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School system is serious about safety



PHOTO BY PETE GAWDA.

Knox County Superintendent of Schools Bob Thomas spoke at a school safety press conference held Thursday morning at South-Doyle Middle School.

By Pete Gawda

Knox County Schools mean business when it comes to the safety of students. That fact was apparent at a school safety press conference held Thursday morning at South-Doyle Middle School in preparation for the start of school on August 7.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Thomas, Knoxville Police Chief Davis Rausch, Chief of Administration Lee Tramel of the Knox County Sheriff's

Office and Gus Paidouis, chief of security for Knox County Schools all stressed student safety in their remarks.

"Safety is first and foremost" Thomas said, noting that the school system's about 350 buses travel 3 million miles a year serving 90 schools. He stated that school buses will have enhanced radio and GPS systems. He added that the buses also have video cameras for security and some carry teacher assistants.

The superintendent urged drivers to be slow and patient in school zones, especially around buses. He said motorists should stop well behind stopped school buses.

Chief Tramel also urged drivers to slow down, take their time and be patient.

Chief Rausch urged motorists to watch for student walking and waiting for buses. He said his officers would focus on speeding and reckless driving noting

Cont. on page 4

PARC disagrees with Police Internal Review

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

"As far as the Committee, we have seven board members, five did not concur and two concur with the findings," said the executive director of the Police Advisory and Review Committee Thursday.

The finding by PARC is unusual in that the group doesn't support the report of Knoxville City Police's Internal Review involving an off-duty city officer who held a woman at gunpoint for five minutes in a Jefferson County encounter. Director Clarence Vaughn III read the vote aloud during the meeting.

Police Chief David Rausch told The Focus that ruling means the civilian review group will continue to investigate the incident and report back to the police department. The quarterly meeting of PARC took place in the small assembly room of the City-County Building with a large crowd attending that included the African American woman Tonya Jameson and her family. Jameson recalled the encounter before PARC, dressed much as she was during the encounter.

Chief Rausch defended the actions of Officer Matthew Janish, who is white, saying that the off-duty policeman held the lady until local police arrived and acted under the powers of any citizen. Officer Janish was not present at the meeting. The police chief said that he has apologized to Jameson as did the officer. The internal review report was made in June.

PARC has been accused of siding with the police department on prior incidents so Thursday's action broke precedent.

Jameson charges the incident resulted from racial profiling, which Chief Rausch said he

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Alvin Frye gave 93 years to family, community



The late Alvin Frye with a Central High School cap. The owner and operator of Fountain City Exxon was a community leader and well-known icon of Fountain City. (Photo courtesy of Michael Grider)

"I had the privilege of attending events in recent years in which Mr. Frye was honored and I don't believe you could have found a more honest, hardworking man or better Christian any place. He was always kind to me and a long-time friend of my father. He was a great man, and this Country would be a much better place if we had more people like Alvin Frye."

— John Duncan Jr.
U.S. Representative

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The city lost an icon, a leader and beloved senior citizen July 22 when Fountain City's Alvin Glenn Frye passed away at 93.

Alvin Frye was a Navy veteran of both WWI and the Korean War. He was an active member of the Fountain City Lions Club, Knoxville Rotary Club and owner and operator of Fountain City Exxon for more than 25 years but had other service stations in the area and served the community for more than 60 years. Frye was a member of the First Baptist Church of Fountain City, a member of Kerbel Temple and was a 32nd degree Mason.

Many people considered Alvin Frye the "Community Caretaker" and his hospitality at the service station and in the community was notable.

"Alvin cared about his community and his country, and always looked out for the least amongst us," said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. "During World War II, he served in some of the same areas my dad did and they saw some pretty fierce combat. He was a great example of the Greatest Generation, and he'll be missed. I'm asking folks to pray for his family and loved ones."

"If you like our air, you should try our gas' is what was printed next to the free air supply at Alvin's Exxon. Indeed, I filled up at Alvin's every time I could. It didn't take long to meet him when our family moved to Fountain City in 2005. He was always kind and sincere when we would chat by the pump. I witnessed his kindness when he allowed IOUs from people who couldn't afford the stations services up front. Godspeed to the great man of service we all knew and loved," said City Councilman Mark Campen, who represents Fountain City.

"Fountain City lost a true friend

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Pay raise for Knoxville City Council to be discussed

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday one of the items they may discuss is a pay raise for future council members. Currently each council member receives \$19,000 per year. The proposed increase would bring that salary to \$24,000.

The Focus asked current members of city council to comment on amending the ordinance to raise salaries.

"It raises the salary from \$1,583.33 per month to \$2,000 per month. It has

been 20 years since there has been an increase and it won't go into effect until all current members are gone in 2019," Councilman Mark Campen told The Focus.

Council member Brenda Palmer's remarks echoed Campen's: "The pay raises would not go into effect until December 2019 after all current council members are off council. No current or continuing city council member will benefit."

"Lots of reasons, it hasn't been increased in 20 years and no current member will benefit. It costs a lot of money to hold office: time

away from work; wear and tear on car; fuel cost; could exclude folks by not being financially able to run; in line with like cities excluding Nashville but they have 40 or more council members," replied Councilman Nick Pavlis in an email.

Councilman-At-Large Marshall Stair sent the following statement:

"I respectfully oppose the ordinance to increase the salary of City Council Members and urge my colleagues to vote against it.

"First, the wording of the ordinance is problematic. The current pay is not

intended to be 'adequate compensation.' It is more in the nature of an honorarium. I have never felt the Council is just another job you do for the pay. I did not run for Council for the salary and I do not believe any of my colleagues ran for Council for the salary. We ran out of civic interest and the belief that our background, ideas, and skills could add something to the City's leadership.

"This ordinance makes it appear that we and other Council members are serving for the salary, not to serve the public. This is

not reflective of reality and not the message I want to send the community about a body I am honored to serve on.

"Lastly, the ordinance says the current salary is not adequate 'economic incentive' for 'qualified individuals' to serve on Council. I disagree. I believe currently we have a diverse group of people serving on Council all of whom I consider very qualified. In addition, there are currently 30 candidates for 5 seats. I have not met with all the candidates, but the ones I have met with I would certainly

consider qualified.

"Economic incentive' is not required to attract qualified candidates, because the best candidates for City Council run out of civic interest, not for the money."

The proposal currently is on the agenda for a first reading but the line for the name of the sponsor or person requesting the discussion has been left blank.

Each council member also qualifies for benefits as city employees other than salary.

Christine Fitzgerald, city
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When your child's other parent stops child support

If you have a child and are either divorced, or were never married and do not reside with the other parent, there is a decent chance there is a child support order in place stating what one



By Jedidiah McKeehan
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parent is to pay another parent in child support on a monthly basis.

You can actually google, "Tennessee Child Support Worksheet," and it will pull up a form you can fill out and play around with the numbers to see what would be owed in child support under different circumstances.

But what happens if there is a child support order in place and the other person stops paying child support? Well, there are a few different options.

The first option, and easiest option, is to contact the other person and inquire what the problem is and where the payment is. Unfortunately, when someone owes someone else child support, it is usually not an amicable relationship and these conversations typically go badly or very badly.

The next option is to file some sort of motion for contempt. This is where you file a motion with the court that set the child support order and ask them to bring the person who is supposed to be paying in to court and provide answers why they are not paying. If the person continues not to pay, they could eventually face jail time.

Another way that a person who owes child support can

end up in court is through state action. If the person receiving child support is receiving state aid, such as Family's First, or day-care assistance, the state is entitled to be reimbursed those

funds by the parent who does not have custody. If the person who does not have custody does not pay, the state will issue a warrant for their arrest and that person will be arrested and held until they pay a bond to get out of jail. Any bond that is paid will be used to reimburse the state and/or paid toward the parent receiving child support.

As you can imagine, for lower income individuals, it can be very easy to quickly get behind on child support payments because it can often be hard to keep consistent employment. In order to consistently get money, the state will suspend individual's driver's licenses if they do not pay. They will also seize tax return funds and use those funds to pay down child support amounts owed. They will also set up individuals on wage assignments and have a portion of individuals wages automatically deducted and paid toward a child support obligation.

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

Two teachers behind Frankie Housley honors

By Mike Steely
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The efforts of two teachers and their students led to recognizing a Knoxville hero recently with the dedication of the Mary Francis (Frankie) Housley Bridge just below Gresham Middle School in Fountain City. The Holbrook Drive bridge was named in honor of the Central High School graduate who became an airline stewardess and saved 10 passengers after her airplane skidded off a runway in Philadelphia and caught fire.

The heroine is buried in the Lynnhurst Cemetery in Fountain City and, for many years, her story was all but forgotten until the two teachers, years apart, brought public attention to her act of bravery and sacrifice.

Central High School teacher Chris Hammond, an avid local historian who has been involved in other local history projects, sought the renaming of the bridge and organized the research and recognition.

Hammond had discovered Housley's story by chance from an article in the Heritage Room of the high school.

"I wanted to find out more about this woman," he said. He added that he has a comic book featuring national heroes that featured Frankie Housley's story on the cover and an article

entitled "Supreme Sacrifice."

Years before, Gordon Sisk III, then a history teacher at Central High School, discovered the story of Frankie Housley and got his students involved in researching the history of the former Central student.

"I saw the picture in the library, or drawing, and found an article from Reader's Digest and thought, 'This is unbelievable.' So I ran off copies and my students read the article and we started talking about things we could do," Sisk told The Focus.

"We did some research and tried finding some of the survivors. We found a phone number and called one of them and the class had a conversation with them," he said.

"I've done nothing compared to this gentleman," Sisk said referring to Hammond, adding, "He's on a mission and he's working on maybe getting the statue made."

Hammond hopes to have Frankie Housley inducted to the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame. He's also hoping to have a statue placed at Fountain City Park of the hero.

"It will take a lot of fundraising but there are so many CHS graduates who could contribute," Hammond said.

"You hear far too few good news stories today," Sisk said.

When the bridge was officially



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Two Knox County teachers were responsible for the honors to Frankie Housley and the dedication of the bridge just below Gresham Middle School to the Fountain City native who saved airplane passengers following a crash in Philadelphia. Chris Hammond (left) and Gordon Sisk III worked years apart on researching Ms. Housley's heroism.

dedicated recently, John Housley III came to the ceremony from his home in Florida and accepted the proclamation from Mayor Madeline Rogero delivered by Councilman Nick Della Volpe. Housley, a nephew of Ms. Housley, said his family had always thought highly of "Frankie" and collected news articles and other items about the heroine.

PARC disagrees with Police Internal Review

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doubted and he detailed the various levels of training that the city force undergoes. He said Janish is a veteran officer with a clean record who in served East Knoxville. PARC attorney Ron Mills said that the drawn gun is not a use of force.

Robbie Arrington conducted the meeting and quizzed Rausch on several parts of the incident report.

"We're just citizens," Arrington told the crowd and asked why the incident wasn't de-escalated in 30

seconds after the woman explained what she was doing and had proof.

Rausch was also quizzed by PARC members Rosa Mar, Ann Barker, LaKenya Middlebrook, Frank Shanklin and Jered Croom.

"I understand it from her side and from his side," Rausch said. The chief also noted that it has been three years since a city policeman was involved in shooting a weapon during an incident.

The incident took place when Officer Janish was off duty and near his mother-in-

law's house. He saw someone changing license tags on his relative's vehicle and approached the person with a drawn gun, calling 911 to report the incident.

Janish said he approached from her back, identified himself as a police officer and told her he had a gun. Jameson said she turned and told him she had purchased the car and had the paper to prove it. She said the officer was told on the telephone that the tag she was preparing to mount matched the car and said she had papers

in her bag to prove ownership.

Jameson charged "racial profiling" and asked that disciplinary action be taken. Jameson and four of the PARC members urged the department to intensify its training of officers for such encounters.

"I'm sorry this happened," Chief Rausch told the meeting, "but I believe it had nothing to do with race."

The PARC members also voted to select Mar as new chairperson and Barker as vice chair.

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Beer Applications heavier in 'Festival Season'

By Mike Steely
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What at first appeared to be an increase in the number of churches and organizations applying for beer permits recently really wasn't an increase at all, just the normal cycle of upcoming seasonal events.

"We're in Festival Season," explained Beer Chair Brenda Palmer.

The City Councilwoman told The Focus various organizations are applying now for their fall events and the surge in applications will occur again in February.

"On the Saturday this fall when there is no home UT game the weekend is loaded with festivals," she said.

Applicants received and approved, including those approved when the owner completes the formalities like an inspection, server training, etc. include Second Harvest Food Bank, Chilhowee Park, the Tennessee Valley A&I Fair, St. George's Greek Orthodox Church's Greek Festival, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Asian Cultural Center, the Ola Festival, First Lutheran's German Festival, Immaculate Conception Church, Psalm's 102, and Tailgating for a Cause.

Applicants from businesses included the 19 Market Square Bar and Asian Kitchen, Cancun Mexican Restaurant on Chapman Highway, Cool Cat Billiards and Café,

Good Golly Tamale, Hola Hora Latina, La Coronita, Liter Board, Ovations Food Service, Fountain City Exxon, Shivaay, Jagged Edge, Central Depot, Tennessee Tap House, and Geezer's Brewing Company.

Some of the applicants were approved and others given 30 to 90 days to complete their businesses or meet requirements.

Palmer told The Focus that TASK Class is held each Thursday at Knoxville Police Headquarters. TASK is a class for servers to provide information on checking ID's, etc. Application fee is \$50 and the class starts at 10 a.m. at 800 Howard Baker Jr. Avenue.

Knoxville Writers' Guild to host second annual Adult Spelling Bee September 7

The Knoxville Writers' Guild will host its second annual Adult Spelling Bee on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church, 201 East Third Avenue, Knoxville.

This year, the Bee is open to any contestant age 15 or older. "This is a great opportunity for youth to compete against teachers, parents, and community adults. Many of the words will be drawn from vocabulary used in great literature," said Michael Smith, coordinator of the 2017 Bee. Last year's winner, Scott Firebaugh, a teacher at Grace Christian School, prevailed by correctly spelling "jibboom."

Pilot Flying J Corporation and Testprep Experts are major sponsors of the Bee, with grant support from the East Tennessee Foundation Literacy Endowment Fund.

There will be cash prizes for first, second, and third place winners, with a special prize for the highest placing youth speller. Contestants and spectators are eligible for a variety of door

prizes. Spelling words are drawn from many sources, including the Merriam-Webster website: <http://myspellit.com/>.

Competitors will be limited to the first 40 registrations. The entry fee is \$10. Participants do not need to be KWG members. Visit the KWG website to register and see the Spelling Bee rules at: www.knoxvillewritersguild.org/events/kwg-2017-spelling-bee.

The event is open to the public, with a suggested admission of \$2. Central United Methodist Church is handicap accessible and parking is free.

The mission of the nonprofit Knoxville Writers' Guild, now 25 years old, is to facilitate a broad and inclusive community for area writers, provide a forum for information, support and sharing among writers, help members improve and market their writing skills and promote writing and creativity.

For more information on the Bee contact Michael Smith of Testprep Experts at michaelks@aol.com.

Alvin Frye gave 93 years to family, community

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When it lost Alvin Frye recently. He went about doing good deeds quietly and many of them were known only to those who were helped. He was exemplary of our nation's best, not only through his military career, but also in his general good citizenship and his action as a role model for the community. Al will be greatly missed," J. C. (Jim) Tumblin, Fountain City Historian, told the Focus.

Frye was the caretaker of the Fountain City Lions Club building, across North Broadway from his service station, and was honored as "Fountain City Man of the Year" by the Fountain City Hall neighborhood organization. He was also known for his sign in front of the station that read "No Lottery, No Beer" and the full-service he and his employees gave to customers.

Frye's Fountain City Exxon closed in December with a celebration at the station, featuring a second Cash Mob event sponsored by Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, and several hundred well-wishers attended. His wife was present as Frye was in medical care. Frye's surprise 90th birthday three years ago drew hundreds of friends and customers to the Lions Club in Fountain City. He is survived by his



Alvin Frye is pictured preparing to pump gas into the "Mayberry Sheriff's Car" during one of the Cash Mob events at Fountain City Exxon. (Photo courtesy of Mark Cawood)

wife and best friend of 69 years, Mildred Brown Frye; his children, Tommy Frye Sr., Lisa Frye Hinchey and Fred Caughron. Grandchildren are Tommy Frye Jr., Ben Frye, Sara Stevens

and husband Jimmy, and Andrew Hinchey and wife Shannon and several great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Wednesday from 5:30 until 8 p.m. at Mynatt

Funeral Home, Fountain City Chapel with services following at 8 p.m. Internment was on Thursday at Sherwood Memorial Gardens in Alcoa.



TOP: Where the well-known "No Beer, No Lottery" sign once stood at the Fountain City Exxon a "Sold" sign now stands. The building is being remodeled to become a convenience store and service station. ABOVE: One famous business salutes another. Litton's Restaurant is located beside Fountain City Exxon and Litton's honored the late Alvin Frye last week on its sign.

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School system is serious about safety

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that in the first two weeks of the last school year his officers issued over 800 citations in school zones.

Paidousis stated that the partnership between his school system and local law enforcement is a model for other school systems to follow. "We stand ready to maintain a safe learning environment," he pledged, noting that there are uniformed security officers at

every school. "We are fully prepared to protect our kids," the security chief vowed.

To emphasize safety, the speakers were surrounded by parked motorcycles from the Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Knoxville Police Department as well as uniformed officers from the police department and the school system's security division.

Safety tips

The following are suggested tips from the Knox County Sheriff's Office Traffic Division on back to school safety

1. Be mindful about reduced speed zone times.
2. Avoid those areas during that time to reduce traffic congestion.
3. Be mindful about bus stops in your residential areas.
4. Tell your children to report any suspicious person loitering around bus stops.
5. Tell your children to report cell phone usage or driving issues by the bus driver occurring during their trips to and from school.
6. Remind drivers to remember to not pass stopped school buses. This includes multi-lane roadways (Kingston Pike, Chapman Highway, Clinton Highway, Ebenezer Road, etc.) where there is not a physical median between the bus stop and the traffic traveling in the opposite direction.
7. Be mindful about the increased traffic flow on the side streets that drivers will use to avoid traffic.
8. Remind your young drivers as well as yourself about the dangers of distracted driving (radio, texting, eating, etc.)

These tips are just a few to hopefully reduce the number of traffic crashes we see as the school year gets back in session.

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2017-2018 Knox County Schools Calendar

AUGUST

August 1 (Tuesday) In-service Day (PreK-12 System-wide)
 August 2 (Wednesday) Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day)
 August 3 (Thursday) Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day)
 August 4 (Friday) In-service Day (1/2 day-School-based); Administrative Day (1/2 day-Teacher Work Day)
 August 7 (Monday) First Day for Students (1/2 day for students) School Times
 August 21 (Monday) Solar Eclipse (Inclement Weather Day)

SEPTEMBER

September 4 (Monday) LABOR DAY - Holiday - Schools, Central Office Closed

OCTOBER

October 6 (Friday) End First 9-weeks Grading Period
 October 9-13 (Monday-Friday) FALL BREAK

NOVEMBER

November 7 (Tuesday) In-service Day (PreK-12 System-Wide) (Student Holiday)
 November 22-24 (Wednesday-Friday) Thanksgiving Holidays

DECEMBER

December 20 (Wednesday) End Second 9-weeks

Grading Period

1/2 day for students
 December 21 - January 5 (12 days)

W I N T E R

HOLIDAYS

2018

JANUARY

January 8 (Monday) In-service Day (1/2 day-School-based); Administrative Day (1/2 day-Teacher Work Day) (Student Holiday)
 January 9 (Tuesday) First Day for Students after Winter Holidays

January 15 (Monday) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Holiday - Schools, Central Office Closed

FEBRUARY

February 19 (Monday) In-service Day (Building) (Student Holiday)

MARCH

March 9 (Friday) End First 9-weeks Grading Period (Third 9-weeks Grading Period)

March 12-16 (Monday-Friday) SPRING BREAK

March 30 (Friday) Holiday

APRIL

April 2 (Monday) In-service Day (PreK-12 System-wide) (Student Holiday)

MAY

May 24 (Thursday) Last Day for Students (1/2 day for students)

Pay raise for Knoxville City Council to be discussed

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benefits manager, said that council members are eligible to participate in the City's Medical, Dental, Vision, EAP, Wellness Program, Deferred Comp, Flexible Spending Accounts, and voluntary product offerings such as Accident, Critical Illness, Lifetime Term, Short Term Disability.

"As of January 1, 2013, Council members are no longer eligible for City Pension," she informed The Focus. Until 2013 council members could draw

a partial pension if they served at least five years but now the length of service is ten years. The city council members may only serve eight years in office.

Each council member also receives \$10,000 annually in discretionary funds and a travel allowance. Other Agenda Items

The council may also consider allotting \$25,000 to East Tennessee Quality Growth to carry on the work of PlanET. Just over \$1.7 million for the Community Development Corporation may be discussed for Phase 3 site preparation

and demolition at the Walter P. Taylor Homes as part of the Five Points Revitalization Plan.

The City Engineering Department is asking for \$320,000 to replace and modernize the city's school zone flashing beacon system.

Allotting \$7,500 to East Tennessee PBS is on the agenda with the funding to be used toward events surrounding the "Vietnam War: The East Tennessee Story" as well as giving \$400 to WDVX Radio toward their 20th year on-the-air event.

Short-term rentals is

back on the agenda to "reconsider the postponement to October 24" of the ordinance to "allow sufficient time to allow the proposed ordinance to be considered by the MPC and by City Council before the end of the year."

Two public meetings on the city's proposed short-term rental policy have been set for August 3rd at 5:30 p.m. in the City County Building and August 10th at 5:30 p.m. in the Public Works Complex at 3131 Morris Avenue.



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CANTRELL'S HEAT & AIR

Dawn Bowie focuses on family law

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Dawn Bowie is getting settled in her new office at 2606 Greenway Drive and also completing her move to her new home in Fountain City. The attorney, who focuses on family law, has 15 years of experience and knows well how to work with clients, especially in divorce cases.

When asked about her deciding where to live Bowie said, "I feel like I've died and gone to heaven, I love Knoxville. It has the conveniences of a big city, but

feels like a small town with so much to do."

"I started college in broadcast journalism at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, and that gave me skills in debate, argument and critical thinking," she said.

"I focus on divorces, custody, and guardianship," Bowie explains. I'm not a volume practice. I focus on quality."

"I work with my clients to isolate the issues that are the most important," she said, "We nail down what can be settled and do that. That way everyone walks

away with a full and final settlement of the easy issues, leaving the really important ones for trial."

"Settlement early on allows both parties to walk away with their pride," she said, adding that about 98% of her cases turn out that way. For those that are tried, she often settles cases on the courthouse steps, often on the day of trial. Of the small percentage of cases that she tries, over the past seven years, she has won approximately 85% of them. However, she hastens to add, the percentage of cases that

end in trial is very small.

Bowie said that custody cases are among the most complicated. "Too many parents view the child as an extension of themselves or their property," she said.

"Sometimes one or more of the parents are so caught up in themselves that they can't see what they are doing to the children."

"It isn't cheap," Bowie said about hiring a good divorce attorney.

"I charge what I'm worth," she said, adding that she would like to know more about crowdfunding to help

her clients raise money for their cases. Bowie asks clients to consider their resources early. She charges an engagement and a retainer fee.

"Ninety-five percent of divorces are settled in about six months, but sometimes people have unrealistic expectations or an attorney who won't guide them," she continued, saying that the most successful clients are those who will cooperate with their attorney and be guided by advice.

You can reach Bowie at (866) 425-4224 or email



Attorney Dawn Bowie recently relocated from Seymour to Fountain City and focuses on family law.

dawn@northknoxvillelaw.com. She's online at www.justbowie.com.

Cumberland Gap Area Tourism promoted

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Cumberland Gap, located where Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky join, is well known across the nation as the doorway to the settlement of the west, as Daniel Boone's Wilderness Road, and as a gateway to the Civil War which changed hands four times during that conflict.

The small Tennessee town, nestled at the foot of the gap, exists much as it did following the Civil War. The states and counties around the little town have banded together to promote their attractions as the Cumberland Gap Regional Tourism Association. Ten counties with attractions like the Pine Mountain State Park, Martin's Fort, the Lincoln Library and Museum, and Cumberland Gap National Historic Park are putting an effort into getting their word out to visitors.

"I think we've done a great job of promoting our members and our sponsors. Our goals are to increase tourism but at the same time promote small business so that tourists will know where to spend their money when they are in the region," President Carl Nichols told The Focus.

The Association meets quarterly on the third Tuesday of each month. Nichols, a New Tazewell resident, is joined by representatives of Bell, Harlan, Knox and Whitley Counties,



The Old Mill at Cumberland Gap is one of the historic attractions in the small town of Cumberland Gap. A tourist association, formed last year, is promoting ten counties around the town to draw visitors to the area.

Kentucky; Lee County, Virginia; Campbell, Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock and Union Counties, Tennessee; area state parks; and Kentucky at large, Tennessee at large and the region.

Each month there is a Cumberland Mountain Music Show at the Cumberland Gap Convention Center and the next one is Saturday, August 5 at 7:30 p.m.

"We are currently working on several projects" Nichols said. "One is with Kentucky and Tennessee about getting more signage on I-71 at Exit 29 in Corbin and then all along Highway 25E and Highway 33. Many of the other roads do not have signs on them that direct people to our tourism attractions."

"We are also working with the Union County Chamber of Commerce and this may turn into a wonderful marriage between two

organizations," he said.

Nichols said the association is non-profit and is working for a "501 C 6" status. The funding comes from membership and sponsorship fees.

He said the group is working with the Boone Society in Pineville, Kentucky, to get a Daniel Boone memorial with a 13-foot bronze statue near the Middlesboro Mall and to extend a greenway from that park to the national park. The greenway would join with a Virginia greenway and connect the Wilderness Road State Park and Martin's Station.

Nichols said the association's accomplishments during its first year include a website and digital media presentation.

"We have restaurant placemats ready to be printed and hope we can get into restaurants in each county.

On one side is a big map of the region and on the other are hundreds of things within the Cumberland Gap area," he said.

Publicity for the area includes ads in regional magazines and weekly newsletters to each member by email.

"We're adding to our database and we're up to 400 contacts so far. This is a great way of promoting events in the region such as festivals, fairs, music venues, car shows, fishing tournaments, church homecomings, bike runs and hundreds of other events," he said.

You can learn more about the Cumberland Gap Regional Tourism Association from www.cumberlandgapregion.com or contact via email address CGRTA@yahoo.com and Nichol's phone number (423)912-5202.

Emerald Youth Foundation's Lonsdale Center moves ahead

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

A portion of property at the Sam E. Hill School in Lonsdale was approved as a gift to the city by the Knox County Commission last week as the possibility of a large community center there by Emerald Youth Foundation took another step forward.

Part of the yard at the school will go to the city on the condition that if the project does not come about the property will revert to the county. The resolution calls for the site, 1725 Delaware Avenue, to be "for the development of the property into a multi-purpose recreation, art and education facility for the children of Lonsdale and the Greater Knoxville Community."

The motion passed unanimously after four citizens spoke about the issue, one in opposition.

Patricia Williams, a former Mechanicsville resident, said that there are no plans or agreement in place as to how the proposed facility would be operated and said, "It doesn't seem reasonable to vote to approve it."

Commissioner Anders responded, "If it doesn't work we'll get the land

back" and noted that several community meetings have been held on the project.

Rev. Joseph B. Smith, pastor of the New Friendship Baptist Church in Lonsdale, spoke in support of the project.

"We need this facility—please don't pass us by," he said, adding that the opposition to the Emerald Foundation proposal does not live in the neighborhood.

The addition of the Sam E. Hill property will bring the city-owned lot there to 10 acres. The facility as proposed would have a 30,000-square-foot indoor complex with two gyms, a fitness center, a learning center and two outdoor sports fields. Emerald Youth Foundation has pledged \$8 million for the project and the city's donation is about \$2 million.

After several months of discussion the commission passed, on first reading, the ordinance change allowing paintball ranges to locate in Agriculture Zones. The amendment to the county property codes would permit indoor and outdoor ranges and add "airsoft" into the category.

Continue on page 2

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Early Education Provides Mold for Outstanding Life

More Reflections of Memphis

Many events that occurred when my generation was growing up have now become part of history. I remember both the Kennedy and King assassinations during the sixties. As



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

Corryton native Perry McGinnis continued his journey in the field of dentistry, the McGinnis family of four found themselves in Memphis, Tennessee, during a critical time in our nation's history. I think back to those somber days as Perry recalls them and their impact on America.

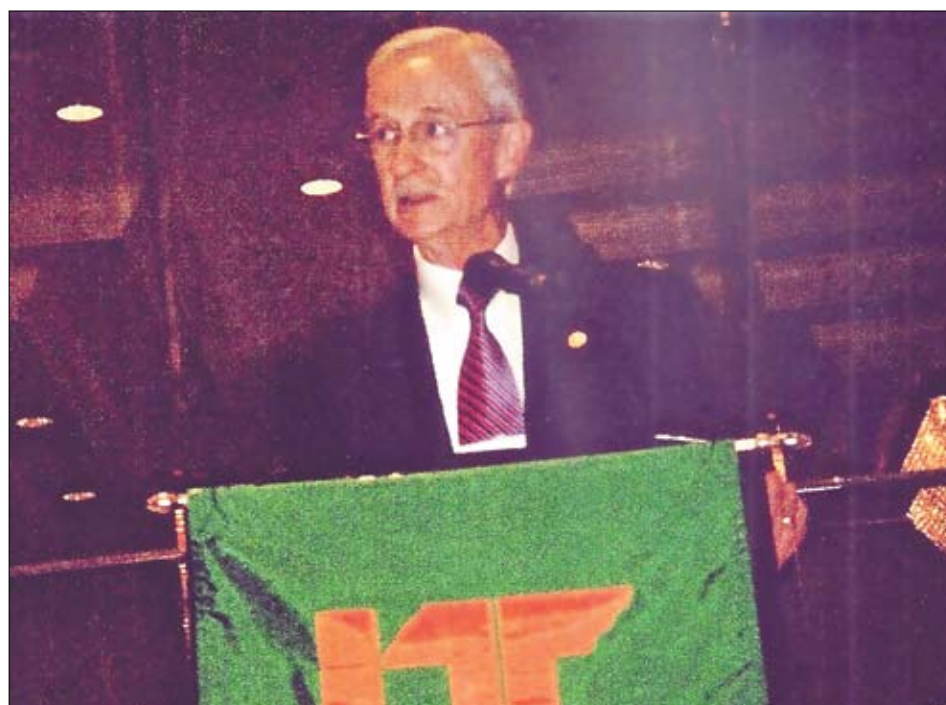
"When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed, we lived in South Memphis in the Whitehaven area," Perry remembers. "You have to recall history from that time to remember that racial tensions were beginning to run high in many parts of the country. This was especially

and Otis and I were driving into mid-town Memphis to pick up a to-go order of barbecue from Leonard's, a restaurant famous for its Memphis pit barbecue. On our way up South Bellevue Boulevard (we had to drive several miles along that major thoroughfare that is today called Elvis Presley Boulevard), the breaking news came on the radio of Dr. King's violent death a few minutes earlier in downtown Memphis, only a few miles from where we were traveling. That created deep concern in us because of the area through which we had to drive to reach the

restaurant."

"While I watched the news unfold on television, far from Memphis, the McGinnis family lived in the very city where the violence took place." Perry continues his reflection of that period of time.

"We made the decision to continue, while nervously and cautiously observing our surroundings along the way. There was a welcomed feeling of relief when we successfully completed our journey without incident. At home, Carol's mother was also very concerned for the family's safety and wanted Barron and Roland, who were outside playing, to get in the house before something really bad happened. Even though some civil unrest had begun in Memphis prior to Dr. King's death, his murder sparked further widespread rioting and destruction not only in Memphis, but across the U.S. In our minds, this was the single event that



Picture of Dr. Perry McGinnis, from the archives of Perry and Carol McGinnis.

ultimately and permanently changed a city that we once loved so dearly to one that would from that day forward be a different place."

Perry's memories of Memphis provide a close-up reminder of April 4, 1968, a sad day in our nation's

history. Years later, at the University of Tennessee (UT) College of Dentistry Alumni Association's 2006 annual meeting and the awarding of the Association's Alumnus of the Year Award, Dr. Perry McGinnis, the very appreciative recipient,

makes acceptance comments at that Alumni Association's awards luncheon held as part of the Mid-South Dental Congress at the Memphis Hilton, Memphis, Tennessee, in March 2006.

Local agencies celebrate World Breastfeeding Week

Goal to increase breastfeeding rates

The Knox County Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program; Knox County Health Department (KCHD); and East Tennessee Breastfeeding Coalition will host their seventh annual World Breastfeeding Week kick-off Friday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Ave. Breastfeeding mothers, moms-to-be, families and breastfeeding advocates are encouraged to attend the free event.

"Breastfeeding is one of the best things a mother can do to protect the health of her infant, yet only 16.1 percent of Tennessee's babies are exclusively breastfed by 6 months

of age, the recommendation," said KCHD Director Dr. Martha Buchanan. "We know education alone isn't enough to increase breastfeeding rates. We must find ways, as a community, to be more supportive of moms and their efforts to breastfeed."

In addition to informational booths, activities at the Aug. 4 event include:

- The Big Latch On – An opportunity for local moms to participate in the international Big Latch On, where women from around the world meet at registered locations to breastfeed their children at the same time. Mothers can register beginning at 9:45 a.m. at Ijams. The Big Latch On takes place at 10:30 a.m.
- Marcie Singleton

Award Announcement – A tireless advocate for a mother's right to breastfeed, Marcie Singleton was the nutrition director and breastfeeding coordinator for the Knox County WIC Program. The annual award is given to a business or individual who goes above and beyond to promote and/or be supportive of breastfeeding.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2016 Breastfeeding Report Card, 24.7 percent of babies born in Tennessee were breastfed at 12 months of age; the national Healthy People 2020 goal, a common health benchmark, is 34 percent. Breastfed babies are less likely to develop numerous health conditions, including diabetes and

obesity. In fact, a baby's risk of becoming an overweight child goes down with each month of breastfeeding. In addition to the health benefits for mother and child, a study published in 2010 in the journal Pediatrics estimated that the nation would save \$13 billion per year in health care and other costs if 90 percent of U.S. babies were exclusively breastfed for six months. A mother's breastfeeding success rate can be greatly improved through active support from her family, friends, community, clinicians, employer and community leaders.

More information about the Aug. 4 event is available by contacting Knox County WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator Robin Penegar at 865-215-5060.

Emerald Youth Foundation's Lonsdale Center moves ahead

Continued from page 1

Such facilities will need to request a "use on review" at the planning commission.

The commission also voted to appoint Dustin Dunham to become Judicial Magistrate of Knox County to complete the term of retiring Judge Herald Stewart and to serve until January 31, 2021.

A "loophole" in the county's zoning regulations that permits residential use in an OB (Office) zone was mentioned by Commissioner John Schoonmaker. He said the zoning descriptions should be changed to prohibit residential.

Commissioner Charles Busler responded this is for "mixed use" and Commissioner Brad Anders said the OB designation is the only zone that permits residential outside residential zones. No action was taken.

Chairman Dave Wright questioned membership in the National Association of Counties, pointing to \$9,000 a year being paid in membership. Commissioners Anders and Bob Thomas supported membership but maybe on a more limited basis.

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When Two Congressmen Collide

Part Three

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Tennessee Congressman Ewin L. Davis, a veteran of fourteen years, had lost his seat to freshman legislator J. Ridley Mitchell in the 1932 Democratic primary. Mitchell's district had been dismembered by the Tennessee General Assembly causing Mitchell to move from Crossville to Cookeville. Mitchell, remaining the underdog for most of the campaign, managed to squeeze out a narrow victory to upset Ewin L. Davis. The contrast between the two men was quite noticeable. Ewin L. Davis was slight, possessed of a head of white hair and stately. Ridley Mitchell was bald, tall and somewhat portly. Mitchell's affinity for being genial was well known and he had once complained he wished he had four hands with which to shake the hands and slap the backs of his constituents. Perhaps the decisive issue in the campaign had been Mitchell's lambasting of Davis for having carried his three daughters on his Congressional payroll while they were in college. Many Tennesseans resented the fact, especially with the country in the grip of the Great Depression and jobs scarce.

Ridley Mitchell's upset of Ewin L. Davis brought him newfound respect. Hailed as a "worthy successor to" Cordell Hull and former governor Benton McMillin, both of whom had represented Tennessee's Fourth Congressional district, Mitchell's victory was considered by the Nashville Tennessean as "the greatest political campaign ever waged for a congressional seat in the state's history." The Tennessean reported Ewin L. Davis had been "groomed by the McConnico machine in Nashville for governor two years hence" and had enjoyed significant financial support from the American National Bank "throughout the district." The Tennessean believed Mitchell was such an underdog in the congressional campaign that he had won in spite of being challenged by "the greatest odds faced by any congressman in a quarter of a century."

The Tennessean thought Ridley Mitchell's victory was all the more important as the congressman had "no district or county headquarters, no district or county managers, and no district or county organization." Perhaps even more astonishing was the fact, at least according to the Tennessean, Mitchell "sent out no letters soliciting votes" in his bid for Congress. The Tennessean marveled Ridley Mitchell "did no newspaper advertising, except in making his formal announcement" for Congress. Despite the Tennessean's claim, a third entrant in the Fourth Congressional district race for Congress, former state

senator James P. Owen, had withdrawn shortly before the primary election, complaining bitterly that it was difficult to mount a campaign against two incumbent congressmen who flooded the district with campaign literature and tens of thousands of letters.

The Tennessean thought Ridley Mitchell's strategy of largely campaigning personally inside those counties that had long been represented by his opponent had been nothing less than sheer genius. Even if Ridley Mitchell had not carried those counties inside the primary, the gregarious congressman had managed to whittle down what should have been heavy majorities for Ewin L. Davis. Winning decisively inside those counties he had represented since 1931, Ridley Mitchell had won precisely because of his intensive personal campaigning inside the portion of the district represented by Ewin L. Davis.

Certainly Ridley Mitchell thoroughly savored his victory and the Tennessean reported the congressman had been greeted by "the greatest political demonstration ever staged in the Fourth" when he returned to Cookeville on the Friday following the election. The Tennessean concluded Ridley Mitchell had not only succeeded in defeating Ewin L. Davis, but his victory was "certain to entrench him in the Fourth District seat for years to come."

Although Ewin L. Davis first refused to concede the election, it was soon readily apparent he had lost the Democratic nomination narrowly. Judge Davis gamely campaigned for the Democratic ticket in the general election. As his time in Congress grew shorter, Ewin L. Davis was back home in Tullahoma and made a brief speech on Armistice Day at the site of the American flag in Davidson Park. Davis' term in the House of Representatives would not expire until March 3, 1933 and the congressman worried about his wife, who underwent a serious operation on her eyes. A "lame duck" congressman, Ewin L. Davis, like virtually every other Democrat in the United States, had been delighted by the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as president. Davis was fortunate enough to be better connected than most of his peers who had lost elections in 1932. Davis' brother Paul was the chairman of the American National Bank chain in Tennessee and another brother Norman, was a respected diplomat in the Hoover administration despite being a Democrat. Like his brother Paul, Norman Davis had been a highly successful businessman before becoming a diplomat. From



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Tennessee Congressman J. Ridley Mitchell (far right holding cigar) and a beautiful young lady make a presentation to President Franklin Roosevelt. Presidential secretary Marvin McIntyre is on the left standing by the young lady.

his financial dealings in Cuba just after the turn of the century, Norman Davis had made millions of dollars. Norman Davis' financial expertise was such that he had been appointed a special advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury for foreign loans during World War I.

Norman Davis would be welcomed into FDR's own administration with open arms. Before Roosevelt took the oath of office, speculation ran rampant as to which Tennessee Democrat would receive what federal post. Some speculated Ewin L. Davis was in line to join his brother Norman in the diplomatic corps. President Roosevelt had something else in mind for the former congressman.

On May 21, 1933 the White House announced President Roosevelt had appointed Ewin L. Davis as a member of the Federal Trade Commission. Senators Kenneth McKellar and Cordell Hull, who had been appointed to serve as Secretary of State in the Roosevelt administration, had strongly urged FDR to reward Davis with an appropriate federal appointment, as had the Tennessee delegation in the House of Representatives. Just days after President Roosevelt nominated Ewin L. Davis to serve as a member of the Federal Trade Commission, Senator McKellar demanded and got unanimous consent to Davis' appointment by the United States Senate. The former congressman's unanimous confirmation by the Senate allowed him to immediately take up his new duties on the Federal Trade Commission, a post he would keep for the remainder of his life. When first appointed, Ewin L. Davis was the only member of the Federal Trade Commission to have been nominated by President Roosevelt. Roosevelt was reputedly considering violating the ordinary custom by designating Davis to serve as Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission. Ewin L. Davis' time as both a judge and chairman of a House committee served him well as a member of the Federal Trade Commission and he evidently enjoyed the work.

Congressman J. Ridley

Mitchell had no concerns about finding another job and the show horse legislator made a speech on the floor of the House promoting his bill to cut the salaries of congressmen almost in half. Mitchell did make a point that was compelling and difficult to evade when he noted virtually every other federal employee in the country had seen his or her salary go down as a result of the drive for greater economy in government. The Nashville Tennessean published an editorial lauding Ridley Mitchell, claiming the congressman had "attained a prominence which few members of the lower house" managed to achieve after decades of congressional service. The Tennessean thought Congressman Mitchell deserved his new prominence because of "the untiring fight he is making for economy in government." The Tennessean praised Ridley Mitchell's fight against congressional nepotism and the Fourth district congressman's drive to cut congressional salaries by 50%. The Tennessean concluded, "We need more men in Washington of the Mitchell type who are willing to put the needs and desires of the people above their own petty ambitions and wishes."

As FDR struggled with the Depression, Congress did cut its salary to \$8,500, a measure opposed by several Tennessee congressmen. Representatives Gordon Browning, Jere Cooper, Carroll Reece, J. Will Taylor and Clarence W. Turner all voted against the bill, as did Congressman J. Ridley Mitchell. The Tennesseans said they opposed the "economy" bill, which was strongly pushed by the Roosevelt administration, on the grounds it adversely affected veterans. Congressmen Joseph W. Byrns, E. H. Crump, and Sam D. McReynolds voted for the administration bill. Although Mitchell said he was concerned about how FDR's economy bill might affect veterans negatively, some ex-servicemen quickly reprimanded the congressman inside his own district. The American Legionnaires sponsored a petition signed by 150 residents of Murfreesboro, Tennessee demanding

Mitchell back the President. "Believing in the leadership of our President and realizing this is no time to play politics, we honestly request you to support the policies of the President, thereby representing the sentiment of your people," the petition read. Nor did Ridley Mitchell back the President when FDR wanted Congress to repeal prohibition. Mitchell was the only Middle Tennessee congressman who voted against repeal. Mitchell's victory over Ewin L. Davis was still fresh enough in the minds of many to cause the Tennessee General Assembly to rethink its original decision to move his home county of Cumberland back into the Fourth Congressional district. It was a clear indication that many legislators recognized Ridley Mitchell's personal popularity and growing political potency. Congressman Ridley Mitchell jumped to his feet on the floor of the House of Representatives to praise the bill creating the Tennessee Valley Authority. "This is a great day for the South, a great day for Tennessee," Mitchell cried, "and for the people of my Congressional district."

"We are about to get action," Mitchell said. "No longer can the power trust, or the fertilizer trust delay it. It is the expressed will of the people of America, their mandate at the polls."

Yet, like most politicians, J. Ridley Mitchell did not remain universally popular inside his Congressional district. By the spring of 1933, John J. Jewell, an ambitious state senator, was rumbling he was eager to run against Congressman Mitchell in 1934. Jewell would not find Ridley Mitchell lazing about as the congressman never missed an opportunity to ingratiate himself with the people of his district. When a tornado swept through towns in the Fourth District, Congressman Mitchell was importuning the American Red Cross for help. Mitchell announced he had received assurance help would be forthcoming as quickly as possible. Nor had Ridley Mitchell forgotten the Legionnaires in his district. Congressman Mitchell accepted the opportunity to be the keynote speaker at a special ceremony

at Arlington Cemetery to honor the country's fallen soldiers, an event sponsored by the American Legion. Ridley Mitchell, an effective orator, delivered an appropriately rolling address lauding America's fallen soldiers from the Revolutionary War to the First World War. Mitchell expertly wrung tears from many members of his audience and made certain his speech was well covered in Tennessee.

Another Mitchell speech, a spontaneous oration, caused an "uproar" in the House of Representatives. The subject was wholly parochial in nature and of little interest to anyone outside of Middle Tennessee. The bill being considered by the House was the simple matter of transferring Bedford County to the jurisdiction of the federal court in Winchester, Tennessee, which was then attached to the federal court in Nashville. Mitchell began his speech with a paean to his own Congressional district, as well as "a recital of the great men that district and the state of Tennessee has contributed" to high office. Representative John Cochran of Missouri interrupted Mitchell to mildly wonder "whether Bedford County was one of the counties where" Ridley Mitchell had "declared the farmers were getting only 5 cents a dozen for eggs." Mitchell had apparently made the claim in an earlier speech to a House committee the year before. Congressman Mitchell replied that it was, causing Cochran to snap he did not believe the farmers of Bedford County should have to travel some 60 miles to go to a court.

Ridley Mitchell proved to be more than a match for the caustic gentleman from Missouri.

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Country Roads

Sadie and I took our morning walk before the heat enveloped the area. The circuit takes us through the subdivision, up and down Fitzgerald Road, and down a private driveway on which we have permission to walk.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

made the walk at night and traveled the road without flashlights; instead, we relied on our memories of the road and the help of each other to make our ways.

Some of our walking trips took us up the gravel Greenbriar entrance to the Smoky Mountain National Park. Most of the time, we traveled to a point where the rapids spewed over the rocks like a waterfall before calming and flowing down stream. We'd enter the water at that point, slip over the falls and then ride the river and rapids back to our swimming hole downstream. Those trips wore out the bottoms of our cut-off jeans and bruised our backsides, but the fun we had on the ride down that cold water was worth a little pain.

All these memories finished, the things that all the roads back then and this morning hold in common are creeping weeds and vines that ran up to and on the roads. The sounds of scurrying mice or the croaking of frogs were ever-present. A few times, snakes came slithering from the weeds to cross the road. I've never liked snakes and jumped or ran in the opposite direction whenever one of the things appeared.

It's nice to still be able to walk along roads that are similar to those that I traveled as a boy. More cars pass on today's roads, and just beyond the ditch where a beautiful hay field once existed are dozens of houses that were slapped up in quick order in subdivisions that seem to be spreading like a plague. Even so, Sadie and I will continue our walks as long as our legs allow us or until cold weather runs us inside until spring.

The ditch line on Fitzgerald Road hasn't been mowed by the county for a while, and the weeds have grown so tall that they bend over so that cars brush against them as they pass. Poison ivy, honey suckle, and Virginia Creeper vines have crossed the ditch and now encroach on the asphalt. A bit of dew still appears on reedy leaves as the sun dries the countryside.

That ditch line reminded me of the walks that six or seven kids used to take on vacation. My brothers, the Burns children, and any other kids that were invited spent many hours of that vacation walking. Sometimes we headed to the main store on Highway 321. The route took us up a country road and then along the highway until we reached the store and ran across busy lanes of traffic to buy items that we'd used up or ice creams that were eaten or melted long before we completed our return trip.

At other times, we walked the opposite way. That took us over a wooden bridge where cars poked as the boards creaked and clapped with their weights. I think I correctly remember that some of us jumped from that bridge at least one time and landed into deep areas of the river below. Then we shuffled into the little country store that sat beside the bridge. We'd buy something or just look around for a few minutes.

A few walks took us to a camp ground across the river. Each year, a wagon train that set out from some far away state set up camp there for a couple of nights. We'd mingle with those folks and kids that were resting from their travels. On some occasions, we

Darrow gets his space in Dayton

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

It took 92 years but Clarence Darrow finally stands opposite his historic opponent William Jennings Bryan in front of the Rhea County Courthouse in Dayton, Tennessee. Bryan, the defender of Creationism during the Scopes Monkey Trial in 1925, got a statue in 2005 courtesy of the Bryan College Board of Trustees..

Darrow, the defender of Evolution in the trial, lost the decision by the local jury and his client, John Scopes a local teacher, received a minor fine of \$100. The trial was carried live nationally on radio and was covered daily in newspapers across America.

But Darrow and his cause may have lost the battle but won the war. Two years later the Tennessee Supreme Court reversed the decision on a technicality.

The fight was over a law the state legislature passed forbidding the teaching of evolution in public schools. Businessmen in Dayton talked the teacher into violating the law to get publicity and visitors to the small Rhea County Courthouse town.

Today the downtown section of Dayton remains much as it did then except for the

closing on July 8th of the Rogers Pharmacy. The drug store was a popular place during the trial and founder R. F. Rogers offered his house to Bryan during and after the trial. Greeted as a hero by the citizens of Rhea County, Bryan was a former U.S. Senator and three-time presidential candidate. When he learned of the test case against the Tennessee anti-evolution law he volunteered to become part of the prosecution team.

Darrow, a nationally-known attorney who often represented unpopular causes, also learned of the case and volunteered his services..

"I think this case will be remembered because it is the first case of this sort since we stopped trying people in America for witchcraft, because here we have done our best to turn back the tide that has sought to force itself upon this modern world, of testing every fact in science by a religious dictum," Darrow said during the trial.

During the trial Bryan took the witness chair as an expert on the Bible and Christianity. Darrow cross-examined him and his questions pitted science against a literal interpolation of the Scriptures. Immediately following the trial Bryan set out on a lecture tour but returned five days later ill and died in the Rogers' House in Dayton. He is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

The Darrow statue was suggested by local



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Attorney Clarence Darrow's statue stands now in front of the Rhea County Courthouse in Dayton, Tn. Darrow's argument for the teaching of evolution may have lost the jury's vote but his cross-examination of William Jennings Bryan is legendary.

resident Ruth Ann Wilson and was funded by Freedom From Religion Foundation and unveiled just a few days before the 2017 Scopes Trial Festival. The placement of the statue met some strong local opposition as an attempt by secularists to blur or remove symbols of Judeo-Christian heritage.

The Scopes Trial Festival itself, held on the lawn of the courthouse, saw little of the opposition during the Saturday staging of "Front Page News," a Christian-based musical inside the original historic courtroom.

The Rhea County Courthouse is open to the public and visitors can stand in the original

courtroom and visit a well-done museum in the basement of the historic building.

Dayton is a typical court-house county seat located on Highway 30 and Highway 60 between Kingston and Chattanooga. It's about 90 minutes by highway from Knoxville and nearby attractions include Old Washington, the Watts Bar Dam, and the Trail of Tears monument and trail near Birchwood and Blythe's Ferry.

You can get more information by Googling Rhea County or The Scopes Trial or contacting (423) 775-1817 for the City of Dayton or (423) 775-0361 for the Chamber of Commerce.

OUR VETERANS NEXT DOOR

The USS Indianapolis and the Battle of Athens

By Randall Baxter

There are two major World War II events to celebrate this week.

The USS Indianapolis delivered the final components of a secret bomb to be dropped on Japan on Aug. 6 and 9. I know the Sgt. of the Marine contingent assigned to guard that secret package.

Also, on August 1, 1946 there was an election in Athens, Tennessee.

I just do not know which is more important.

1) Late July, 1945, a ship carrying a bomb that could kill 100,000 people at one drop; or

2) Aug. 1, 1946. An election that required overthrowing a corrupt county government using the 2nd Amendment.

I want to choose both, but that would not be fair to the one I did not choose.

As for the USS Indianapolis. I have a friend whose father was the dentist on the ship from Knoxville, Tn. He was a great artist named Lt. Com. Earl Henry.

I discussed what happened with Earl Henry, Jr.

After delivering the package of destruction, the ship was ordered to the Philippines and a Japanese submarine torpedoed the hull, almost right into the dentist office where Lt. Com. Henry had his sleeping quarters. He did not survive. The 600' ship sank in minutes because it scooped the water as it moved briskly across the ocean. A little over 800 sailors survived and began a 5-day ordeal of trying to survive the heat, lack of water, injuries and sharks.

When our soldiers came home they were changed by their experiences. The farm

boys and small townspeople who had gone to defend our nation had seen the world and would not be content with the life on the dirt roads of Athens and Riceville, Tn. The county had been taken over by a corrupt regime. If pulled over for speeding from Knoxville to Chattanooga, you were given a choice: Pay a cash fine right then or go to jail overnight and see the judge in the morning. They also controlled the alcohol and prostitution. The returning veterans formed their own political party to defeat the corrupt officials. About 3 p.m. on Election Day, the sheriff closed the polls and told the public he would let them know who won the next morning.

900 rounds later, and a TNT explosion at the courthouse helped settle the matter.

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote about the Athens violence in The New York Times and warned our nation about the men who were coming home. Trained to fight, they understood weapons, and would not tolerate tyranny like what they had gone overseas to defeat.

The 800 men floating in the Pacific fought for survival. After five days they were rescued, 317 had survived the ordeal. Several of them autographed a book I had purchased at their reunion.

It is a treasure for me to possess.

BUT! My mother died a few years ago from radiation poisoning she picked up in her job in Oak Ridge. She got killed in World War II, and nobody told her until the 1980s.

So you can see the problem I have. The USS Indianapolis or the Battle of Athens, TN.

I really just don't know which of these stories is more important. Maybe it was the issue of employee health in Oak Ridge while building the bomb.



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"THE VETERAN NEXT DOOR"
by Randall Baxter

You can get complete stories of this article at The Veteran Next Door Booth at Mega Peddler's Mart in the old Kmart Building on Broadway, Booth 137.

I am available for speaking engagements, 865-525-2323.

High school football opens with KOC Kickoff Classic

By Ken Lay

The 2017 High School football season will get underway with the 2017 Knoxville Orthopaedic Clinic Kickoff Classic.

The event is Thursday, Aug. 10 at Central High School and Friday, Aug. 11 at West High School. Tickets may be purchased at any Knox County High School before Aug. 8 or at

the gate on game nights. Admission is \$8 for pre-sale tickets or \$10 at the gate.

Thursday night's games include: Campbell County vs. Halls; Austin-East vs. Powell; Central vs. Webb and Karns vs. Carter.

The Red Devils and Cougars were one-time District 3-AAA rivals. The Roadrunners made a

deep postseason run last season. The host Bobcats and the Spartans each made appearances in the Blue Cross Bowl State Championship Game last season and both finished runner-up.

The Spartans went 11-2 last season and will look to capture a 2017 Division II-A State Championship.

In the opening night

finale, the Beavers and Hornets will tangle as Derek Witt makes his coaching debut at Carter. He was once the coach at Karns, which looks to rebound after a 1-9 campaign in 2016.

Friday night's slate includes: Farragut vs. South-Doyle; Hardin Valley Academy vs. Fulton; The King's Academy vs. West

and Gibbs vs. Bearden.

The Admirals will make the move to Class 6A after winning a Class 5A State Championship last year. The Cherokees also made the playoffs in 2016.

The Hawks won nine games and reached the Class 6A quarterfinals last season while the Falcons will move up to class 5A after a long successful run

in Class 4A,

The Rebels have a new coach in Lamar Brown. He will make his debut at Bill Wilson Field against the Lions, who will compete in Division II-A this year along with Concord Christian.

The Eagles and Bulldogs each made the playoffs in 2016.

Stanford dominates national rankings for women

Editor's note: Knoxville Focus sportswriter Steve Williams originated the National Collegiate All-Sports Rankings for men in 1971 and added the women's rankings in 1985. Both were recognized as measuring sticks for the nation's best overall athletics programs for years.

By Steve Williams

Stanford was a runaway winner if there ever was one in the 2016-17 National Collegiate All-Sports Rankings for women.

In the first six sports of the school year that are used for the rankings, the Cardinal finished no lower than sixth place on the national level and celebrated championships in volleyball and swimming before coasting in with a whopping 131.5 points.

It is believed to be the highest point total by an NCAA Division 1 athletics program in the history of the rankings for men or women.

Florida made a strong showing over the second half of the year, including a national title in tennis, and totaled 98.5 points.

Southern Cal captured the soccer crown in December and finished with 80.5 points for third place. Rounding out the top five were North Carolina with 74.5 points and Texas with 63.5 points.

Florida outscored Stanford 83 to 73 to win the men's rankings this year.

The men's rankings were

National Collegiate All-Sports Rankings

NCAA DIVISION 1 WOMEN'S TOP 10	CROSS COUNTRY	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	SWIMMING	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	GOLF	LACROSSE	SOFTBALL	TRACK	TOTAL
STANFORD	16	15	20	20	17.5	19	17.5	0	0	6.5	131.5
FLORIDA	0	11	6	0	0	20	14.5	12	19	16	98.5
SOUTHERN CAL	0	20	0	12	0	0	17.5	13	0	18	80.5
NORTH CAROLINA	0	17.5	10	4	0	16	12	15	0	0	74.5
TEXAS	0	0	19	16	7	0	8	0	0	13.5	63.5
OREGON	20	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	17.5	20	62.5
SOUTH CAROLINA	0	16	0	0	20	6	11	0	0	0	53
MICHIGAN	19	0	7	10	0	10	4.5	0	1	0	51.5
GEORGIA	0	0	0	17	0	15	0	0	0	19	51
WASHINGTON	9	0	14	0	10	0	0	0	17.5	0	50.5

NOTE -- 20 POINTS ARE AWARDED FOR FIRST PLACE IN EACH SPORT, 19 FOR SECOND, 18 FOR THIRD, ETC. SECOND TEN; OHIO STATE 48, UCLA 47.5, BAYLOR 47, TEXAS A&M 43, FLORIDA STATE 42, MINNESOTA 40.5, BYU 36, N.C. STATE 35. CALIFORNIA 33, MARYLAND 33.

started in 1971 and the women's rankings were added in 1985. Both were restarted this year.

As in the men's rankings, the 10 NCAA Division 1 sports that have the most schools participating are used to rank the women's programs.

The top 20 teams in each sport earn points in the rankings, with first place earning 20 points, second place 19, etc.

NCAA championship events are used to record the top 20 teams in cross country, swimming, golf and outdoor track.

In soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis and lacrosse, the top four finishers in the NCAA tournaments are supplemented by the next 16 highest ranked teams, respectively, in the NSCAA Coaches' soccer rankings, AVCA Division 1 Coaches' final volleyball poll, the

USA TODAY final basketball coaches poll, the Oracle/ITA final tennis rankings and the IWFLCA Division 1 lacrosse final poll.

The softball rankings are based on the results of the eight teams' finish in the NCAA tourney in Oklahoma City, with the remaining 12 teams taken from the USA TODAY/ NFCA Coaches' final poll.

Stanford started with a fifth place finish in cross

country and the No. 6 ranking in soccer before winning back-to-back titles in volleyball and swimming. The Cardinal then reached the Final Four in basketball before falling to eventual champion South Carolina.

After taking second-place honors in tennis, the Cardinal advanced to the semifinals in golf before bowing to eventual champion Arizona State in match play.

Stanford's share of third

place in golf upped its total to 125 points in the National Collegiate All-Sports Rankings and a comfortable 65.5-point lead over North Carolina, which was in second place with three sports to go.

The only two sports Stanford didn't score in were lacrosse and softball. The Cardinal finished in a four-way tie for 13th place in track for its final 6.5 points.

Florida tallied 81.5 points over the final five sports to charge into second place in the rankings.

Oregon started and ended the year with national titles in cross country and track and totaled 62.5 points for sixth place in the rankings.

Other national champions for the 10 sports were Maryland in lacrosse and Oklahoma in softball.

LADY VOLS AND SEC: In addition to Florida, seventh-place South Carolina (53 points) and ninth-place Georgia (51 points) represented the SEC in the Top 10. Texas A&M was 14th with 43 points.

All 14 conference members scored. Auburn earned 31.5 points, Kentucky 31, LSU 29, Mississippi State 26, Missouri 22, Arkansas 21, Vanderbilt 17.5, Alabama 15.5, Tennessee 10 and Ole Miss five.

The Lady Vols' points came from their 11th place ranking in softball.



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King's Academy Returns Seniors, Leadership

By David Klein

The King's Academy Lions finished 4-6 last year and lost in the first round Division 2A playoffs but return experience this year and looks for that experience to build a better result. According to Head Coach Matt Lowe, six offensive starters and four defensive starters return this year. Lowe said that quarterback Brandon Burgess returns and middle linebacker Cole Lusby returns to anchor the defense.

"It's an awfully exciting year," Lowe said. "Some of these men have been starting since they were sophomores, some of them even since they were freshmen," he added. "Anytime you have a four year returning starter at quarterback (Burgess) and at Mike linebacker (middle linebacker Cole Lusby), those are good spots to have some of your best guys and certainly some of your most experienced guys as the leaders of the offense and the defense."

Lowe talked about Burgess, his senior quarterback. "He's continued to get better every single year since he's been on campus," Lowe said. "He continues to lead that group," he said of Burgess' leadership of the seniors.

Burgess echoes his coach's views on the senior class leadership. "We've grown so much," Burgess said. "Our senior leadership is the strength of our team. We're going to lead the way and mold the way for this freshman class."

Burgess talked about working with the Lions' wide receivers. "I think it all starts in the summer," Burgess said of the chemistry. "We've got some seniors at wide receivers. We've got small, quick receivers that are going to catch the ball and gain yards on those short passes. We changed our offense to the Air Raid offense. It's hard to defend."

On the defensive side, Lusby credits his teammates. "I've got great

KING'S ACADEMY FOOTBALL 2017

teammates on the defensive side," he said. "I tell them what gap they need to cover and what their responsibility is," he added. Lusby said he had 173 tackles last year and five sacks on the season with 34 tackles in his best game. He also plays offensive guard.

Besides Burgess and Lusby, Lowe emphasized the experience coming back on the offensive and defensive lines.

"We got a lot of experience up front," Lowe said. "Jonathan Atchley, Shawn Hamilton, those guys have been in the trenches now for going on four years. There's some real talent up front."

King's Academy will run a spread offense. "We're four wide; we're going to throw the ball around. We're going to be a big play, explosive offense," Lowe said.

King's Academy again

will play in Division 2A this year. Webb moved up to Division 2AA, and King's Academy plays several new opponents. "There's four new opponents on there we don't know much about," he said. "We'll get to see some new locations. You mix in an away trip to Greenback."

Lowe appreciates each team's differences. "Every moment, every season is special," Lowe said. "It's always about the brotherhood. I think they're a pretty tight knit group. There's a real brotherhood amongst them. I think this is a year where the senior leadership is going to mold this team a lot more than me or my coaching staff is going to mold them."

The Lions open the season on August 18 at Silverdale Baptist Academy in Chattanooga.

HALLS FOOTBALL 2017

Red Devils look to build upon recent success

By Ken Lay

When J.D. Overton took over as Halls High School's football coach in 2012, the once proud and traditional program was in shambles.

Wins were hard to come by and interest in the program was, to say the least, dwindling and numbers were low.

Fast forward to 2017 and the Red Devils are back to prominence. Halls has interest in the program and players are proudly donning the Big Red again. And now the Red Devils take the field expecting to leave victorious. They also look to be playing in November every year.

"We've reached a point where we expect to make it to the playoffs every year," Overton said. "We expect to make it every year."

"If we stay healthy and do the things that we need to do, then we should be there at the end of the season."

The Red Devils, who went 8-4 last season, will again compete in Region 2-5A. Their region foes include Black Oak Ridge rival Central, Gibbs, Carter, South-Doyle, Sevier County and Seymour.

"We'll play Central, Gibbs, Carter, South-Doyle and we've played them all before," Overton said. "We played Sevier County a couple of years ago when they made it to the [state] championship game. I don't know much about Seymour. I know that they've been pretty good the last two years."

Halls, which opens its 2017 campaign against the Panthers (its longtime Emory Road rival), also has non-league tilts against Karns, West and Austin-East.

The Red Devils return several starters from last season's squad but they must replace Caden Harbin at quarterback and linebacker. He graduated and is now playing at East Tennessee State.

Overton said that a pair of newcomers is battling for the starting quarterback job

as sophomore Caden Tollett and senior Aaryn Spoon are competing for that spot.

"We've had great quarterback play around here and that's for sure," Overton said. "We have most of our offensive linemen back and we're going to look to run the football."

"It's going to look a little different but I expect us to be successful on offense."

Top returners include: Cooper Cook (senior, tailback); Hunter Huff (senior, wide receiver/free safety); Hunter Lam (senior, offensive tackle); Chad Faircloth (center); Haden Layfield (senior, tight end); Jordan Bilitier (senior, defensive end); Walt Elkins (senior, defensive tackle); Luke Humphrey (senior, offensive tackle); Warren Morelock (junior, offensive guard) and Aeneas Holouma (sophomore, offensive guard).

Key newcomers are: Tollett (sophomore, quarterback/wide receiver); Brent Buckman (a senior and long-time wrestler for the Red Devils, who is playing football for the first time. He will play defensive end); Spoon (senior, quarterback); Jake Paris (sophomore, wide receiver) and T.J. Holmes (sophomore, linebacker/safety).

Overton said he knows that Harbin will be hard to replace, especially on the offensive side of the ball. But he noted that he's confident that Spoon or Tollett will rise to the occasion when they are called upon.

"These guys have battled through spring practice and we feel comfortable with either of them," he said. "We don't know which one is going to start but we're getting closer to figuring that out."

Halls may be looking to replace an impact player at quarterback, but the Red Devils have experience on both the offensive and defensive lines.

"We have 92 combined starts on the offensive line and we have 60 combined starts on the defensive line," Overton said.

Admirals 'want to do it again'

By Alex Norman

The Farragut Admirals finally did it.

In 2016, the Admirals won a state championship for the first time in program history, with a come from behind 45-35 win over Independence in the 5A title game in Cookeville.

"We won on Friday and had our banquet on Sunday," said long time Farragut head coach Eddie Courtney. "That whole weekend was a blur. We get back here and then recruiting picks up. During the Christmas holiday is when it kind of sunk in and then with all the accolades since then... but I've tried to keep an even head like I have always done and still keep my nose to the grindstone and keep working. We like what happened and want to do it again."

Courtney added, "I think all it has done is give the kids more pride to go to work. We have the same practice schedule and same things we have been doing for years. We try to make sure we have a solid

plan... we have solid kids in this community and know what it takes to be successful. We try to make sure we have a good plan and coach hard with technique and have a good time playing football."

Like many schools in our area, Farragut will see a change in classification for the 2017 season, moving up from 5A to 6A.

"We have always played a tough schedule. That's how you find out what you are made of. We are renewing things with King-sport Dobyns-Bennett, we will play Morristown West, Hardin Valley... I think when playoff time comes around you play teams like that and you'll be ready for the playoffs."

The Admirals return five players on offense and six players on defense, but the 2016 senior class was a big reason for the Admirals success. Running back Cooper Hardin Cooper led Farragut in rushing with 1,454 yards and 19 touchdowns on 196 carries. He was also the Offensive MVP in the

FARRAGUT FOOTBALL 2017

state title game win over Independence. Adam Fulton leaves Farragut after a tremendous senior season in which he completed 184 of 333 passes for 3,223 yards and 41 touchdowns. Jack DeVault was the Defensive MVP in the state title game with two interceptions, and senior Joe Doyle was a standout as both place kicker and punter.

"Our 14 seniors showed the juniors and sophomores what it takes. I never had a senior class that small. Now those younger guys have to prove they have what it takes. We have 5 or 6 guys that have a chance to move into the starting lineup and guys that are competing for playing time and that is fun."

Among the key returning players are senior receiver Braden Collins, who had 68 catches for 1,242 yards and 16 touchdowns

in 2016.

Senior tight end Jacob Warren is getting the most attention these days, with scholarship offers from Tennessee, Auburn, and South Carolina, among others.

"Jacob is a great young man," said Courtney. "God blessed him with a 6'6" frame... he has great ball skills. A lot of Division 1 programs are looking at him and they like what they see. "It has been an exciting process in terms of recruiting."

The good news for Farragut is that the increased publicity brought to the school off Campbell Station Road is paying off not only for Warren, but the team as a whole.

"I told the other guys this gives you an audition," said Courtney. "It helps them and helps our program."

Knoxville Catholic starts season against Maryville

By Alex Norman

For Knoxville Catholic, the 2016 season was going according to plan.

After being forced to forfeit their season opener due to playing an ineligible freshman in the final quarter of a blowout victory over Morristown West (officially a 1-0 loss), the Fighting Irish steamrolled through their schedule, winning the next 10 games by a combined score of 518 to 140. It looked like their goal of repeating as state champion was only a few weeks away.

Then came their second round match up against a now healthy Fulton team, and a 46-25 loss. Just like that, their season was

over.

"We went on a big run and started the year great," said Knoxville Catholic head coach Steve Matthews. "(Dating back to 2015) we had 17 wins by 35 points or more. But I think as coaches and players the entire program got complacent. Fulton does a great job with Coach (Rob) Black and they got up and bit us. There is a sour taste in our mouth. We felt like we were an outstanding football team one year ago that let one get away."

The Irish open the season with one of the most highly anticipated games of the regular season, when Knoxville Catholic heads to Blount County to face

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC FOOTBALL 2017

perennial powerhouse Maryville.

"We are excited to play that game and I know they are as well," said Matthews. "It'll make us a better program. Maryville has been the class of the state the past two decades and we are trying to get where they are."

The Irish have some holes to fill, especially at the skill positions. Four-star wide receiver Amari Rodgers has taken his talents to Clemson. Chase Kuerschen, who caught 40 passes for 846 yards and 11 touchdowns

in 2016, will play at Tulane this season.

"We are gonna have to find a way to replace those guys, but I feel great about what we have up front with offensive linemen Bryn Tucker and Cade Mays and Cooper Mays, but there is a strong possibility that on offense we will start five sophomores. Which is good for the future obviously but winning with sophomores with our schedule talking Maryville, Brentwood Academy, Baylor, Rhea County... they are gonna have to grow

Continue on page 4

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Halls introduces new hoops coaches to community

By Ken Lay

Jonathan Smith and Tom Poisal made their first public appearances as Halls High School basketball coaches recently.

Both were introduced to fans, players, parents and to the community on Monday, July 24 at a meet and greet at the school.

Both replace Randy Moore, who coached both the Red Devils and Lady Devils for the past eight seasons. Moore, who went to Halls to coach the boys nine years ago, recently resigned to pursue business opportunities in Florida.

Smith, 26, is a graduate of St. George's Independent School in Memphis. He will coach the boys and teach history at Halls High. He was most recently an assistant at Morristown East High School.

He said that the opportunity to coach the Red Devils is a tremendous opportunity.

"This is my dream job," Smith said. "I'm a relatively quiet guy, but on the court, you'll find that I'm pretty animated. "This is a dream come true, to get a chance to coach in a community like this."

"But I'm not animated to the point where I'll embarrass Halls. I'm animated because I love the game."



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Halls High basketball coaches Jonathan Smith (left) and Tom Poisal were introduced to the community last week. Both replace Randy Moore, who resigned last month. Smith will coach the boys while Poisal will coach the Lady Devils.

Smith said that he prefers to coach an up-tempo game but that he must adjust his game to fit his personnel.

"I like to play an up-tempo style and press on defense but you have to play the game to fit what you have. I look forward to meeting our players and getting the chance to watch them play."

While Smith is new to Knox County and to Halls, Poisal is no stranger to Halls basketball fans.

He coached the girls at Halls Middle School from 2010-2014 and has taught physical education and wellness classes at the school for the last nine years. He began his Knoxville coaching

career as an assistant coach with the Bearden High School girls team under Nathan Hodges.

After a brief hiatus from coaching, Poisal returned to the middle school game where he coached the Gresham Middle School boys during the 2016-17 season.

He said that he's wanted to coach at Halls High for several

years. "I've taught at the middle school for the last nine years, and for eight-and-a-half of those years, I've had my eyes on the Halls High School job. This is a chance to coach in the community where I work and teach."

"I just fell in love with the Halls Community."

Like Smith, Poisal prefers the up-tempo game but he also said that he would mold his style to fit the players on his roster.

"If I had my way, I'd press from the time we get off the bus until we leave," said Poisal, who will continue to teach at Halls Middle. "But your style has to change."

Poisal's squad will consist largely of freshmen and sophomores when he Lady Devils hit the hardwood later this year. But he knows his players because he's either taught them or coached them with the Lady Demons.

Halls athletic director Meagan Miller said she couldn't be happier.

"We want to win games, but first and foremost, we want coaches who will make our players better people," Miller said. "These are high character guys."

"We heard nothing but good things about them from former employers and former players when we got phone calls."

Alumni event planned for Bobcats' 2017 home opener

By Steve Williams

With the start of the 2017 high school football season less than three weeks away, there's a lot going on at Central on and off the field.

Head Coach Bryson Rosser announced last week that a "Meet, Greet and Eat" get-together of all CHS alumni football players and coaches will be held before the Bobcats' home opener against Sevier County on Sept. 1.

"As we prepare to head into the 2017 football season, we are looking to our Bobcat alumni to help us pave the way for the next generation of Bobcat football," said Coach Rosser, who guided Central to the Class 5A state championship game last year.

"We will walk out together at halftime to be recognized," added Rosser.

Those planning to attend should send name and contact info (graduating year,

email address, cell phone number and/or mailing address) to Candi Captain at Captain.candi14@icloud.com.

An alumni football t-shirt also can be purchased for \$10 (please include shirt size).

Season passes for \$35 go on sale Aug. 1. Passes will be available to be picked up on Aug. 31 at the school during any lunch period or at the field house from 6 to 8 that night. If you have questions, e-mail Robin Miller, Booster Club president, at bobcatprideandtradition-booster@gmail.com.

Central fans also can own a piece of history while helping the school make needed improvements to the Bobcats' locker room. Eighty-two new lockers are being custom built for student-athletes. These lockers will also provide a more secure storage option for personal belongings.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

An afternoon thunderstorm right before practice time Thursday temporarily kept Central High's football team off the field, but the Bobcats took advantage of the delay with weightlifting and a defensive team meeting.

Each locker includes a customized name plate that can be used to memorialize or honor a former or current teammate, player or coach, a family member

or can be donated in honor of one's family. Lockers will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at \$300 apiece.

Monetary donations to

the program to support the locker room renovation also would be appreciated.

Pride & Tradition Booster Club is a tax-exempt organization and all donations

are tax deductible. If you have questions, please contact Christi Hinton, Booster Club treasurer, at (865) 437-9642 or christ.hinton@knoxschools.org.

Double-digit wins last season made Roadrunners 'hungrier'

By Steve Williams

Austin-East football turned the corner in 2016. It won double-digit games. Jeff Phillips, in his fifth year as head coach, wants to keep the program there, with the goal of going a little further.

How did last season's 12-2 record and advancement to the Class 2A state semifinals boost the program and what can the Roadrunners do to build on it?

"It made them hungrier," said Coach Phillips. "It made

them want it even more. Just to realize you got so close, but yet you were so far away.

"There are no guarantees of making it that far again," added Phillips. "We have to continue to work on the little things, because that's what wins ball games."

Austin-East lost 10 seniors and seven of them will be playing college football this fall, said Phillips. That list includes standout quarterback Darius Harper and the team's two leading receivers,

Kashif Warren and Shannon Cozart.

Also gone are Xavier Ligon, Gedarian Mobley, Martez Forbes and Knori Bone.

"We lost 10 seniors, but we're replacing them with high quality players who are ready to rock and roll and step in," said Phillips.

As for key returning starters, the A-E coach says you have to start with Chris Hunter (6-1½, 230).

"He was the District Defensive Player of the Year last

season at linebacker, but this year he'll be stepping in and playing quarterback for us."

Veteran running back Jahson Jackson and Calvin Wilson, who plays defensive tackle and center, also are top returnees plus All-State free safety Isaiah Ligon and All-State placekicker Hakizimana Eduard.

In all, A-E has 12 starters coming back, including inside linebackers Chris Stevenson and Robert Allen and Garyion Hamilton, who will be a 3-year starter at cornerback.

AUSTIN-EAST FOOTBALL 2017

Coach Phillips pointed out his offensive line could be and needs to be the strength of the team as it has four starters back in Wilson, Gregg Smith, Matthew Escobar and Stefan Vonner. DaQuan Willis, who started three games last season, is battling Elijah McMillian for the left tackle spot.

Phillips said the group up front is "more committed and their fundamentals are better than they have ever been."

Austin-East will be

competing in a new region that includes a battle with perennial state power Alcoa at the end of the season.

The Roadrunners will open the campaign at Gibbs on Aug. 18.

"We're right on schedule," said Phillips. "We've been improving every year. Last year, we got a double-digit win season and our goal is to keep getting double-digit win seasons with obviously the ultimate goal to cap that off with a state championship."

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Hundreds of hours of practice go into 10-minute show



PHS band working on 'Galactic Fever' anniversary tribute

By Steve Williams

When Powell High's football team had its first official day of practice in pads on July 17, the school's marching band began its two weeks of camp.

Like the football team, the Powell band's season debut will be at Halls on Aug. 18.

"We actually start practicing the first of June," said PHS band director Ricky Shaw during a break at camp on July 19. "Our percussion and color guard get together once a week that month and then we have what we call 'Ricky Camp,' which is in mid-July and we teach the new marchers how to march."

That's followed by two weeks of "pretty intensive camp when we learn the majority of our show," added Shaw, who has been teaching in Powell since 2003 and became the high school band director in 2009.

Despite the hot summer weather, the Powell band practiced from 8:30 in the morning until 4:30 in the afternoon the first week of camp, with several breaks of course throughout the day.

Three-a-day practices were on the camp schedule last week for Powell band members.

"We're outside in the mornings from 8:30 to 12, then we break and we're inside the hottest part of the day until about 6," said Shaw, "and then we come back outside from about 6 to 8:30 in the evening."

The long days of practice are expected to give Powell fans something special to look forward to again this year.

"We always do entertaining shows," said Shaw. "That's our No. 1 priority – to make sure the kids enjoy what they're doing and also make sure that the crowd enjoys the show. We're kind

of known for that around the county and have been so for some time."

Powell's show this year will be called "Galactic Fever," said Shaw. "It's a 40th anniversary tribute to the music of Star Wars and Saturday Night Fever – a combination of the two."

The show will be performed at every home and away game.

"We put in hundreds and hundreds of hours for one 10-minute show and we'll be learning it all the way up till the end of September," said Shaw. "That's usually when we get it finished and then we work on perfecting it as we compete in October."

"It's going to be a really fun unique show."

The Powell band has approximately 160 members, said Shaw, and is one of the three largest in Knox County.



Photos by Steve Williams.

TOP: James Miracle and trumpet players march and play in the school parking lot before going to the field. ABOVE: Flag girls Hayley Crawley and Kaylin Morton work on their choreography.

LEFT: Band director Ricky Shaw leans out of the press box window to communicate with one of his assistants during a break.



The Powell High marching band at practice on the morning of July 19, about a month before its season-opening "Galactic Fever" tribute show at Halls.

Knoxville Catholic starts season against Maryville

Cont. from page 2

up in a hurry."

Matthews mentioned Tucker and the Mays brothers. Tucker already has offers from Alabama, Tennessee and LSU among others for the Class of 2020. Cooper Mays has offers from Tennessee and Georgia in the Class of 2020 as well. Cade Mays is a long time commitment to Tennessee for the Class of 2018.

Back in the middle of the last decade Harrison Smith got the ball rolling in terms

of recruiting at the school when he committed to Notre Dame. Today Smith is an All-Pro free safety for the Minnesota Vikings.

But today Knoxville Catholic has taken that up a notch. Matthews has helped turn the Irish into a training ground for football programs in need of talent.

"I think it is great. We are getting a good reputation. Our players know who to act, their grades are outstanding and they are good football players too. Our name is picking up in that

manner... we are kind of becoming the place like... 'If you want to play college football come to Catholic' is kind of what happened. It's good for us."

The Irish will move up in classification to 5A, meaning new region matchups with Rhea County, Soddy Daisy, Walker Valley and Lenoir City. And don't be surprised if the Irish meet up once again with their own rivals come playoff time in November. Fulton has also moved up from 4A to 5A for the 2017 season.

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For more information on the line up and how to get tickets for the three ticketed shows, please visit www.smswf.com



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

The Inward Eye

We have finally moved into our new downsized home built on the back of our small farm property. We call our new home, New House, as opposed to the Big House where we lived for thirty-seven years and raised our girls. Our daughters are now grown and have families of their own. We needed less and one daughter's growing family needed more. So, we swapped, and now I get to see my grandkids almost everyday and they get to grow up on twenty-one acres in the heart of Knoxville.

I've traveled all my life, but now my focus is closer to home. They say home is where your heart is, and I believe that's true. During my traveling years I always said, "It's good to go, but it's better to come home." Now, after more than a dozen trips throughout Europe, a half dozen trips to various countries in Central America, visits to multiple Caribbean islands, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and the Middle

East, I've come to agree with Dorothy, "There's no place like home."

I've learned that moving leads you to your past. Boxing up one's memorabilia inevitably causes you to consider old photo albums. And moving has caused us to reconsider the pictures on our walls. We've had to be more selective because we now have fewer walls.

Recently, I came upon a picture album of the only "guy trip" I ever made. A friend of mine organized a self guided tour of castles in Slovakia, the Czech republic, Poland and Hungary shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union. We met in Vienna, rented a van and the five of us launched ourselves over the Iron Curtain and into a great adventure. Travel broadens the mind, and our Western opinions were challenged as we learned the historical perspectives of our Eastern European traveling companion.

It's been more than twenty-five years since I stood atop Spissky Castle in

Slovakia, perched seven hundred feet above farmlands of green wheat juxtaposing yellow fields of rapeseed. Like Wordsworth, who stumbled upon a field of golden daffodils, I've carried those memories of yellow and green fields in my mind all these years, but they were recently awakened from a photograph. I wish I could convey the image, but I do not have the skills of the poet who immortalized his daffodils by writing:

"I gazed - and gazed - but little thought

What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft when on my couch I lie

In vacant or in pensive mood,

They flash upon that inward eye

Which is the bliss of solitude;

And then my heart with pleasure fills,

And dances with the daffodils."

Serendipitously, I recently read that the vegetable oil harvested from those beautiful yellow rapeseed fields was renamed by the Canadian oil industry in 1978. Evidently, canola oil was considered more politically correct and more marketable than rapeseed oil.

Have you ever been confused by the various claims regarding vegetable oils? And so-called experts extol this diet or that, and purport to tell you which fat is best and how much fat is



healthy. When I was chief resident in internal medicine we liked to define an expert as someone fifty miles from home with a slide presentation - these days you can substitute a powerpoint program or perhaps an opinion column! While I don't claim to be an expert, here are my observations.

A healthy diet consists of a combination of protein, carbohydrates and fats. Proteins usually come from animal flesh (meat), but also from eggs, dairy products, tofu (a soybean product), nuts like almonds and peanuts, and seed products like quinoa, as well certain legumes like lentils, peas and beans. Carbohydrates are complex sugars and include potatoes, rice and bread. Fats (oils) are found in animal flesh, nuts, olives, corn, flaxseed and yes, rapeseed.

For years experts have recommended that we limit fats and replace the missing calories with additional carbohydrates. This proved disastrous, as many now consider the obesity epidemic, in part due, to excessive dietary carbohydrates (sugars). Eliminating fats is

unhealthy and makes it difficult to consume adequate calories because fats possess greater energy than protein or carbohydrates. And logically, the dietary recommendations for a seventy year old man with coronary heart disease is different than for a growing teenager. This is why I bristle at the blanket "herd" recommendations of experts.

Fats or oils are often grouped as saturated or unsaturated. This has to do with the amount of hydrogen in the fat molecule. It is thought that saturated fats (those with more hydrogen) are less healthy than unsaturated fats. Animal fats are largely saturated and vegetable fats are largely unsaturated (exceptions are coconut and palm oils).

A good guide is to realize saturated fats are solid at room temperature, and those that are liquid are unsaturated. Examples of polyunsaturated vegetable fats are corn, soybean, safflower and sunflower oils. And even less saturated are the monounsaturated oils of olives, peanuts, sesame and canola seeds.

But it gets even more

complicated. Most unsaturated fats in nature occur in a cis configuration rather than the trans configuration. This designation comes from organic chemistry and refers to isomers of molecules. Imagine looking at your hand in a mirror. The mirror image is but a reflection of the real thing. It turns out that converting unsaturated oils to the trans configuration confers desirable properties such as being solid at room temperature. Examples are margarine or Crisco made into a saturated fat in the hydrogenation process. And like saturated fats, experts note that consumption of a diet high in trans fats has been associated with an increased risk of coronary heart disease.

This week I learned that I am a "cis-male." This is not organic chemistry folks, but PC run amok. Apparently, due to the hoopla of the "trans" gender identity issue, trans-males identify themselves as something other than their birth sex. The terms cis and trans derive from Latin and respectively mean the same side of or across a longitudinal axis. Thankfully, like 99.7% of other Americans I don't straddle that fence.

Well, there you have it folks. However, I suspect this latter tidbit is something most would just as soon delete from memory or the "inward eye."

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

Hobo's Tennessee Dreamin'

According to Google, "do dogs dream" was the number two dog question searched on their platform in 2016. I am often awakened by Hobo the Wonder Dog as he whimpers,



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

whines, growls, and barks, as he chases his dreams—and this morning was no exception. I am not sure what Hobo is chasing but he is intent on catching his dreams.

Several University studies confirm and most scientists believe dogs dream while they sleep. Research has been done with EEG scanning conducted during the dogs sleep cycle typically including stages of wakefulness, rapid-eye movement sleep and non-rapid eye-movement sleep. Harvard psychologist Dr. Deirdre Barret wrote, "Since dogs are generally

extremely attached to their human owners it's likely your dog is dreaming of your face, your smell, or pleasing or annoying you. According to Stanley Coren, Ph.D. a well-respected scientist and Professor of Psychology at the University of British Columbia: "actually if dogs didn't dream this would be a much greater surprise. . . ." From my experiences with Hobo the Wonder Dog, I can say with confidence he dreams and dreams big.

Mama Cass sings it best with her song "Dream A

Little Dream of Me"—"birds signing in the sycamore tree—dream a little dream of me." I am pretty certain Hobo would be more apt to dream about chasing a rabbit or his number one nemesis Jasper the cat around the sycamore tree. We don't know what our dogs are dreaming of—but, we know they are dreaming. I am not sure that our dog's dream of us all the time. There certainly seems to be things more fun or interesting to dream about; like catching the rabbit, protecting you from

the villain, frolicking in mud or swimming in a lake.

I have to wonder what Hobo's dreams are all about, whether of me or of beast—I know his dreams are full of vim and vigor complete with barking and running. Hobo the Wonder Dog's dream came true when he was rescued from certain death. Hobo fulfills my dreams of being obedient and a well-mannered dog I can practically take anywhere.

I hope your dog can dream as Mama Cass sang: "sweet dreams that

leave all worries behind you, but in your dreams whatever they be, dream a little dream of me." Hobo's Tennessee Dreamiin—I am certain he's chasing squirrels and rabbits on the farm and what better to dream about than that.

Life is better with a dreamin dog—woof!

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



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Nourish Knoxville Celebrates National Farmers Market Week

East Tennessee farmers' markets join markets across the country in celebrating National Farmers Market Week from August 6-12. Nourish Knoxville, organizers of the Market Square Farmers' Market in downtown Knoxville, are celebrating farmers' markets in East Tennessee by lighting up the Henley Street bridge in green and blue, hosting a kick-off at the Market Square Farmers' Market on August 5, highlighting markets on social

media, and raising awareness of the amount of farmers' markets in East Tennessee. Plus, Nourish Knoxville has the honor of taking over the Farmers Market Coalition's Instagram account from July 31 through August 12 to highlight the great work being done in Knoxville. As demand for local food continues to grow, so too have the opportunities for America's farmers to market fresh food directly to the consumer. According to

statistics recently released by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), farmers' markets and farm stands account for roughly \$2 billion of the \$3 billion that Americans spend annually on farm-direct products. This revenue, in turn, supports the livelihoods of more than 165,000 mostly small and mid-sized farms and ranches. Nourish Knoxville began in 2013 as a nonprofit organization

to promote and support local producers, and currently hosts the Market Square Farmers' Market and produces the East Tennessee Local Food Guide. The 2017 guide lists 37 farmers' markets and 146 direct marketing farms in 28 counties in East Tennessee. "Farmers' markets play a vital role not just in generating real income for farmers, but in forming a healthy, prosperous food systems," says Jen Cheek, Executive Director of the Farmers

Market Coalition. "By providing the opportunity for farmers to connect directly with consumers, markets serve as education centers. Vendors are teaching customers about agriculture and sharing recipes and new foods with their neighbors. Markets are making people and communities stronger and healthier." Visit the website to learn more about individual farmers' market events, www.nourishknoxville.org.

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