,” was the opinion of Tony Norman. He felt that more input was needed from teachers and principals.

“We don’t need to rush into anything until we are sure we are doing something beneficial,” stated Mike McMillan.

Gloria Deathridge was the only board member to vote against delaying the first reading for 30 days in order to get input from principals and teachers.

There was also lengthy discussion about surplussing school operated property that is owned by the county. The property is to be used for the

proposed youth recreation facility in Lonsdale.

“All we are doing is surplussing a lot because the county asked us to do it,” asserted Lynne Fugate. “This resolution further states that if nothing happens the property is transferred back to school.”

“Communication from people in that area has been very opposed,” stated Jennifer Owen. “People who are much further away have been not only very supportive but almost aggressively supportive. That alone for me is reason to pause and take a look at things.” She expressed concern that the property would go to a

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The Cove, Gov. Sevier Parkway and Lonsdale on county agenda

By Mike Steely
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The storm damage at The Cove at Concord Park may be discussed when the Knox County Commission meets in work session next Monday at 5 p.m. in the City-County Building. The storm on May 27 downed trees, power lines and damaged the playground at the popular West Knox County park.

A report on the expenses related to the storm damage may be given by the finance department. Early estimates just after the storm were for around \$150,000 or possibly higher. Knox County Parks and Recreation were hoping to cover the cost without asking for additional funds. Legacy Parks Foundation has established a fund for repairs there.

Responding to the downed power lines there, LCUB is establishing underground power lines to the park. The Cove was closed following the storms and during repairs there and a concert by a local band was cancelled.

The Knox County Parks and Recreation Department reopened The Cove Friday afternoon. The department is busy replacing benches, re-stripping the parking lot, fixing fences, etc.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker is asking for a report from the Knox County Emergency Management about the response from the Emergency Management team to The Cove and Concord Park following the damage.

The Cove is located at 11808 South Northshore Drive, on the banks of the Tennessee River. It features a walking trail, playground, pavilion, swimming area, picnic tables with grills, and a sand volleyball court. The Cove also offers kayak, canoe and paddleboard rentals.

Also on the agenda for the June 19 work session is a motion by Commissioner Carson Dailey to ask the planning commission to conduct a survey to develop an approach and policies for managing the development along John Sevier Scenic Highway and present the results to the commission

Dailey told The Focus that in at least two incidents people have obtained a building permit for a house and then turned the house into a business. He said that commercial businesses are only permitted along John Sevier Highway at the intersections.

“It’s designated as a historic highway but the only regulation on that is that buildings can’t be more than 35-feet tall and no billboards are allowed,” he said.

“The community is concerned about the development there,” he said.

The Knox County School Board is asking the commission to accept surplus property located at Sam

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Stephanie Welch addresses supporters as the Island Home resident kicks off her campaign for Knoxville’s First District City Council seat.

Welch kicks off First District campaign

By Mike Steely
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She organized the first “Walk to School Day” and has been involved on various organization boards such as YMCA, Ijams Nature Center, Leadership Knoxville, and serves on the new Recode Knoxville Advisory Board.

These are just some of the qualifications that First District Candidate Stephanie Welch mentioned to about 100 supporters during her campaign kick-off Thursday at Candoro Marble Works in Vestal.

Four candidates are vying for the seat, which covers South Knoxville and Fort Sanders, to replace Councilman and former Vice Mayor Nick Pavlis, who introduced Welch and called on voters to not only support her candidacy but also to contribute to her campaign.

“These experiences have

positioned me well to serve the First District and Knoxville,” she told the supporters. Welch serves as an Army Reserve officer and said that the city has “unprecedented forward momentum” and added, “It takes careful planning, strategic investment and strong relationship skills.”

“I take a moderate bridge-building approach,” she said, noting that her strong work ethic comes from her father, who flew in from New Hampshire to surprise her at the campaign event.

She spoke of her experience, passion and work ethic and her ability to work with various people.

Welch has lived in the First District for 18 years and loves to bike and hike from her Island Home Park neighborhood. She has three rescue dogs. She serves as vice president of operations at Great Schools Partnership.

“She’s been a public servant for the past 17 or so years. You have to pay your dues, get involved and understand government when you walk in,” Councilman Pavlis told the supporters.

“I support her 100% and hope you will as well,” he said.

“We’ve got four really good candidates but the one thing that convinced me was Stephanie’s background,” Pavlis said.

Among the supporters who attended were various city and county officials and many of Welch’s First District neighbors. She’s adopted the “Welch Grape Juice” colors for her campaign and the juice was featured among the snacks offered at the event.

Welch said she came to Knoxville to complete her graduate work at UT and decided to stay and become active in the city.



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What Do the Terms Joint Custody and Full Custody Mean?

There are terms that I often hear thrown around by individuals in relation to the custody of children, and that's "joint custody," and "full custody," and I don't know what people



By Jedidiah McKeethan
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really know what these terms actually mean.

Full custody of a child is primarily a myth that does not exist except in very rare circumstances. In order for a judge to award a parent full custody of a child, that means that one parent is getting zero days of visitation with their child. None. That just does not happen unless:

1. There is an extreme risk of danger to the children
2. One parent requests full custody, and the other parent doesn't fight them on it

Even if there is a risk of danger to the children, the court will often allow visitation with a parent to be supervised so that the parent who may be a danger, to have visitation with the children, but while someone is watching what is occurring during the visitation.

Well what about terminating the other parent's rights? Can that happen?

Generally, a court will not, "bastardize" a child. That means, the court will not take away a parent from a child. The court will generally only terminate a

parent's rights if a new spouse is willing to adopt a child.

So when the term "full custody," gets thrown around, we're talking about something that very rarely happens.

Well if "full custody" rarely happens, does "joint custody," mean everything else? Yes. Even if a parent only has two days a year of visitation, that is technically considered joint custody.

You may be asking, "Well, if I can't get full custody, what's the most amount of time with my child I can realistically get?" Most courts will give a parent at least every other weekend, and time during the summer and on holidays. A schedule like that typically ends up being around 278 days for one parent and 87 days for the other parent. If you are trying to get as many days as possible with your children, and you can get the other side to agree to an every other weekend type of custody arrangement, I would tell you to do it, because that's probably the best you would do in court.

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

School board discusses youth facility

By Pete Gawda

At their work session last Monday the Knox County Board of Education discussed donating property for the proposed youth recreation facility in Lonsdale. Emerald Youth Foundation has proposed to build a youth recreation facility off Texas Avenue and adjacent to the Sam E. Hill Family Community Center. The proposed facility is to consist of two multipurpose lighted athletic fields and a building housing, among other things, a gymnasium and auditorium. The site of the athletic fields is already owned by the city. As part of a program to eliminate dilapidated properties the city bought each lot on that block. However, as the board's legal council, Gary Dupler, explained, the school system operates a playground on the site of the proposed building and the property is owned by the county. In order to consolidate the property into one city owned parcel, the school board must declare the property to be surplus. Then the county commission can deed it to the city and the city will then enter an agreement with Emerald Youth Foundation on the entire parcel.

David Brace, the city's public works director, addressed the city on the issue. He said the city

needs to do a tremendous amount of infrastructure work on the property. However, he added, the city did not want to begin work until the property was consolidated. He said once the county gives up the property in question there will be a legal document drawn up between the city and Emerald outlining expectations for the site.

Lynn Fugate said she was in favor of releasing the property but she wanted a definite document to vote on.

"As long as the community is fine with it, I am fine with it, but we need some kind of official document," was the opinion of Gloria Deathridge.

Dupler said he could draw up such a document for Wednesday night's regular session of the board.

Jennifer Owen asked what would become of the playground equipment currently on the site. There was talk of recycling the equipment to other school sites.

In his remarks superintendent Bob Thomas noted that 3,845 students had recently graduated from Knoxville high schools. Those students collectively received almost \$148 million in scholarships. Of those graduates, 100 will be going into the military and of those 100, one will be attending the naval academy and one will be

attending the air force academy.

Thomas also announced the appointment of new principals. Cindy White will be principal at Gibbs Middle School. She is currently principal at Vine Elementary School. Corey Smith, who is currently principal at Rocky Hill Elementary School, goes to Hardin Valley Middle School. The new principal at Powell Elementary Schools is Denise Blefko. She is currently assistant principal at Copper Ridge Elementary School. Chris Henderson goes from being principal at Halls Elementary School to becoming principal at Farragut Intermediate School. Desiree Jones, who is currently assistant principal Fulton High School, becomes principal at Vine Middle School. The new principal at Halls Elementary School, Mitchell Cox, is currently principal at Indian Springs Elementary School in Sullivan County. In addition, Brett Foster becomes executive director of the child nutrition program. She is currently school area supervisor in food nutrition services.

The superintendent also announced that state wide 50 teachers have been named to the Tennessee Educator Fellowship. This is a year long program that equips educators to advocate for students and



David Brace, director of public works for the City of Knoxville, addresses last Monday night's work session of the Knox County Board of Education concerning the proposed youth recreation facility in Lonsdale.

their profession as they continue teaching. Of the 50 selected, there are four Knox County teachers; Amy Cox of Halls Elementary School, Laura Davis of West High School, Lindsay Davis of Austin-East High School and Amanda Pickett of Holston Middle School.

According to the superintendent, plans for the pilot program for teacher evaluation are proceeding smoothly. There are seven schools that will participate in the pilot program. They are: Farragut High School, Halls High School, Mount Olive Elementary School, Spring Hill Elementary School, Powell High School, Richard Yoakley School and West Valley Middle School.

The Cove, Gov. Sevier Parkway and Lonsdale on county agenda

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E. Hill Family Community Center at 1725 Delaware Avenue. The system's public relations director, Carly Harrington, said the vacant lot adjoining the pre-school is

just over an acre large and is being donated to the county so it may be used by the proposed Emerald Youth Center in Lonsdale.

The donation of the property carries the stipulation

that "Should Knox County and Knoxville not successfully execute an agreement to develop a multiple million dollar multi-purpose arts and education youth-serving facility for the children

of Lonsdale and the greater Knoxville community the board requests that Knox County return the property to the Board of Education."

Other items on the agenda include a resolution by Commissioner Charles Busler to honor Tindell's Building Materials. Chairman Dave Wright has a motion to honor Richie Beeler's retirement from the Register of Deeds Office. Two judicial magistrates may be appointed as well as appointments made to Visit Knoxville and other boards.

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Why Trump Took Us Out of Paris Climate Agreement



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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President Donald Trump was looking out for the United States by taking us out of the Paris Climate Change Accord. First of all, the agreement was not an “accord” in any sense; it was a treaty. The reason it was referred to as an “accord” in this country is because then-President Barack Obama didn’t want

to take the agreement to the United States Senate, which the Constitution requires to ratify or reject treaties. Obama clearly thought it doubtful the Senate would approve the treaty, so he bound this country to it without following due process. The mainstream media and leftists all across the country are gnashing their teeth and pulling out their hair, screaming as if it is the end of the world. Why was the Paris Climate agreement a bad deal for the United States? It was a bad deal because it is very costly in terms of dollars. It was a terrible deal for the taxpayers. It was a bad deal for each and every American who relies upon affordable energy. By 2035, the Paris Climate Treaty would have destroyed \$2.5 trillion in US gross domestic product; it

would have caused the demise of thousands of jobs in this country, as well as severely damaged manufacturing interests in America. Attempting to reach President Trump’s goal of achieving 3% in economic growth would have been virtually impossible with the Paris Climate Treaty in place. Nor was the Paris Climate Treaty especially effective. Even should every signatory to the treaty met its goals, which is highly doubtful when one considers China has been under-reporting its own emissions for years, there are still no repercussions should any country fail to meet its own pledge. That means any changes in the temperature of the earth would be virtually undetectable. Signatories to the Paris Climate Treaty were

expected to pony up \$100 billion, which was intended to constitute a fund for poorer countries. This was the carrot used to get those same nations to sign the treaty. Obama provided \$1 billion of taxpayer money, without going to Congress to get it. Nor are there any protections in the agreement to protect the taxpayer funds from corrupt regimes and dictatorships. Comparing the environmental standards of the United States and China is like comparing a stallion to a cricket. China has routinely falsified its consumption of coal and air monitoring data. America is not bound in any way by pulling out of the Paris Climate Treaty from seeking alternative means of energy in the future, while President Obama entered this country in an

agreement without the consent of Congress. The treaty obligated this country --- for decades --- to spend billions of dollars on international programs. Obama had also said, “The private sector already chose a low-carbon future.” If what Obama said was in fact true, what was the need for the government to clamp down? Furthermore, MIT has verified President Trump’s statement that if the Paris Treaty was rigidly followed, it would have the effect of lowering the global climate by 0.2 degrees by the year 2100. While insisting that America be bound to this treaty, many of the other countries signing the agreement made non-binding agreements. Basically, they get a free ride and aren’t obligated to do a thing. For instance, China

was not obligated to reduce any emissions until 2030; India made no commitment on emissions at all, merely pledging to “make progress” on its energy efficiency. Pakistan offered a pledge to “reduce its emissions after reaching peak levels to the extent possible.” Germany has had two straight years where its own emissions have increased, while the Philippines has renounced its earlier commitment. The President of the United States has a duty to take the course that serves the best interests of the American people. Certainly Barack Obama and the left believe in globalism and advanced that particular agenda. We should be proud we have a president who does what’s right for US.

Board of education surpluses lot for proposed Lonsdale center

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non-public entity and the city and county would have no control over it.

Owen went on to state that the property could possibly be used for a magnet school. Several other board members said they had not heard anything about a magnet school at that site.

“The city has reached out,” asserted David Brass, the city’s director of public works. “We are very open about this project. There is no hidden agenda. We are reaching out to youth. “He said the next step after the board surplussed the property would be for the city and county to enter an agreement with Emerald. Brass said the city needs to move forward on the project but they will need to consolidate the property and have control over the entire parcel. “Is there urgency? Yes,” he said.

Interested citizen Rick Roach urged the board to take no action until they received further input from the community. He said the surplus would be the continuation of a trend to abandon inner school property.

Another speaker had the opposite opinion. “I challenge you to make this move right now,” urged Pastor Joe Smith whose church is near the proposed project. “This will be a great asset for the community.”

A vote to delay the decision for 30 days was defeated with only Norman and

Owen voting for the delay. The motion to surplus the property passed by a 7 to 1 vote. Owen cast the only negative vote. McMillian was not present for the vote.

With no comment the board voted unanimously to approve rezoning to accommodate the two middle schools under construction.

“This is a step in the right direction,” said Deborah Porter, president of the local chapter of the NAACP. She said her organization wants the rezoning process to continue and more schools to be built.

Parents, students and others who oppose the school system’s policy on transgender students turned out in even larger numbers than last month’s meeting to support their cause. About 15 people gave emotional statements, often to the accompaniment of applause.

One parent said her transgender daughter does not feel safe or loved at school. She was required to use either the boys’ or the staff

bathroom. Another speaker compared the present system with the “separate but equal” argument used at one time to justify integration in the South. The speaker also claimed the physical and emotional health of transgender students is deteriorating. “All you need to do is reach out to us,” the speaker pleaded. Not allowing transgender students to use the bathroom of their choice goes against the zero tolerance against bullying, one speaker said, urging the board, “Be on the right side of history.”

“No one should have to hide who they are,” a speaker asserted, urging that every teacher and every coach be educated on transgender issues. “We are telling our students there is something unacceptable about them,” was the opinion of one speaker.

“This is not about catering to a few kids. This is about saving lives,” was the opinion of still another speaker.



KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS PHOTO

At their meeting last Wednesday night the Knox County Board of Education recognized the outgoing student representative, Sydney Rowell for her services. Left to right are Tony Norman, Jennifer Owen, Gloria Deathridge, Terry Hill, Superintendent Bob Thomas, Rowell, Chair Patti Bounds, Mike McMillan, Amber Rountree, Susan Horn and Lynne Fugate.

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Building on the skeleton of South High School

By Mike Steely
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Old South High School is a landmark of South Knoxville. The skeleton of the huge brick structure sits next to the Sarah Simpson Professional Development and Technology Center which houses the Knox County Museum of Education.

On the walls of the museum are two glass cases with South High School mementos, jackets and letter sweaters. The school building next door has been vacant since 1991 and the last class to graduate there was in 1978.

Since being abandoned the school was sold by Knox County to a buyer who let the building deteriorate. The city council stepped up to rescue the structure, bought it for \$190,000, declaring the structure “blighted” and then the city reinforced what parts of the building that could be saved. Councilman Nick Pavlis led the campaign to save the historic school.

A protective H-1 Historic overlay was placed on the remains of the building to protect it from being demolished.

Last year the city asked for ideas and developer Rick Dover offered to buy it with the idea of transforming it to senior living, much like Dover Development did with the once abandoned Oakwood Elementary School.

Tuesday morning Dover stood at the main entrance to the old building with Mayor Madeline Rogero,



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Developer Rick Dover thanks Mayor Madeline Rogero and the Knoxville City Council for preserving the old South High School building as Councilmen Nick Pavlis and Finbarr Sanders watch. Dover announced his effort to stabilize the brick structure and begin planning for a senior living facility there.

Pavlis, and Councilman Finbarr Saunders. He announced that although he hasn't secured financial backing he has started to further secure the structure. Dover's director of operations, Shea Ramsey, was already in the building and inspecting the facility as Dover thanked the mayor and the city council for saving the

structure and accepting his offer to restore and repurpose it.

Dover told The Focus that the project may cost \$9.5 million and that Barber McMurray, the same architect company that designed the original building, has been hired to design the new senior living center. He said that when complete it will

create 35 permanent jobs and include a memory care unit for Alzheimer's patients.

Dover has his hands full in repairs and repurposing the old school but he told The Focus that another project, the repurposing of Old Knoxville High School, should be completed later this year. He's also busy with renovating and

restoring the Farragut Hotel and has purchased the Prior Brown Garage and the former State Supreme Court Building in Downtown Knoxville.

The building is eligible to be included on the National Register of Historic Places and Dover said he intended to pursue that designation.

“We think ultimately we'll

have 60 to 61 apartments here for seniors. It will be licensed for assisted living—we'll have a Memory Care wing here. We have not yet got the final design so we don't have the costing numbers yet,” he said.

“We decided the right thing to do is to go ahead and acquire the property, subject to the performance provisions we have with the city,” Dover said.

Councilman Pavlis said the restoration of South High School as a senior care facility is part of the “momentum we're experiencing here in South Knoxville.”

“It's a huge investment by Rick Dover and the Dover company. I appreciate so much them stepping forward and saving this building which is such an intergraded part of this community,” Pavlis said.

Mayor Madeline Rogero mentioned the efforts of Pavlis, the Community Development Department, the Public Service Department, and a city council that supports preservation.

“We have a council that really gets it and understands historic preservation, redevelopment, and investing in our city using public dollars so people like Rick Dover will come in and take the ultimate risk,” she said.

Following the ceremony Dover and Mayor Rogero conducted a tour of the old school for those who attended the event.

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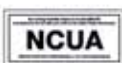
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TUESDAY

Theme: Superhero Night (Wear a costume, no capes!)

Bible Story: Abigail Saves the Day 1 Samuel 25

Games: Slobberknockers: Laser tag

WEDNESDAY

Theme: TBA

Bible Story: Jesus Goes to the Temple Luke 2:41-52

Games: Ultimate Mega Parties TBA

THURSDAY

Theme: TBA

Bible Story: Beatitudes Matthew 4:23-5:12

Games: Slobberknockers: Kickerballs

FRIDAY

Theme: Red, White & Blue/Commencement Night

Bible Story: Pentecost Acts 2:1-41

Games: Ultimate Mega Parties Bubbleball

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Bob Booker comments on the upcoming city election

By Mike Steely
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Listening to Knoxville's Bob Booker is like reliving bygone life and times in our area. In a mellow tone and clear pronunciation Booker weaves stories from our past like no one else can.

The 82-year-old— a veteran of Civil Rights demonstrations and the Army, Knoxville College graduate, high school teacher, state representative, city council member and city employee— brings a wealth of experience and life to any audience.

Last week Booker was speaking before the Democratic Women of Knoxville at the Central Labor Council building. He said that while researching information on African-Americans in Knoxville he became interested in all of the local history. He told several tales he gleaned from old newspapers published in the city.

Asked by The Focus to give his thoughts on the race for City Council in the 6th District Booker answered, "There are too many people in the race." Thirteen candidates have qualified in the race to replace Councilman and former Mayor Daniel Brown.

He said that the demographics are changing in the district, which now stretches from Burlington in East Knoxville to Lonsdale and Mechanicsville and includes most of the downtown area. He mentioned the influx of new residents in new apartment buildings, renovated buildings, etc. that changes the population of the traditionally African-American area.

"I believe if you're going to run for an office like that, you should have paid your dues," he said, referring to the 13 people in the 6th District Race, some of which are new to the area.

"It took us a long time to get that seat," Booker said.

"There might be one this cycle," he said of a black being elected to city council in November but added, "After this time I'm not sure there will

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

MPC's Dan Kelly displayed the new yard colored yard signs applicants are being given. He said the application number will be on the sign but the hearing date will not.

Short-term rental rules postponed

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Will the city actually move to regulate in-home short-term rentals? The matter was on the council agenda Tuesday after the Metropolitan Planning Commission passed the idea in a split 8-4 vote.

The council apparently wants to wait until a public hearing on the issue during a work session June 29. Some objections have been received over including R-1A properties within the allowed rental areas.

Vice Mayor Duane Grieve moved to postpone a first reading on the matter until the council's July 18 meeting.

The new color yard signs for zoning changes were displayed by MPC's Dan Kelly and he explained that the applicants will be required to post the signs on their property. Until now the MPC staff had been planting the signs.

"We will spot check," Kelly said, adding that signs not posted properly will mean a 30-day delay in hearing

the request at MPC. "It's just one form of public notice," he said, mentioning newspaper ads and the MPC website. The new signs will display the application number but not the date of a hearing.

Mayor Madeline Rogero reminded everyone of a Business Breakfast that invites local businesses to bid on city projects. She said that \$55 million dollars is in the budget for goods and services. The breakfast is this Wednesday starting at 7:30 a.m.

Continue on page 4

'T for Texas'

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In the words of the old song by Jimmie Rodgers it is "T for Texas, T for Tennessee." The two "T" states have much more in common than just the song and some believe that some of the early settlers of the "Lone Star State" were from East Tennessee originally.

Ellis County, Texas, was founded by a Tennessean, W. R. Howe. There's a Polk County, named for

President and Tennessean James K. Polk. There's a Jellico, Texas, in Tarrant County, founded by Robert Emmett Wilson from that small East Tennessee town and a Nashville, Texas, founded by Tennessean Sterling C. Robertson, which are ghost towns now.

There's even a Tennessee Colony in Texas, 12 miles from Palestine and that settlement is one of the earliest historic communities in Anderson County



What does the historic Sam Houston School House in Blount County have to do with the settlement of Texas? There's a direct link that brought settlers and fighters to free Texas of Mexico and plant a firm footprint of the Volunteer State in the Lone Star State. (Photo from the Sam Houston School House website)

Eubanks, Bowens, Rogers and Hoyles families.

Hanks established a general store there and the colony grew up around the businesses.

Back in 1832 President Andrew Jackson had

Continue on page 2

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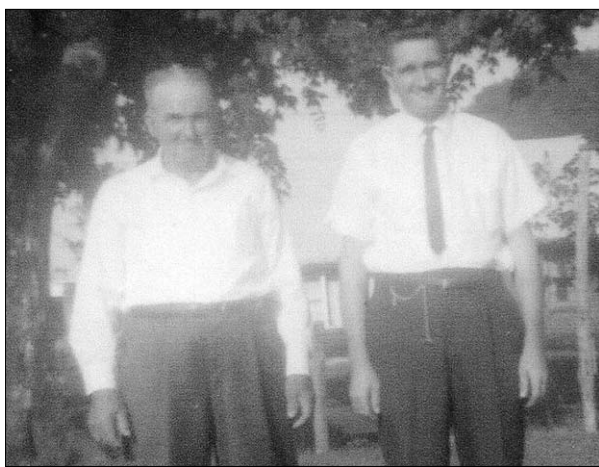
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A Major Story

By Ralphine Major

He liked Pepsi, John Cazana's wrestling program, and John Wayne westerns. He once worked for the Knox County Highway Department and operated a piece of earth moving equipment often referred to as a road grader. One project he worked on was building Cedar Lane that runs off of Broadway. His name was George O. Major, and he was our grandfather.

The grandfather my brother, Wayne, and I remember raised beef cattle and lived across the road from us. He once went to the Clinton Stockyard and bought a pony named Trixie for the grandchildren to ride. She had two gaits. One was a slow walk. The other was a faster slow walk if it started thundering. We recall many times seeing our grandfather jump on one of the grandchildren's bicycles and go coasting down the



Our grandfather, the late George O. Major, and his only son, the late Ralph O. Major (our father), courtesy of our mother, Juanita Major.

road toward Beaver Creek. Wearing a straw hat with a wide brim and overalls, he put on a show to make the grandchildren laugh!

Wayne remembers that on Friday nights, he would go to Chilhowee Park to watch the wrestling matches live. Every Saturday he quit work in time to watch the major league baseball game on NBC. He would sit back in his La-Z Boy and eat popcorn while listening to broadcasters Curt Gowdy and Tony Kubek. When the wrestling program came on, he would sit on the edge of

the chair. It is still hard for me to believe he ventured out on a cold November night to see me twirl fire in the Knoxville Junior Miss Pageant downtown.

This month, we celebrate and honor the fathers who are still with us and remember those who have passed on. It is one of the Ten Commandments in the Bible. "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12, KJV) Happy Father's Day!

'T for Texas'

Cont. from page 1

encouraged his fellow Tennesseans to settle in Texas. Eleven years earlier more than 300 families from our Volunteer State had settled, led by Moses Austin. His son, Stephen Austin, continued the effort, and soon the population, many from Tennessee, grew to more than 20,000 people.

By 1832 the disagreement between the settlers and the Mexican government erupted into war. It soon led to the standoff at the Alamo, the attack by Santa Anna's troops, and the massacre that took the lives of the defenders. It is estimated that more than 15% of those killed in the Alamo were Tennesseans.

Sam Houston, the Blount County native, was not present at the battle and went on to become president of The Republic of Texas and then governor when the independent nation joined the union. After the Alamo

Houston led 800 men against a Mexican Army of 1600 and defeated them, leading to independence and later statehood.

As a young man, Houston taught school in East Tennessee. The Sam Houston School House is located just east of Maryville and is a state historic site, said to be the oldest standing school in Tennessee. Who would have guessed that a son of an East Tennessee settler would go on to be a governor of Tennessee, president of Texas and Texas governor?

Killed at the Alamo were East Tennessean and former Congressman David Crockett and the volunteer group of Tennessee men that he led to fight for Texas.

Other men from our state and region listed as being killed there include the last names of Dickerson, Blair, Autry, Bayliss, Campbell, Dayman, Dillard, Ewing, Garrett, Haskell, Miller, Nelson, Robertson,

Summers, Taylor and Walker.

Captain John Blair and Sam Blair were Sevier County natives who died at the Alamo as part of the Jim Bowie Company. Also in the company and among the 187 defenders who died was Charles M. Heiskell, son of George and Elizabeth Heiskell, from Knox or Blount County. Robert Campbell was from Sevier County as well.

Some of the Tennessee men at the Alamo were born in other states and moved to Tennessee with their families. Wanderlust, adventure and a cause saw many Tennessee transplants move further west or volunteer to fight for Texas.

Did Tennessee invent Texas? Some people say so, pointing out that Tennesseans Andrew Jackson urged immigration, James K. Polk admitted Texas to the Union and a multitude of volunteers moved there to settle.

Bob Booker comments on upcoming city election

Cont. from page 1

be a black elected to city council, the school board or county commission. That's very unfortunate."

"I'm not going to be bold enough to say black people ought to have the seat but they went above and beyond to make the seat available so that blacks could stand a chance," he said.

Asked about the problems and future of Knoxville College, Booker said he sees "a glimmer of hope." He noted that Knox County has an interest in some of the property there, that some of the roofs are being repaired, and that a new administration there is helping.

Asked about a book he has been working on for

seven years Booker said that "An Encyclopedia of Black People in Knoxville, Tn., 1874-1974" contains "some of everything people ought to know about the black community in detail."

Booker said the book is at the printers and should be available in a few weeks. The book follows the community from the days

of slavery and has stories not only about Cal Johnson, who rose from slavery to become one of the wealthiest men in town, but also about Johnson's mother and father. Although a slave Johnson's father was also a jockey. Copies of the new book will be available at the Beck Cultural Center.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Bob Booker speaks at a recent meeting and voiced his opinion on the 6th District City Council race.





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Dr. John R. Neal

Tennessee's Eccentric

Part Two

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Dr. John Randolph Neal had some solid achievements under his belt, both as a state legislator and educator, yet there was growing dissatisfaction at the University of Tennessee. That dissatisfaction seemed to be confined largely to administrators, as Dr. Neal was apparently quite popular with his students. By 1923, those same administrators had decided to let John R. Neal go. To this day the reasons for Neal's dismissal are unknown, although there are numerous theories and just as many opinions. Bobby E. Hicks, Neal's biographer, concluded the most likely reason Dr. Neal was fired was "because of a personality conflict with the dean of the College of Law, Malcolm McDermott." Dean McDermott was not happy with Neal's personal appearance, indifference to bookkeeping, and unorthodox teaching methods. McDermott had complained to the president of the University of Tennessee, Harcourt Morgan, about Neal's teaching methods "repeatedly." Neal and six other professors were notified in June of 1923 they had not been recommended for reappointment; on July 17, 1923, they were told they had been fired. Officially, the decision was made by President Morgan, which was quickly affirmed by the Board of Trustees. When the university's trustees came to Knoxville many of them were greeted by students who supported Dr. Neal in particular and when Governor Austin Peay arrived, he called for an open meeting. The previous meeting of the Board of Trustees confirming Neal's firing had been held in a closed meeting.

None of the trustees dared refuse the request of Governor Peay for a public meeting, which was held at Knoxville's Farragut Hotel. The meeting was described by Neal's biographer as "bedlam" and with constant activity some thought it more resembled a "political meeting" than a sedate university affair. The governor patiently met with numerous supporters, both student and alumni, of Dr. Neal who protested his firing and begged that he be allowed to teach at the university. Numerous students spoke at the public meeting on Neal's behalf and when the professor finally appeared he was greeted with thunderous applause. Dr. Neal was obviously deeply touched by the support of so many of his former students and had difficulty in controlling his emotions. Harcourt Morgan read fourteen charges against Neal into the record, many of which seemed trivial, while others appeared to be more

serious. One of the charges seemed to indicate fundamental resentment towards Neal by the administration, noting the professor routinely sided with the students against the administration in any dispute. The charges included his dress, the fact he smoked in Ayres Hall, which was forbidden, and was lax in his work. Dr. Neal was given twenty minutes to refute the charges leveled against him. Neal hotly contested the allegations and pointed out he had never once missed a class in thirteen years while in Knoxville; in fact, he had come to his classes even when ill. John R. Neal pointedly asked Harcourt Morgan if the University president had ever come with any criticism of his performance. President Morgan had to confess that he had not. Neal insisted he was always within "earshot" of his students and classroom during examinations and noted that Dean McDermott was not in his own classroom while administering tests. Neal never denied that he had once changed the schedule for an exam, but said it was commonly done by other professors as well. Nor was he the only professor who violated the smoking ban in Ayres Hall, Neal snapped. Neal noted he had worked at the University of Tennessee law school for fourteen years and for part of that time, he had received not a penny of compensation. Neal claimed much of the credit for the University of Tennessee law school to be only the second in the South to be admitted in the National Association of American Law Colleges. Neal said he thought the University of Tennessee ought to be represented during a convention of law schools and urged Harcourt Morgan to send some one. President Morgan demurred, saying the university could not afford it. Dr. Neal went and paid his own way. Several students addressed the Board of Trustees; one student believed Dr. Neal was the "most beloved professor in the school..." At least one student stated Dean McDermott had never treated Dr. Neal with respect. The student praised John R. Neal as a professor who taught students to "think for themselves." He added Dean McDermott's own teaching style "could never make a successful law student." It was all for naught as the Board of Trustees felt they had to uphold Harcourt Morgan's decision to fire John R. Neal and the other professors. There was one very important dissenter: Governor Austin Peay. The governor bluntly said he did not like the methods used by the university administration



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Dr. John R. Neal at the Scopes Trial; Dr. Neal is third from the left.

to fire the instructors. Peay was careful to say he did approve of Harcourt Morgan, but was quite clear in saying he thought the reasons for the dismissals unjustified. Governor Peay voted against the dismissals, as did one other member of the Board. The pressure on the other Board members was clear, with one trustee saying he felt the decision was choosing between President Morgan or Dr. Neal, yet they could not keep both. There were efforts made to reinstate John R. Neal and a letter arrived from the dean of the University of Denver's law school which gave the professor an unqualified endorsement. The dean credited Dr. Neal with "inspiring his students" which increased the interest of the students and caused them to do better with their studies. The University of Denver promptly offered Neal a full professorship, but he refused the offer.

The effort to have the University of Tennessee to rehire John R. Neal came to nothing. President Morgan disingenuously said he would be willing to have Dr. Neal back if the Board of Trustees were to change their minds. Morgan pointed out as the Board had no such intention, the matter was closed. Losing his job at the University of Tennessee's law school crushed John R. Neal. The professor seemed unable to face friends and former colleagues and took pains to avoid them, even as they sought him out to provide friendship and comfort. Neal's mental state was reflected in his personal dress and hygiene. If it was bad before, it became much worse after his having been fired. That was the cause for the management of the S & W Cafeteria to ban John R. Neal from the premises.

Neal recovered enough to launch a furious assault on the university, demanding the state legislature begin an immediate investigation. Neal growled that President Morgan was "legally, morally and mentally incompetent" to hold so high a position and responsibility. Dr. Neal charged Harcourt Morgan with having "instituted a system of terrorism at the

university, both over the faculty and student body." Neal even went so far as to question whether or not Harcourt Morgan was a citizen of the United States. Neal testified before the General Assembly and hit the university some hard blows. Dr. Neal noted one member of the Board of Trustees also happened to be president of the City National Bank. That University of Tennessee had deposits in the City National Bank and Neal pointed out state law forbade any member of the Board of Trustees from having a personal financial interest or deriving personal financial gain. Neal told legislators the University of Tennessee was the only such education institution whose president and virtually ever dean did not have Ph.D. degrees. Certainly Neal had gotten some measure of revenge and left more than a few UT administrators embarrassed. When the University of Tennessee announced in 1925 it would cease giving the annual John R. Neal Oratorical Award to the outstanding debate student it seemed little more than spite. Dr. Neal retorted he would bestow the award himself.

The legislature issued a report, but did nothing. Neal, persistent to the end, notified Governor Peay the Board of Trustees was not composed as required by law, as one-third of the members were required to be alumni. 1925 also saw Dr. Neal open the John Randolph Neal School of Law. To the horror and dismay of University of Tennessee officials, the John R. Neal School of Law was

quite a success throughout the decades of the 1920s and 1930s. Dr. Neal eventually began graduating more students than the University of Tennessee law school. Neal continued to be both kind and careless, shuffling through checks for tuition and saying, "that boy can't afford to go to law school" and tear it to pieces. By the 1940s, the John R. Neal School of Law was foundering. Doubtless the outbreak of war in 1941 made things difficult for the school, but the enrollment continued to decline until there were no students enrolled. Dr. Neal continued to operate the school without students until forced to close in 1943.

Few people today recall it, but John R. Neal participated in the trial of the century at the time. Dr. Neal was the attorney for John Scopes at the famous "Scopes' Trial" in Dayton, Tennessee. The spotlight never quite hit John R. Neal as he was obscured by the legal talent and notoriety of Clarence Darrow and the oratorical abilities

and political prominence of William Jennings Bryan. Yet not everyone overlooked John R. Neal or his abilities. The curmudgeonly writer, H. L. Mencken, the "Sage of Baltimore", wrote that Neal was "an able lawyer and a man of repute" and opined that "in any Northern State his courage would get the praise it deserves." Mencken sadly noted that "in Tennessee even the intelligentsia seem to feel that he has done something discreditable by sitting at the trial table with Darrow, Hays, and Malone." Mencken complained and condemned the fact that the "state buzzes with trivial, idiotic gossip about him --- that he dresses shabbily, that he has political aspirations, and so on." Mencken concluded John R. Neal "has carried himself, in this case, in a way that does high credit to his profession and even higher credit to his native state. But his native state, instead of being proud of him, simply stabs him in the back."



'A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody' by Ron Bernas (a family-friendly comedy)

6/22-6/24 at 7 p.m. (matinée at 2 p.m. 6/24)
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Director: Tracy Walker
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www.powellplayhouseinc.com

Synopsis: This zany comedy begins on New Years Eve at the Perry mansion. Julia and Matthew seem to have it all, but Matthew wants something more -- to be rid of his wife so he can have some real fun. He resolves to murder Julia and tells her so. She vows to stay alive to see her daughter's wedding and tells him so. Then the games begin -- a hilarious match of wits and the witless. Meanwhile Buttram, the butler, holds a secret that will complicate everything...

Will Matthew succeed? Will Julia survive? Will Bunny get her wedding gifts? Why was Donald returned for "insufficient postage" as a child? Does detective Plotnik find out "Who Done It?" And what is Buttram's dark secret?

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Blossoming

I find it interesting how living things start at one point and manage take it to a grander level. It's a fascinating aspect of all things. A flower starts as a seed or a bulb. Given the right



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

kind of soil and nutrients, those beginnings grow and eventually produce buds. Before we know it, those buds blossom into beautiful flowers that decorate our yards and tables. That blossoming is even more remarkable when it is applied to humans.

One example of the blossoming of a person is my friend Mike Graham. Mike joined the band that plays for the first service at our church. He stated that he was excited about the new "gig," but he questioned his skills and abilities to perform with the group. Mike practiced at home and even put in hours on Saturday nights before next day services.

As each Sunday passed, he became a bit more comfortable playing in the band. Now, he is performing with confidence and has featured solos in many songs. I've enjoyed the music, but more than that, I've enjoyed watching Mike blossom into a good guitar player.

My dear wife had little confidence in herself as a

younger woman. She worried that she couldn't complete jobs for which she was hired, even though she possessed the skills to do so and proved herself to be a highly intelligent individual. Over the years, Amy has changed jobs when the opportunity to grow has presented itself. She worked diligently as she earned her credentials as a certified human resources specialist. In the jobs she held, Amy has led with compassion and competency, and most of the folks with whom she has worked and directed sing her praises. From a shy, unsure person, she has blossomed into a qualified professional with exceptional skills.

My two children have also grown and blossomed. Lacey was always a driven person who knew precisely what kind of work she wanted to pursue. She dove into college with determination, and by the time she graduated, her professor recognized her abilities and rewarded it. In her work life, she has grown from an entry-level person to someone who is well versed in licensing and other legal aspect of the music industry.

Dallas took a slower path. For much of his life,

he took an uncommitted approach to school. However, at some point during college, he decided to get serious, and then he made short work of his schooling. He worked part time jobs and took a full-time job at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo for a while. Then he found his comfort spot working for a large company. He has worked hard and learned many of the phases of the procedures in his department and now is a specialist in that area. He's ready for a new challenge in a different department when openings arise. His aggressive attitude and dedicated work ethic are so much different from those earlier years.

That ability to blossom is within each person. It only needs a bit of nurturing to come to the forefront. Once that happens, the opening of the person into a new world or role is unlimited. The determination to seek that newness is stifled by fear sometimes. At other times, the amount of energy necessary to grow and change is more than a person is willing to devote. At any rate, blossoming is something beautiful to behold as it unfolds before our eyes.

'The Civil Rights Movement in Knoxville, Tennessee: An Understudied Local Movement'

A Brown Bag Lecture with Michael Blum, Ph.D.

Knoxville's civil rights movement is an important, yet often understudied, part of the city's history. Michael Blum, adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina Upstate, seeks to remedy this. In a Brown Bag Lecture on Wednesday, June 14, Blum will provide historical background, explain how the civil rights movement in Knoxville unfolded, and analyze its place in American history. This program will be of interest to scholars, local history buffs, and students of the civil rights movement and African American history.

Michael Blum holds a masters in history from Millersville University in Pennsylvania, a Ph.D. in history from the University of Memphis, and was the recipient

of the 2015 McClung Awards presented by the East Tennessee Historical Society for the best article in the Journal of East Tennessee History for that year for his article on the Highlander Center's involvement in the Knoxville Civil Rights Movement.

The program is sponsored by the Gentry Griffey Funeral Chapel and Crematory and is free and open to the public. The lecture will begin at noon at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville. Guests are invited to bring a "Brown Bag" lunch and enjoy the lecture. Soft drinks will be available. For more information on the lecture, exhibitions, or museum hours, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at www.EastTNHistory.org.

Short-term rental rules postponed

Cont. from page 1

at the Civic Coliseum.

The council voted to honor the memory of Raleigh Wynn Sr., who passed away in April at age 93. The educator was president of the Dandridge Avenue Neighborhood, a former Knoxville City Council member, and noted community leader.

Also approved was a 30 unit per-acre apartment complex on 6.4 acres on the northwest side of East Martin Mill Pike and Lippencott Street. The developer,

ECG Martine Mill LP, has promised sidewalks and said a meeting with the neighborhood there saw no negative comments.

The West Lonsdale Baptist Church received permission to rezone a lot from R-1A to R02. The site is on Dayton Street south of Western Avenue.

A new hotel was also authorized to be built on Papermill Drive

northeast of North Weisgarber Road, moving the zoning from



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BEST OF THE PREPS

2016-17 STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Bearden tennis standout Julia Adams has had recent wins over several SEC, Big Ten and ACC commits.



Harper Cherry played four different sports at Halls, but golf will be her game at LMU.



TSD's Clarence Cunningham was the type of player who would run through a brick wall.



RUN MADISON RUN. Madison Tidmore, a.k.a. "Bama," runs through the bats as she is introduced on senior night at Powell. Tidmore, who transferred to Powell from Alabama her sophomore year, was named Powell's female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2016-17. Athletic Director Chad Smith said Tidmore became "a great role model for her teammates and classmates."



Webb junior Nicklin Hames has committed to play for NCAA volleyball powerhouse Nebraska after high school.



Caden Harbin was a talented and versatile player in football for Halls.



Highly decorated Brianna Moore will be missed at TSD, said Head Cheer Coach Karen Simmons.



Jack Nadaud, Webb's male Student-Athlete of the Year, started for five years on the Spartans' lacrosse team.



Jack Richards, Powell's male Student-Athlete of the Year, was senior class president and the basketball team's leading scorer.



Basketball player Austin Russell is The King's Academy male Student-Athlete of the Year.



Niamh Schumacher, co-female Student-Athlete of the Year at The King's Academy, will continue her long distance running at Tennessee.



Bearden Coach Patty Thewes calls Jacob Sobota "one of the finest athletes I have ever seen in my many years in athletics."



Powell female honoree Madison Tidmore kneels on the field on senior night.



Taylor Weekly helped lead TKA to a second straight state title in softball

Week 2 of The Focus' recognition of local high schools' Student-Athletes of the Year for 2016-17 includes a female honoree nicknamed "Bama," a male honoree who leaves holding 12 football school records and another female honoree who was captain of the varsity cheerleading squad and valedictorian.

The Focus has sent out requests to athletic directors at 24 TSSAA-member high schools to submit their respective Student-Athletes of the Year. The four-part feature will continue through the month of June with stories and photos of the

honorees.

In the spotlight this week are:

Bearden – Julia Adams and Jacob Sobota.

Halls – Harper Cherry and Caden Harbin.

Powell – Madison Tidmore and Jack Richards.

Tennessee School for the Deaf – Brianna Moore and Clarence Cunningham.

The King's Academy – Niamh Schumacher, Taylor Weekly and Austin Russell.

Webb School – Nicklin Hames and Jack Nadaud.

Bearden's Jacob Sobota had already made his mark

By Steve Williams

Jacob Sobota's prep career ended with a crash instead of a splash.

Still, Sobota had already made his mark as one of Bearden's

best track and field athletes of all time and he would be going to Duke on a scholarship.

A late-season injury most likely cost Sobota the TSSAA Class AAA decathlon title and other championships in the state meet. He was top-ranked in Tennessee as a decathlete, pole vaulter and hurdler and also one of its best long jumpers.

Because of his injury, Coach

Patty Thewes had to scratch him from the state decathlon and he also was unable to compete in the state meet.

"Jacob was under the radar entering high school," said Coach Thewes. "He was really not a standout in any event, yet he has become the finest athlete I have ever coached."

"He is the perfect example

Continued on page 3



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**Cantrell's
Cares**

Galyon uses sports to spread faith, fun at area camp

By Ken Lay

When Scott Galyon's NFL career ended in 2002, he decided to go into pharmaceutical sales. He was one of many former athletes to find employment in that line of work.

But he quickly discovered that sales wasn't his calling.

"A lot of former athletes do that," said Galyon, a Seymour High School graduate, who played football at the University of Tennessee before going pro and enjoying stints as a linebacker for the New York Giants and Miami Dolphins. "It was a great job. The money was good and the benefits were good."

"But it just wasn't for me."

Galyon then answered a call to work for Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"When I came home, I went to work for FCA because I love being around kids and I love to share my faith," Galyon said. "I love to be around sports and I love to share my faith and this gives me the opportunity to do both."

After his playing career was over, he did come back to Seymour, where he played baseball, football and basketball, and served as a volunteer assistant with the Eagles football team.

Now he works for FCA in Knox and Sevier Counties and he spoke to Powell's young basketball players at the *Fellowship of Christian Athletes Presents the Panther Pride Basketball Camp* at Powell Middle School.

There, he encouraged the players to have faith in God and to be thankful for the



Former UT and NFL linebacker Scott Galyon addresses players at last week's Fellowship of Christian Athletes Presents the Panther Pride Basketball camp at Powell Middle School. Galyon, a three-sport athlete at Seymour High School spoke about his faith and the importance of having fun in sports.

opportunity to play basketball.

Galyon told the campers to enjoy their time on the floor.

"So often today, you hear kids say that 'I have to get a D-I scholarship.' But if that happens, it's going to happen," he said. "If you can play, they will find you, and you'll get it."

"But that's years down the road. And what happens if you don't get one? That doesn't mean that you failed. You didn't fail, because you got to do something that you loved to do for five or six years. That's success."

On opening day, the campers received Bibles and Galyon noted that those could serve as inspiration during troubling times.

"When you get this, it doesn't need to stay in the

backpack and it doesn't need to stay on a shelf in your room," Galyon told the players. "You need to read it."

"I know there are things in there that you're not going to understand. There are things that I don't understand. But there are going to be things that you will understand. But you won't understand any of it if you don't pick it up and read it. If you don't read it, life goes on. There's a lot of garbage but this [the Bible] is not garbage. This book provides you with life."

Spreading his faith is key for Galyon. He also, however, believes that sports are supposed to be fun.

"When I played football, it never occurred to me that I would get a scholarship to UT," he said. "I played football because I loved it. It was fun."

Powell grads share basketball with community's youth

By Ken Lay

As recent high school graduates, Reilly Hamilton and Matt Samples are preparing for the next stage of their lives.

Both received a high school diploma last month and both are getting ready for college.

But recently, the two former Powell High School players took some time to share the game they love with Powell's youth at the *Fellowship of Christian Athletes Presents the Panther Pride Basketball Camp* last week at Powell Middle School.

The two 2017 Powell High graduates joined 2016 alum Conley Hamilton (Reilly's older brother who now attends East Tennessee State University) and PMS basketball coach Darin Courtney to run the camp. And they wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

"It means a lot to come back here and teach basketball to the next generation of Powell players," Reilly Hamilton said. "I grew up playing the game and I learned a lot."

"It's great to teach them what I've learned from the game."

For Samples, working the camp was a rewarding experience as he and the Hamilton Brothers all attended the camp when they were younger.

"Basketball has always been a part of my life," he said. "I'm a second generation player at Powell. My dad

also played basketball in Powell."

"It's great to see these kids come in here and work. They want to play the game and it's good to see these come in here and see that they're better than I was when I was their age."

Both Samples and the younger Hamilton are finished playing basketball competitively. Reilly will join Conley at ETSU and he will major in engineering. Samples will attend the University of Tennessee and major in business.

Samples said that he would likely play intramural basketball at UT.

"Those games get pretty intense," Samples said.

Basketball will likely always be part of life for Reilly Hamilton and Samples and they'll always have fond memories of playing for the Panthers.

"Powell attaches itself to its high school team and it's kind of like a small town," Samples said. "I recognize some of these kids."

"I've seen them in the stands at our games."

Reilly Hamilton agreed.

"We've always had great community support," he said. "When you come to the football games [Scarbro Stadium] is always full."

"I recognize some of these kids and it's great to get the chance to come in here and work with them."

Strider named Gatorade Player of the Year

By Ken Lay

The awards and honors just keep coming for Christian Academy of Knoxville pitcher Spencer Strider.

Strider, who helped the Warriors won the 2017 Class AA State Championship recently in Murfreesboro, was recently named Tennessee Gatorade Player of the Year.

He received that honor soon after he was named Class AA Mr. Baseball by the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association.

He has signed to continue his baseball career at Clemson next season.

Strider went 13-0 this season and finished the season with 150 strikeouts.

He picked up two victories at the state tournament and struck out 16 batters in 11 innings in Murfreesboro. He surrendered

three runs and eight hits in his two appearances on the mound.

Strider is also a member of a senior class at CAK that won a pair of state championships (2014, 2017). The Warriors went 39-5 this season and won three District 4-AA Tournament Championships, a Region 2-AA Title and three state sectional championships.

The Warriors won 137 games over the last four seasons.

Strider pitched four innings and picked up a win in CAK's 10-2 victory over Signal Mountain to open state tournament play.

He also got the victory in a 3-2 comeback win over Christ Presbyterian Academy at Middle Tennessee State University in the title tilt.

Local coach, players compete in all-star match

By Ken Lay

Ryan Radcliffe has won a Class AAA Soccer State Championship as both a coach and player.

And this year he had hopes of guiding the Bearden Bulldogs to a second consecutive title but that didn't happen as the Soccer Dogs were eliminated in the District 4-AAA Tournament semifinals at home by rival Farragut last month.

But Radcliffe recently got the opportunity to coach some of East Tennessee's best boys high school players in the Tennessee High School Soccer Coaches Association East/West All-Star Game in Hendersonville on Saturday, June 3.

"It was a great experience," Radcliffe said after the two all-star squads played to a 2-2 draw in the Midstate. "It was great to get a chance to coach the guys who have given you headaches and heartaches over the years. These guys were

the best of the best."

"Many of them will go on to play college soccer. It was like coaching a Division I Soccer game and it was a great atmosphere."

Radcliffe coached two of his players as Cole Hilton and Lucas Lavender were named to the squad. Both were on Bearden's 2016 State Championship team.

The Bearden coach was also surrounded by other familiar faces in Farragut's Austin Bihlmeyer (who helped lead the Admirals to the 2017 State Tournament), Maryville's Matt Houlihan made the team after helping the Rebels win the District 4-AAA regular-season championship and go undefeated in the league.

Hardin Valley Academy goalkeeper, Andrew Foster, also played in the match. He'll soon move on to kick for Morehead State's football team.

Christian Academy of Knoxville's Matt Zaczky

was also on the East Team and he scored a goal for the East. He's one of the area's top goal scorers and helped the Warriors reach the Class A/AA State Semifinals last month.

The East got its other marker from Coffee County's Breyer Taylor.

The West team had to score a late equalizer to salvage a tie.

"It was a great game and the action was really intense," Radcliffe said. "I didn't really have to coach that much. I just got to sit back and watch. All I really had to do is make sure everybody got to play and make sure some of the guys got some rest."

"These guys on both teams really wanted to win the game. We were ahead 2-1 and they scored late to tie it up."

The West Team was coached by Christ Presbyterian Academy head man Tom Gerlach, who previously coached at CAK.

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BEST OF THE PREPS

2016-17 STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Nadaud and Hames are Webb School honorees

By Steve Williams

Veteran football coach and athletic director David Meske had high praise for Jack Nadaud in the announcement of his selection as Webb School's male Student-Athlete of the Year for 2016-17.

Nadaud received All-State honors in football and also started in lacrosse for the fifth straight year.

"Jack is a wonderful example of what an outstanding student-athlete should look like," said Meske. "He has committed himself to excellence in both the classroom and on the playing field. He is honorable, a great teammate, leader, classmate, friend and one of the most caring individuals that I have ever coached."

Junior volleyball standout Nicklin Hames, who is coached by her mom Chris Hames at Webb, is the school's female Student-Athlete of the Year.

Nadaud recently received The Shane Webb Award, which is one of the highest Academic/Athletic awards given at Webb School.

Nadaud also received All-District and All-KIL honors in football. He was a two-year captain on the Spartans' lacrosse team and this year was a second-team

All-Region player.

Coach Hames has to be happy she has her daughter returning for one more year.

"Nicklin has been part of the Webb program for many years," said Coach Hames. "She has had many accomplishments during this time, including three state tournament MVP awards and All-State honors.

"However, it is her competitive spirit and drive on the court that makes her an exceptional player. She helps her teammates be better players and is a great leader on the court."

Nicklin has committed to play volleyball for Nebraska when she graduates high school.

Moore and Cunningham poured their hearts out for TSD

Brianna Moore, valedictorian and captain of the varsity cheerleaders squad, and two-sport standout Clarence Cunningham are Tennessee School for the Deaf's Student-Athletes of the Year.

Both were seniors and received numerous awards at TSD.

During her senior year, Moore won the Sheila Dixon Cheerleader Captain Award, the Mrs. Randell Academic Cheerleader Award, the Patsy R. Smith Female Athlete award, the E. Conley Akin Academic-Athletic Award, the Johnny Mauer KIL Award for Outstanding Performance in Academics and Athletics, as well as the Viking Heart Award.

Brianna also was Homecoming Queen and Prom Queen and involved in numerous school activities, including Beta Club, Academic Bowl and Virtual Vikings.

She was an Academic Achiever winner in English and social studies and also received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award, the Tennessee Association of the Deaf Scholarship Award and the Tennessee Association of the Deaf Herschel R. Ward Award.

"It's been an absolute pleasure working with Brianna," said TSD Head Cheer Coach Karen Simmons. "She is an outstanding role model for other students, juggling sports, academics and extra-curricular activities while remaining positive, focused and committed to her fellow students,

her team and her school. She will be missed next year."

Cunningham was a lineman in football and a center/forward in basketball.

"Clarence is a fine young man who played his heart out for TSD and our school," said Barry Swafford, who coached him in both sports. "He was very loyal to the coaches and our school and played his best as possible for his team. He never quit on us and that's why we loved him very much. When we asked him to do something for us, he would do it without any question."

At TSD's recent athletic banquet, Cunningham was honored as TSD's Best Offensive Lineman in football and received the Viking Heart Award in basketball. He also received the Strength and Conditioning Award and the Yafet Yoseph Male Athlete of the Year Award.

'Bama' and Richards set great examples at Powell

Madison Tidmore earned a nickname after transferring to Powell from Alabama her sophomore year.

And she also earned the respect of Powell High Athletic Director Chad Smith.

"Madison (aka Bama) is a great example of what every student athlete should strive to be," said Smith in announcing that she and senior classmate Jack Richards were Powell's Student-Athletes of the Year.

"She takes care of business both on and off the field and is a great role model for her teammates and classmates alike."

Tidmore was a two year starter in both softball and basketball.

The outfielder helped lead the Lady Panthers to the Class AAA state softball finals. She will continue her softball career at Chattanooga State.

Richards, a standout in basketball, was the senior class president with a 3.5 GPA.

"He was a great model of what a student-athlete should be," said Smith.

On the basketball floor, Richards had a great season and was All-KIL and All-District 3-AAA, averaging 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Bearden's Jacob Sobota had already made his mark

Cont. from page 1

of excellence achieved through hard work and staying the course. Thinking about it, he has become one of the finest athletes I have ever seen in my many years in athletics. He's that good."

Sobota and junior tennis standout Julia Adams were named Bearden's Student-Athletes of the Year for 2016-17.

And there is much more to admire about Sobota, said his coach.

"He is an incredible athlete, but what I appreciate the most about him is that he is so humble, kind and respectful," added Thewes. "Physical attributes fade over time, but character does not. He really is the best of the best."

Sobota's accomplishments on and off the track were many. He had a 4.3 weighted grade point average, taking 10 AP classes and 12 honor classes.

He also was on the climbing team, in the orchestra, in Young Life and had over 500 hours of community service in high school.

Sobota was the 2016 state runner-up in the Class AAA decathlon and pole vault and was the 2017 state indoor pole vault champion. He won the pole vault event in this spring's Volunteer Classic and is a two-time KIL champion in the event. He is the BHS record holder in the long jump and pole vault.

Adams is a three-time district and region champion and was undefeated this season with a 17-0 record in singles and 11-1 mark in doubles prior to the state tournament.

At the state, Adams helped lead the Bearden girls team to its fourth straight second place showing in Class AAA and also reached the semifinal round in state singles play.

According to Bearden Coach Tyler Lane, Adams is a 4-star recruit and currently ranked No. 92 in the country, No. 21 in the Southeast and No. 3 in Tennessee with recent wins over several SEC, Big Ten and ACC commits.

"Julia is a great tennis player and what's incredible to me is how she continues to improve each year at such a high level," said Coach Lane. "She's also developed into a great teammate and leader. The other girls look up to her and she encourages them well."

Halls honorees made remarkable contributions

Caden Harbin and Harper Cherry put special entries into their resumes as Student-Athletes of Year at Halls.

Harbin holds 12 school records in football.

Cherry played four different sports.

Rare notations, to say the least.

As a senior, Harbin earned All-State honors in football, standing out on offense and defense. He was a TSSAA Mr. Football semifinalist, the Region 2-5A MVP and All-KIL.

Harbin also played basketball for the Red Devils but will be playing football at ETSU.

Cherry was on the golf team, ran cross country and played basketball and softball.

Harper has a golf scholarship to LMU. She qualified for the TSSAA state tournament three times in her award-winning prep golf career.

Cherry also was a two-year captain for the Lady Red Devils in basketball and graduated with a 4.17 GPA.

Schumacher and Weekly share award at TKA

Having state champions who are Division 1 signees in their sports – Niamh Schumacher in cross country and track and Taylor Weekly in softball – resulted in The King's Academy naming co-female Student-Athletes of the Year for 2016-17.

Schumacher, a UT signee, repeated as the Division II champion in the 1600-meter and 3200 runs in the recent Spring Fling in Murfreesboro. She also won the Division II-A cross country title last fall.

Meanwhile, Weekly, an All-State third baseman/outfielder, led the Lady Lions to their second straight Division II-A state crown, hitting .487 with five home runs, 13

doubles and 46 RBI. She has a full scholarship to attend the University of Toledo, an NCAA Division 1 member.

TKA's male Student-Athlete of the Year is senior Austin Russell, who led the Lions' basketball team to one of its best seasons in history, said Marc Weekly, Director of Athletics. The Lions were one game shy of the Sub-State.

Russell will continue his education at ETSU.

Bearden junior dominates discus field in setting state record

By Steve Williams

Joshua Sobota was in a class by himself at this year's TSSAA boys' state track and field meet.

The Bearden junior threw the discus a state record 190 feet, 3 inches. That was over 40 feet farther than his closest competitor. The previous record was 189-1.

Sobota also won the shot put event in 63-8¼ – more than seven feet past the runner-up's mark. The 20-year-old state record is 67-1¼.

Joshua's brother, senior Jacob Sobota, was the favorite in the state decathlon and pole vault but sidelined because of injury.

While Christian Academy of Knoxville's Rebecca Story was a four-time winner on the track again this year in Class A-AA, there were plenty of other highlights by

Continued on page 4

OUR VETERANS NEXT DOOR

The Hidden Children of Europe

By Randall Baxter

I once spoke at the O'Connor Senior Citizen Center about the Korea War. A lady walked up and asked, "You probably are not interested in the story of a little girl in World War II are you?"

I said, "Sure I am." She began to tell me her story of "The Hidden Children."

In 1942 when she was less than two years old and living in the Netherlands, her parents were sent to Westerbork, a holding camp for Jewish citizens there. They ended up in Auschwitz and became two of the six million that were killed as part of the Final Solution. Also included in that number were her aunts, uncles, and her grandparents. She was the only one left in her family.

How did she get away? Was it a miracle? She'll never know if her parents thought about this for a long time, or made an on-the-spot decision to leave her behind. It was a friend of her daddy's who helped her get safely to her foster parents. She didn't find out that connection until the year 2000. They decided to leave her behind, which had to be the greatest sacrifice parents could make. They were put on a train in Rotterdam, heading for Auschwitz.

So, her parents had a choice?

Note to Reader:

What would you have done? Would you have held on to your daughter because of your love for her and taken her with you to her death? Would you have looked for a way to hand her off to safety?

She was given to a good friend of her father's, a well-known artist in Holland. He took her home where he lived all his life. He found an underground connection that, eventually, contacted her foster parents whom today she calls Mom and Pop. She had two sets of parents: her Mother and Daddy, who had to give her up, and Mom and Pop, who risked their lives to keep her safe.

She was known as a hidden child. She wasn't hidden in a closet. She was out in the open all her life. Nazis were everywhere during World War II. She was one of THE HIDDEN CHILDREN!

When things got too hot, when people asked questions she or her parents couldn't or wouldn't answer, they just moved to the other end of town. Imagine living in East Knoxville and moving to Karns (about 15 miles) and try to disappear? Not a chance, but the lack of communication then—no cell phones, no internet—kept her safer. She moved three times in those three years. Could you have survived that?

You can learn the complete story in the book: "THE VETERAN NEXT DOOR." I will email you the complete story for free if you contact me at randallbaxter@randallbaxter.com. For a complete autographed reprint of this chapter call 865-525-2323 to order by VISA for \$7.95, or the complete book at \$19.95 plus shipping. The complete story on CD is available also for \$7.95. You can also order "THE VETERAN NEXT DOOR" on amazon.com.

If your church or Civic group would like to invite me for a speaking engagement on any Historic/Military topic, you can contact me at: 865-525-2323 or randallbaxter@randallbaxter.com.



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Tennessee Baseball Gets a New Direction, Yet Again

By Alex Norman

It didn't work with Todd Raleigh...

It didn't work with Dave Serrano...

Will it work with Tony Vitello?

Vols fans are hoping the third time is the charm with regards to the Tennessee baseball program.

Ever since then athletic director Mike Hamilton fired Rod Delmonico following the 2007 season, the Vols have been mediocre at best. They finished with a 108-113 record during Raleigh's four years (2008-2011) and a 157-163 mark during the six seasons Serrano was in charge (2012-2017). That's a winning combined winning percentage of just under 49%.

The numbers in SEC play are even more galling. The Vols went a combined 97-198 in conference play over the past decade, an anemic 28% winning rate.

Plain and simple, that's not going to get the job done at any level.

Delmonico might not have had the consistent success that Vols fans wished for, but he did get Tennessee to the College World Series three times (1995, 2001, 2005) and won 699 games from 1990-2007.

That seems like

a lifetime ago.

So that's what Tony Vitello is stepping into.

While many Tennessee fans had hoped former Vol standout Chris Burke would get the head coaching job, he was never a serious candidate.

Vitello has a lot of what athletic director John Currie was looking for. Vitello has earned a reputation as one of the best recruiters in college baseball during his time at Missouri, TCU and Arkansas. He has experience in the SEC. He's been part of teams that have made it to lots of NCAA tournaments, a place the Vols haven't even come close to being in more than a decade.

In a press release from the University of Tennessee's athletic department, Currie said, "We are thrilled to bring Coach Vitello's passion for baseball, relationship building and student-athlete development into the Tennessee athletics family. Proven experience evaluating and recruiting at the highest level and in the grind of the SEC was an absolute prerequisite, and Coach Vitello checks all the boxes. He has a track record of helping to build healthy and competitive programs--from those earliest relationships formed during

the recruiting process through the development of young men into major league ball players. Coach Vitello has been to a dozen NCAA Tournaments, and he's been part of a staff that led a team to Omaha. He knows firsthand what it takes to win in the Southeastern Conference, and he has triumphed in recruiting battles for elite prospects in our SEC footprint and other talent-rich areas across the country."

In the same release, Vitello said, "This is as good of an opportunity as there is in the country. I consider myself incredibly blessed to be a part of the athletic department at the University of Tennessee. It's the ultimate combination of an elite conference, a state school with great in-state players, a phenomenal city and outstanding tradition that exists not just with baseball, but across all sports. It's no coincidence that it's been a place where so many great coaches have been leaders in their sport. I want to work like crazy to uphold that standard."

Currie added, "Throughout this process it has been inspiring to talk to many of the people who are passionate about Volunteer baseball--I believe

that Coach Vitello is the right person to build our program into a perennial contender and bring championship baseball back to Knoxville."

For Vitello, this will be his first head coaching job, which could be seen by some as a negative. But considering the putrid performance of the Tennessee baseball program during the experience laden Raleigh and Serrano, this isn't necessarily a bad thing.

Vitello is only 38 years old, and has proven that he can appeal to young players.

Baseball recruiting is a very difficult proposition. Players don't all get full rides. The maximum number of scholarships that a Division 1 team can give to its players is 11.7, so you have to wade in those delicate waters. Plus, if your recruits are drafted, you might lose them to the professional ranks.

Vitello also has to recruit with baseball facilities that have fallen a step behind many others in the SEC.

This is going to be a difficult rebuild.

We will find out in the years to come if Vitello is up to the task.

Bearden junior dominates discus field in setting state record

Cont. from page 3

local athletes in the state competition at MTSU in Murfreesboro.

West girls' 4x800 relay team of Lindsey Stallworth, Maddie Grace Shook, Janie Holecek and Hannah Burkhart won the Class AAA race with a school record time of 9:30.9.

Niamh Schumacher, UT signee from The King's Academy was a double winner, prevailing in the Division II girls' 1600 in 5:08.60 and in the 3200 in 10:47.65.

Webb School junior Carter Coughlin also was a double winner in the Division II boys' 1600 and 3200. His times were 4:22.17 and 9:34.46.

L&N STEM Academy senior Jaylen Foster won the Class A-AA triple jump event in 44 feet, 5 inches and also was fifth in the high jump and sixth in long jump to net 17 points for his school in the team scoring.

Austin-East's boys won the Class A-AA 4x200 in 1:27.62. Kashif Warren, Martest Forbes, Aristotle Huffman and Jeizon Pelcher made up that fast foursome. Roadrunner relays also were second in the 4x100 and fourth in the 4x400.

Other Class A-AA standouts included A-E freshman Blake Blakemore taking second in the girls' 200 and third in the 100. Catholic freshman Callie Tucker was fourth in the 1600 and third in the 3200.

In boys' Class A-AA, Paul Schwarzentraub of L&N was third in pole vault. A-E's Kiyontae Warren took third in 300 hurdles. Timothy Thacker of Grace Christian was second in 800 behind Georđe Goodwyn

of team champion Catholic.

West senior Lindsey Stallworth placed second in the 1600 in Class AAA girls' action and freshman Shook was fourth. The Lady Rebels also were second in the 4x400 relay. Symphony Buxton of Hardin Valley took third place in the shot put and the Lady Hawks were third in the 4x800.

HVA's Kenton Bachmann was third in a very close Class AAA boys' 800. The top three finishers were within a half-second of each other. Shawn Stacy of Bearden placed second in the high jump. Michael Redding of South-Doyle was third in the shot put.

In girls' Division II, Webb freshman Jasmine Jefferson was second in the 100, 400 and 200. Webb's Niki Narayani was third in 1600 and second in 3200.

Webb 8th grader Elijah Howard was third in the Division II boys' 100 and second in the 200. The Spartans' 4x100 relay finished third.

In addition to the Catholic boys taking top team honors in Class A-AA, Austin-East, this year's sectional champion, placed sixth. East Nashville captured the A-AA girls' crown, while CAK finished fourth and Catholic sixth.

The Class AAA boys' title went to Memphis Catholic. Bearden was sixth. Whitehaven won the girls' AAA title. West came in third and HVA tied for fourth.

In Division II, Brentwood Academy swept the boys' and girls' team championships. Webb's boys and girls teams each finished sixth.

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Yard Signs

As I pen this essay Becky and I are homeless. Actually, we’re “tweeners,” between our former home (Big House, which my daughter and her family now occupy) and our New House, which is not quite ready. It’s worked out OK because we’ve been with my Mom, who had surgery and needed a capable nurse; she settled for an internist. Currently we’re in Portland, Oregon babysitting my granddaughter. It’s been a bit unsettling because as I wake up now I sometimes have to think where I am.

Portland has been in the news lately after a certifiable nut-job knifed to death two men on the local tram and then pleaded not-guilty to the assault. And as one of the victims lay bleeding to death a homeless man stole his backpack. The creep also stole the victim’s wedding ring which the perp was still wearing when he was caught.

Like Knoxville, Portland

attracts a large number of homeless people. Social services and generous hearts are readily available for people who are unable to make it in society or choose not to do so.

When we were last here, I learned that petty crime is a big problem. The local Fred Meyers (Kroger) instructs its employees not to hinder shoplifters as they walk out the door. Apparently, it’s cheaper to send a bill to the insurance company than to prosecute. While walking the dog, my son-in-law encountered a man walking down the alley with a flat screen TV at six am; and Freddy’s doesn’t open until 7am.

Twenty years ago my wife, Becky, published an essay in Newsweek magazine about petty crime. Her thesis was that small crimes that go unpunished lead to more serious ones. It’s the same with gateway drugs such as marijuana which often lead to more serious drug usage.

We were in Portland last fall just before the election. We saw no yard signs for Trump, undoubtedly because Portland is a very liberal-progressive community. Interestingly, I only saw one Hillary yard sign, many for Bernie Sanders, but dozens of Black Lives Matter signs. Those BLM signs are still everywhere though some are thankfully shrouded by spring flowers.

The notion that Portland is uber-liberal was recently challenged by a controversial essay in the Washington Post, entitled “Portland Isn’t Portlandia” (after the sitcom). The author maintains that Oregon is mostly white, anti-black and racist. Such sweeping conclusions are inherently prejudicial, and it amazes me that so many liberals see color in everything. There must be a low incidence of color blindness among liberals.

Perhaps the Washington Post essayist is manifesting “white guilt,” after the book of the same name by Shelby Steele. Of course we all have prejudices, but I challenge the notion that Oregonians are racists. And I challenge the notion that just because I live in the South and I am conservative, I’m a racist or a bigot. I judge people by their thoughts and actions, not the color of their skin. It’s time for Americans to stop being played by activists and the media. It’s time to use reason instead

of emotion. And it’s time to get the signs out of our yards and hearts.

I never know where my stories will come from. The world looks different when you’re walking instead of driving. It was yard signs which started this essay as I strolled with my granddaughter through the neighborhood and away from the neighbor’s construction project.

The neighbors are raising their home six feet and digging out an additional 9 feet in the subfloor to stabilize the sagging foundation of their house. I learned that poor foundations are a common problem in Portland because of alluvial soil in the Columbia River basin, and problematic concrete in older Portland homes.

It all began about 12,000 years ago when the earth began to warm. You may be surprised to learn that we currently reside in an inter-glacial period called the Holocene epoch. The world was literally frozen for the previous 70,000 years, with the ice pack at Niagara Falls one mile deep. Fortunately for man, global warming, er..., climate change occurred.

As the earth warmed the glaciers melted and began to recede. Ice melt filled the Great Lakes which had been gouged out by glaciations. Lake Superior filled to a depth of 1000 feet. And as the glaciers melted, the Pacific Northwest was

subject to repeated massive floods as ice dams forming the Missoula Glacial Lake repeatedly collapsed. The raging flood waters surged at eighty miles an hour and cumulatively deposited fifty cubic miles of soil across northern Idaho, Washington and the Columbia River Basin.

I’m reading a book by Philip Yancey who says few people are persuaded by argument or even a discussion. You probably wouldn’t quibble with my research of the Missoula floods. Why would I lie? On the other hand, you might take issue with my perspectives in the first part of this essay or argue with me about anthropogenic global warming. I can report that a week in Portland caused me to again question global warming. Mark Twain once said, “The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco.” For a southerner like me you could substitute Portland in the quotation for San Francisco.

Jesus knew the hearts of men when he advised his followers to let their light shine so others would see their good works and glorify their Father in Heaven. Yancey sides with Jesus, stating that people are persuaded by relationships and love, not debate, and certainly not by the politically correct term “conversations” which have become an oxymoron.

Last Sunday, as I sat in

church among Portlandians, this Tennessee boy identified with other fellow Christians. These folks may be more liberal than me, but we share faith, language, culture and country. So, how did we become so divided? In WW II Americans were unified against Nazis, jingoistic Japanese and communism - with the possible exceptions of some elites and media (NY Times) who were sympathetic of Uncle Joe Stalin’s murderous communism.

I’ve asked myself this question many times and have come to the following conclusions: we have been divided by political and media operatives (class warfare); our national identity, founded on Judeo-Christian principles, is being systematically subverted; our public discourse is shaped by emotions rather than facts and reason; and the rule of law under the Constitution is eroding as is our freedom.

So what do we do? Francis Schaeffer summed up the proper response in his book “How Then Should We Live.” He said we should follow the wisdom of the Bible (not the Koran). We should speak the truth (with love, as Paul added). And we must pray for the lost and remember that God is with us. And I would add the admonition of a friend, “get inspired; get informed and get involved.”

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

Jehovah-Sabaoth

The name of God that we are studying today is Jehovah Sabaoth, which at its root, refers to a captain or general who commands a mighty army. It’s used over 270 times in the Bible. God is the king and commander and mobilizes His army to accomplish His purposes. When we truly understand this name for God, we will never view Him the same again. He has unlimited power, is impossible to describe, and incredible to imagine. The name Jehovah Sabaoth is used when



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

God’s people are in big trouble. We could say it this way: God goes to battle when our backs are up against the wall.

The first instance of Jehovah Sabaoth is found in 1 Samuel 1:3, where we read that Elkanah went up from his town every year to “worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty [Jehovah Sabaoth] at Shiloh.” We learn that one of his wives, Hannah, was barren and in that culture barrenness was thought to be a sign of God’s displeasure. Penninah, Elkanah’s other wife,

had children and she kept provoking Hannah in order to irritate and harass her. She is so upset she wept and would not eat. Hannah was bitter and broken and took her requests to Jehovah Sabaoth. She made a vow saying: “O LORD Almighty [Jehovah Sabaoth], if you will only look upon your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life” (1 Samuel 1:11). Hannah needed God to unleash the armies of heaven because she was at the end of her rope. God heard her request and gave her

a son named Samuel who served as a great judge and priest of Israel.

We find this name for God again in 1 Samuel 17 where we read the account of David and Goliath. The Philistines were nemesis of Israel and had gathered for war in the Valley of Elah to take on God’s people. The Philistines had a champion named Goliath who had body armor that weighed 125 pounds and was armed with a javelin, a spear and a shield bearer. This huge man challenged the Israelites to a fight to the death as he shouted out blasphemies against God. David, the shepherd boy, couldn’t believe what

he was hearing. While no one in the army of Israel had the courage to face Goliath, David did.

After teasing David, Goliath called out a curse on David and declared that he would feed him to the birds and the beasts. David responded: “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, [Jehovah Sabaoth] the God of the armies [Sabaoth] of Israel, whom you have defied” (1 Sam. 11:45). David then describes in great detail what he will do to Goliath and declares: “All those gathered here will know

that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands” (11:47). David was so confident in Jehovah Sabaoth as the commander of the armies of heaven that the Bible says “he ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.” With one stone from his sling, he killed the giant.

Take heart in knowing that you have an amazing source of power at your disposal to face whatever issue or battle you are dealing with. Call out to Jehovah Sabaoth for your help and deliverance.



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Canine Influenza

Recently, two cases of canine influenza were confirmed in the Knoxville area by the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. Hobo's annual vaccines and veterinarian visit with Dr. Ann Combs presented the perfect opportunity to discuss concerns I had with H3N8 and H3N2 strains of canine influenza. The origin of H3N2 was China, Korea, and Thailand until 2015, the H3N8 represents adaptive evolution from equine to dogs. Regardless of the virus or the origin, both pose significant health risk to your dogs and cats.



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

It only takes one exposure to infect your pet with influenza. The best practice is prevention if you are boarding your pet or utilizing doggie daycare facilities ask the manager about what preventative steps they are taking to protect their populations. Expect the same things you would from your doctor or nurse—handwashing with soap and water:

- before and after handling other dogs or their food / water bowls
- After cleaning or handling cages and toys
- Any contact with a dogs urine, feces, or saliva

Reputable facilities using disinfectants commonly used in veterinary and boarding facilities can help minimize and prevent the influenza virus from spreading from surfaces.

Signs and symptoms of canine influenza:

- Sneezing
- Runny Nose

- Ocular discharge
 - Fever (104° – 106°)
 - Cough
 - Anorexia
 - Fatigue
- Coughing, sneezing, and nasal discharge are similar to other respiratory illnesses, therefore cannot be used to diagnose influenza. Pets presenting with any of these symptoms should be examined by your veterinarian immediately. Canine influenza is highly contagious to other dogs and cats; it is wise to quarantine suspected pets until cleared by your pet's healthcare professional. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, Cat's signs and symptoms will include nasal discharge, congestion, fatigue, lip smacking, and excessive salivation. Diagnosis of canine influenza is usually completed by a blood test, or by the ELISA tests to detect influenza A and B in humans. As with any influenza—early diagnosis and treatment is your best option.

Treatment options:

- Anti-inflammatory



Dr. Ann Combs and Tina Beeler, VT, draw blood as part of Hobo the Wonder Dog's Semiannual Wellness Examination

medications help reduce inflammation and fever (never use medications intended for human consumption without first discussing with your veterinarian)

- Intravenous fluids to maintain hydration
- Good nutrition to support the immune response

Only your pet's healthcare provider can devise a treatment plan best suited for your pet. Remember—prevention and proper

vaccination is always the best treatment. Your veterinarian will devise a plan that weighs the risk and benefits of vaccinations that's right for your pet.

Unlike the human influenza virus which is seasonal, canine influenza is not. Hobo the Wonder Dog and I will heed the advice of Dr. Combs and postpone group training sessions and no public outings for at least two weeks. With two confirmed cases of canine influenza in our

area and nine southern states with confirmed cases—we will limit exposure risk. Canine influenza is serious and deadly.

Life is better with a dog—woof!

Howard Baker, RN BSN
Hobo the Wonder Dog, Your Guide to Travel, Health, and Fun. Please follow Hobo on Facebook @ Hobo the Wonder Dog or contact us at: howard@howardsbaker.com

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF HERMAN W. JONES AND SANDRA FOX IN RE: OCWEN LOAN SERVICING LLC v. TANYA M. BORDEN NO. 193727-1

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF HERMAN W. JONES AND SANDRA FOX, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF HERMAN W. JONES AND SANDRA FOX, it is ordered that said defendants, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF HERMAN W. JONES AND SANDRA FOX, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Jerry Bridenbaugh, an Attorney whose address is, 5217 Maryland Way Suite 404 Brentwood, TN 37027, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor John F. Weaver in the Knox County Chancery Court, Division I, at 400 W. Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in a The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 24th day of May, 2017.

Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JEAN C. BROWN DOCKET NUMBER 78949-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 1ST day of JUNE 2017, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of

JEAN C. BROWN

who died Aug 10, 2016, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in {1} or {2} otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- {1}(A) Four {4} months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or
- {B} Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in {1}(A); or
- {2} Twelve {12} months from the decedent's date of death

This the 1ST day of JUNE, 2017.

ESTATE OF JEAN C. BROWN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

BILL W. PETTY; CO-EXECUTOR
705 GATE LANE, STE. 202,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

KAREN L. JOHNSON; CO-EXECUTOR
5238 OAKHILL DR., KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

BILL W. PETTY ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
705 GATE LANE, STE. 202,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOHN BREEDEN CRAIG DOCKET NUMBER 78491-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 2ND day of JUNE 2017, letters administration in respect of the

Estate of JOHN BREEDEN CRAIG who died Dec 2, 2016, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 2ND day of JUNE, 2017.

ESTATE OF JOHN BREEDEN CRAIG PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHRIS CRAIG; ADMINISTRATOR
1823 DRIMMEN RD.,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

NELLA ROBIN VARGAS
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
P.O. BOX 40, BLAINE, TN 37709

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF W. ALEX CANTRELL AKA WALLACE ALEX CANTRELL DOCKET NUMBER 78988-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 24TH day of MAY 2017, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of W. ALEX CANTRELL AKA WALLACE ALEX CANTRELL who died Mar 31, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor

received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1) (A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death

This the 24TH day of MAY, 2017.

ESTATE OF W. ALEX CANTRELL AKA WALLACE ALEX CANTRELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
FREDERICK J. CANTRELL; EXECUTOR
3821 GUINN RD.,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

K. RAY PINKSTAFF
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
P.O. BOX 31408,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37930

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BILLY L. GOOD DOCKET NUMBER 79029-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 6TH day of JUNE 2017, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BILLY L. GOOD who died Oct 12, 2016, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk

and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death

This the 6TH day of JUNE, 2017.

ESTATE OF BILLY L. GOOD PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
REGENNIA G. REED; EXECUTRIX
1729 DAWN REDWOOD TRAIL,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CARRIE MAE VICKERS DOCKET NUMBER 79032-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 7TH day of JUNE 2017, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CARRIE MAE VICKERS who died Jan 29, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 7TH day of JUNE, 2017.

ESTATE OF CARRIE MAE VICKERS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PENNY KNIGHTEN; ADMINISTRATRIX
328 BURRIS RD.,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37924

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF NORA L. GRIFFITH DOCKET NUMBER 78995-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 26TH day of MAY 2017, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of NORA L. GRIFFITH who died Mar 31, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor

received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death

This the 26TH day of MAY, 2017.

ESTATE OF NORA L. GRIFFITH PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ALAN C. GRIFFITH; EXECUTOR
7225 ALYSHA VINEYARD WAY,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

BILL W. PETTY ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
705 GATE LANE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BARBARA AILEEN HODGE DOCKET NUMBER 78976-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 30TH day of MAY 2017, letters administration in respect of the Estate of BARBARA AILEEN HODGE who died Mar 2, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 30TH day of MAY, 2017.

ESTATE OF BARBARA AILEEN HODGE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KAREN DEE WRIGHT PETERS;
ADMINISTRATRIX
681 SOUTH POINT DR.,
LEXINGTON, KY 40515

KEVIN A. DEAN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
P.O. BOX 398,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SHARON ELIZABETH TRAHAN DOCKET NUMBER 78838-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 26TH day of MAY 2017, letters administration in respect of the Estate of SHARON ELIZABETH TRAHAN who died Feb 28, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve {12} months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 26TH day of MAY, 2017.

ESTATE OF SHARON ELIZABETH TRAHAN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

JEFFREY T. PETREE, SR.; ADMINISTRATOR
1030 JOSEPI DR.,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

ROGER D. HYMAN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
P.O. BOX 26072,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HAZEL M. WOODS DOCKET NUMBER 78992-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 26TH day of MAY 2017, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HAZEL M. WOODS who died Apr 13, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death

This the 26TH day of MAY, 2017.

ESTATE OF HAZEL M. WOODS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

JAMES G. WOODS, JR.; EXECUTOR
4915 CABIN RD., KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LOFTIS PORTER BENN DOCKET NUMBER 79027-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 6TH day of JUNE 2017, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LOFTIS PORTER BENN who died Apr 22, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior

VALARIE MCALILEY; EXECUTRIX
4931 CABIN RD.,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HAROLD DWIGHT NEWTON DOCKET NUMBER 79026-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 6TH day of JUNE 2017, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HAROLD DWIGHT NEWTON who died May 3, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior

LINDA GAIL MATHES; EXECUTRIX
6518 VINTAGE DR., KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

SCOTT B. HAHN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
5344 N. BROADWAY ST.,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL SECTION 94

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

Bid 2561, Corrections Furnishings, due 7/11/17

For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917, or visit our website: www.knoxcounty.org/procurement. To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to www.govdeals.com.

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The owner and/or lien holders of the following Vehicles are hereby notified of their rights to pay all charges and reclaim said vehicles being held at Clinton Hwy Service Center, 5929 Clinton Hwy, Knoxville, TN 37912.

Failure to reclaim these vehicles will be deemed a waiver of all rights, title and consent to dispose of said vehicle at public auction on Wed, June 14, 2017 at 9.00 a.m.

2002 Nissan Xterra 2 dr Vin # 5n1md28y02c585915

NOTICE OF AUCTION

THE OWNER/ OR LIENHOLDERS OF THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF THEIR RIGHTS TO PAY ALL CHARGES AND CLAIMS BEING HELD ON THE STORAGE LOT OF OGLES WRECKER SERVICE LOCATED AT 4401 ASHEVILLE HWY. FAILURE TO CLAIM THESE VEHICLES WILL BE A WAIVER OF ALL RIGHTS AND TITLES ALONG CONSENT TO SELL SAID VEHICLES.

2000	FORD	EXPLOYER
1FYMU70EOYUA11107		
2000	ISU DR 452DM58WXY4342298	
1984	CHEVY CAVLIER 1G1AE6FP0EF258392	
1999	HONDA	ACCORD
1HGCC65642XA116189		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Night Out

Knox County At-Large Commissioners Ed Brantley and Bob Thomas are headed to the Carter community for their next Ed & Bob Night Out in Knox County. Ed and Bob will be at Pup's Pit BBQ, 8534 Asheville Highway near Four Way In, Wednesday, June 21 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to meet the people of the Carter community and listen to their concerns.

Help with addiction

Drug overdoses have become the leading cause of accidental death in the United States with heroin and other opiates being the largest contributor. If your loved one is struggling with drug abuse of any kind, now is the time to get them the help they need.

Learn more about the signs of heroin addiction. If you believe one of your loved ones is abusing drugs, learn how you can make a difference by visiting <http://www.narconon-newliferetreat.org/drug-rehab/>

Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. 1- 800-431-1754

Learn Excel

FREE MS EXCEL 2013 CLASS: June 20 and 22

- 8:30 a.m. to noon, Knoxville Area Urban League, 1514 E 5th Avenue. Learn new or upgrade existing MS Excel skills. Taught by Pelissippi State Instructors. Space is limited, registration required. For information call 865-524-5511

Knox County Democrat Women's Club Meeting

Democratic/Independent Women of Knoxville will meet at 6:00 p.m. on June 13 at Austin's Restaurant, 900 Merchants Road. This month Allie Cohn will speak about the Progressive Action Committee and Katie Peck Little from the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking will give an overview of her organization.

Knoxville and Knox County Candidate Expo

All candidates running for office in 2017 and 2018 are invited to attend the Knoxville and Knox County Candidate Expo on Thursday, June 29, from 4:30-8:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Expo Center, 5441 Clinton Highway.

The expo is free for both candidates and attendees. Candidates will be provided with a 10x10 booth, eight-foot table and two chairs and are welcome to bring additional items, including signs and giveaways. "This is such an exciting

time for our community, and we wanted to provide an opportunity for folks to get to meet the many good candidates running for office," said Tim Graham, CEO of Graham Corporation, which owns the Knoxville Expo Center. "We are happy to provide the space and welcome all candidates to sign up and join us on June 29."

According to the Knox County Election Commission, candidates who attend the event are officially declaring their intent to run for office and must have a registered treasurer.

Candidates can reserve their spot by emailing crystal@knoxvilleexpocenter.com or calling 865-686-3200.

PK Hope Is Alive Parkinson's Support Group Meeting

PK HOPE IS ALIVE Parkinson's Support Group of East Tennessee would like to invite everyone to attend the monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 20 at 11:30 a.m. Please note that this

month's meeting will be at First Christian Church, 100 Gum Hollow Rd. Oak Ridge.

The speaker for this month will be Axi Walker, the Southeast Advancement Officer for The Michael J. Fox Foundation. Axi will talk about research and disease modifying targets, symptomatic treatments in the works, and field-wide challenges that are being addressed. Come join us and learn something new! For more information about meetings or speakers see our website: www.pkhopeisalive.org or contact Alan Zimmerman at 865-693-5721.

Scottish Society of Knoxville Cottage Meeting

The Scottish Society of Knoxville will hold their annual Cottage Meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 17, at the Historic Sam Houston School House - Raven Hall 3650 Old Sam Houston School Road Maryville, TN 37804

Ron Jones will present a

program on "Ancient Scotland."

The Scottish Society would like to invite those of Scottish and Scots/Irish ancestry who might have an interest in joining the Society.

SSK will provide sandwich fixings and drinks. They ask members and visitors to bring side dishes, salads, desserts, fruit, etc.

The school house, museum and grounds around the museum Are Open For Tours And Exploring As Well.

Contact 865-947-3394 if you would like more information.

South Knoxville Candidate Meet and Greet

South Knoxville Alliance of Businesses & Professionals (SKA) is sponsoring a City Council Candidate Meet-and-Greet on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the library of Dogwood Elementary School at 705 Tipton Ave. The venue is accessible for people with disabilities. Light refreshments will

be served.

The format will consist of an introductory statement from each candidate and a breakout time afterwards for candidates to meet and speak with attendees.

Candidates for the 1st District seat include Greg Knox, Rebecca Parr, Stephanie Welch and Andrew Wilson.

The Primary Election is scheduled for August 29, with early voting running from August 9 - August 24.

Election of Knoxville's city council is a two-step process where each district votes for candidates in their own district in the primary. The top two candidates from each district become the district nominees and are voted on in the general election to be held on November 7.

SKA's mission is to promote the well-being and success of the South Knoxville business and professional community thereby enhancing the quality of life of South Knoxville communities.

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