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## Kids' Coupon Book Money to be Spent on Lavish Banquet?

By Focus Staff

Mike McMillan, East Knox County's member of the board of education, found an odd item on the last meeting agenda. Making a few inquiries, McMillan discovered the school system proposed to spend \$15,000 on a banquet to be held at the Knoxville Convention Center. The funding source appalled McMillan; it was to be drawn from the school system's share of coupon book sales.

Just about everybody in Knox County has seen small children trudging along

streets to sell the books or have been accosted by friends and neighbors selling coupon books for their kids. Two dollars of every coupon book comes back to the school system to do with as they please. Superintendent Bob Thomas evidently determined \$15,000 of that money will go to sponsor a banquet honoring teachers of the year at every school in the county. During the last workshop session of the board of education, McMillan sharply questioned Clifford Davis, the chief of staff for

Superintendent Thomas. The school system seems to be the only entity in town that has both a chief of staff and a chief operating officer, an innovation created by the former superintendent, Jim McIntyre.

Under questioning from McMillan, Davis admitted in the past the banquet was sponsored by a corporation. McMillan wondered why that was not the case any longer. Davis replied that the school system had been notified the corporate sponsor decided not to participate this

year. McMillan then asked how long Davis had known a new sponsor had been needed, to which Davis responded he couldn't remember. McMillan asked if it had been longer than 30 days? Davis responded it had likely been longer than thirty days, but still, his memory failed him. Unable to hide his dismay, McMillan denounced the notion of spending coupon money for a banquet, even if the dinner was to honor teachers. McMillan, who spent his entire adult life as an educator, said while he

certainly had no objection to honoring teachers, he thought it sent the wrong message to the public to expend money raised through the sale of coupon books for a banquet.

"Nobody appreciates the job done by good teachers more than I do," McMillan said, "but while this seems like a small amount of money, and considering the amount spent by the school system annually, it is. Yet I think it sends the wrong message to parents and the public."

McMillan wondered why



Mike McMillan

school officials did not more aggressively seek out a new corporate sponsor immediately upon being

**Continued on page 3**

*We thank you for your service*



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

About 23 members of the Capt. Bill Robinson Chapter 1078 Vietnam Veterans Of America walked down Gay Street Friday to celebrates the service of U.S. military veterans in the city's annual Veterans Day Parade.

## Knoxville Election

### Historic Women's Victory

By Mike Steely  
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Who would have predicted a year ago that the new Knoxville City Council would see four women, two being minorities, elected? Tuesday's General Election set a record in the total number of people casting ballots during an off-year election.

Currently the only woman on the council is Brenda Palmer and the only African-American is Daniel Brown, who served as mayor briefly between Bill Haslam's election as governor and Madeline Roger's election as mayor.

Counting those who voted Tuesday and in absentee and early votes, 11,735 people voted in a race the Election Commission was hoping to get at least 10,000 ballots cast. Tuesday's election permitted registered Knoxville voters in all districts to choose council members from five districts.

While some thought that Amelia Parker's write-in campaign might upset the momentum being built by Lauren Rider it did not. Parker got 2,015 write-in votes but Rider's District 4 campaign pulled in 5,289 votes to Harry Tindell's 3,405.

Gwen McKenzie pulled 57% of the vote to Jennifer Montgomery's 43%. The 6th District battle between McKenzie, an African-American activist and professional, and Montgomery, a realtor and president of the Parkridge Neighborhood Association, came to an end with Mayor Madeline Rogero endorsing McKenzie just days before the election.

Stephanie Welch, in South Knoxville's 1st District, received the highest percentage of any candidate, pulling in 73% of the vote, or 7,387 votes. Rebecca Parr got 2,686 votes in her challenge. Welch had been endorsed early on by out-going Councilman Nick Pavlis.

Seema Singh Perez surprised many by defeating James Edward Corcoran in the 3rd District. She received 6,105 votes to Corcoran's 4,470.

In the 2nd District Andrew Roberto, who resigned from the Election Commission to seek the office, defeated Wayne Christensen with almost 60% of the vote. Roberto pulled 6,141 voters to Christensen's 4,250.

## Short-term rental regulations passes first vote

By Mike Steely  
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Two major changes for Knoxville passed on first reading Tuesday as the Knoxville City Council debated regulating short-term rentals and expanding the Historic Overlay in the Parkridge Neighborhood. The subjects saw some heated remarks from both sides as some council members and citizens spoke out.

The short-term rental (STR) debate centered on whether to accept the proposal offered by the planning commission or to make the rules more restrictive with amendments from Vice Mayor Duane Grieve. He suggested five amendments to the proposal: exclude R-1 and R-1E restricted neighborhoods from having short-term rentals, lowering the minimum "transients" in a home to 8 instead of 12; require the homeowner to remain on site during occupancy; limiting off street parking, requiring a STR owner to notify neighbors and post a sign.

All five amendments, one after one, were voted down in 7-2 votes with Grieve

and Councilman Nick Della Volpe voting for the changes.

As it now stands STRs would be allowed in all residential neighborhoods.

Mayor Madeline Rogero read a statement before the discussion saying that the proposal "may not make everyone happy." She went on to say she "fully supports" the issue and noted only a few complaints have been lodged against that type of temporary rental, noting that those complaints were about zoning violations.

She also said the proposal will make it easy to change or alter the rules.

Proponents told the council that STRs fill an income gap and the proposed rules were very generous to both sides. Opponents said the rules were a violation of zoning, pose an unnecessary risk and set a dangerous precedent.

Another STR owner asked them to include non-owner occupied rentals as an amendment. Grieve said that passing the ordinance is a "slippery slope."

Councilman George Wallace asked the

Law Department if the STR rules were part of the city's zoning and Attorney Christa Cuccaro said the city's power does not involve zoning and were part of its "police powers." She and Planning Commission Director Gerald Green told the council that short-term rentals were a right of a homeowner, just as long-term rentals are.

Grieve said the policy was "not enforceable" and Della Volpe asked, "What are we doing here?!"

"You make it more difficult to be a cohesive neighborhood," Della Volpe said.

When Councilman Nick Pavlis suggested giving current non-owner occupied STRs a few months or a year to resolve their properties Della Volpe said, "That's crazy!"

Dealing with current non-owner occupied STRs may be back as an amendment in the final vote in two weeks.

The current proposal passed with only Grieve and Della Volpe opposing it.

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# How Much Money Do Judges Make?

When we think about individuals who hold positions of authority in our life, there are only a few different positions that immediately come to mind. Law enforcement, a spiritual leader,



By Jedidiah McKeehan  
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

chancellors." Pursuant to the statute, beginning September 1, 2006, all chancellors and judges received a salary of \$140,000.00 per year. Judges on the court of appeals (a higher

court) receive \$5,000.00 more than that, and judges on the Tennessee supreme court (the highest court in the state) receive an additional \$5,000.00 on top of both of those amounts.

Every year on July 1, judges' salaries are reviewed and potentially increased based upon any upward deviations in the consumer price index. Now that we are 11 years, removed from 2006 when those salaries were set, it's hard to know the exact amount that judges make without doing some math, but I believe the current amount is around \$165,000.00 to \$170,000.00 per year.

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

# Special children and the school system

By Mike Steely  
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As part of our continuing series about Special Needs Children we are focusing on the Knox County School System.

The Knox County School System offers special needs children several ways to learn—not only with education but also with social interaction. It can be stressful for children and parents when the child begins public education and it takes a certain person and a caring approach to aid them.

Melissa Massie, Director of Special Education Services, told The Focus that the system begins with children at three years old. Often the child has been with the TEIS program for one or two years before entering school. TEIS is the Tennessee Early Intervention System that serves those children diagnosed at risk for developmental delays until the age of three.

For children who are not referred through TEIS Massie said that a physician may find something during a routine checkup or a parent may be concerned and call the school.

At that point a child gets an evaluation to see if the child meets any category.

An Individual Education Plan can then be developed between the schools, parents and teachers. Some children may need to attend a special education class, have a special education case manager and attend regular classes full or part time, with some time also in a special education classroom.

Disability categories range from autism and blindness through speech impairment, hearing impairment and deafness plus several other difficulties.

"We can connect families with resources and there are several organizations with chapters in our area to help," Massie said.

"Every school can serve students with disabilities," she said, adding that the school system not only focuses on education but also on social behavior and development. Massie said that each student is evaluated to see what special services they need while in class.

Parents of pre-school children,

ages 3-5, should contact the Knox County Schools Child Find program located at Fort Sanders Education Development Center. Child Find evaluates children to determine eligibility and the need for special educational services.

If an older child is believed to require services, a parent, teacher or school counselor can make a referral to the School Support Team which can develop a plan for instructional interventions and accommodations to meet the child's needs within the general program.

The idea is to identify students with special needs and create opportunities to reach the student's potential by setting high expectations, to foster positive relationships with parents, students, teachers, administrators, support staff and the community.

More information is available on the Knox County School System's Special Education Program from Student Support Services by calling (865)594-1540. Project Child Find can be reached by calling (865) 594-5035.

# Historic Overlay for Parkridge passes first reading

By Mike Steely  
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"Do no further harm," was the promise by Kim Trent of Knox Heritage to the Knoxville City Council as she spoke in favor of extending the Historic Zoning in the Parkridge neighborhood. The expansion passed initial reading Tuesday, approving the Metropolitan Planning Commission's proposal to add the overlay pledges to protect non-historic homes, help in financing permits for lower income homeowners, and allowing replacement of vinyl siding and other aspects on those homes.

The proposal also specifies that only front or street facing sides of a home will fall under the requirements.

Asked if the proposal,

if adopted, would end up running poor people out of the neighborhood Trent said the proposal is the most flexible historic plan in the city.

Councilman Duane Grieve said he is concerned about only including the fronts of the homes but added he "totally supported" the proposal and moved to accept the MPC recommendations.

Several citizens spoke on both sides of the matter with one resident, Mike Anderson, saying the historic overlay proposal doesn't go far enough.

"We've reduced the guidelines to put those properties at risk," he said.

Councilman Daniel Brown, who represents the area, asked the MPC what would happen there if the

expansion is defeated. MPC Director Gerald Green replied the current overlay would continue.

Brown initially was approached by the Parkridge Neighborhood Organization to have the planning commission look into expanding the historic designation. The year-long effort saw several public hearings in the neighborhood, at MPC hearings, and before city council.

Ironically Brown voted against the overlay proposal and was joined by Councilman Nick Pavlis.

Trent told the council that voting against the idea would not stop gentrification and said that in the past 20 years there has been little change in races living in the area.

The supporters of the

idea said that adopting the historic designation will actually protect the smaller homes there. Others told the council that the issue has torn the neighborhood apart and, if adopted, would increase the historic footprint there by almost 1,000 properties.

Kaye Graybeal, Historic Planner for the MPC, backed up Trent's statement, saying that white population there has actually decreased.

"People are divided. Obviously you don't have the majority of people there," Brown said of support among residents in Parkridge.

"I cannot support this overlay. Other historic overlays are different and have no African-American population," he said.

The first reading passed with Brown, Nick Pavlis and Nick Della Volpe voting against the expansion.

In other action the city council to allow the mayor to seek a \$225,000 grant from the state for purchase and replace three in-ground bus lifts and to move \$32,000 from Parks and Recreation funds to Lakeshore Park to improve buildings, grounds and public munities.

They also voted to amend part of the city code dealing with rate charge, charge for unlocking vehicles and dealing with stolen vehicles beings towed to a wrecker company lot.

They also heard from Bob Wolfenbarger who chastised the city for not including some residents in the Midway and French Broad area when considering the East Knoxville Sector Plan.



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Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.  
Deadline for submissions is Thursday by noon.  
Articles, announcements, photo attachments and cutlines may be submitted by e-mail to staff@knoxfocus.com.  
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# Student Leaders named at Board of Education Meeting

The regular session of the Knox County School Board was called to order at 5:02 by Chairwoman Patti Bounds last Wednesday evening. Third District representative Tony Norman



By Anne Primm

presided over the moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairwoman Patti Bounds congratulated Knox County Board of Education Student Representative Kinley Koontz on facilitating the selection of high school representatives from each of the high schools in the district to assist Koontz in being the voice of the student population of Knox County. These representatives were chosen by their principals to communicate between their school and the board to identify concerns and propose ideas. Those recognized and congratulated

were:  
Heidi Brady of Career Magnet Academy  
Ali Webster of Gibbs High School  
DeeJay Hurst of Carter High School  
Lincoln Dillman

of Karns High school  
Mandy Prescot of Hardin Valley Academy  
Aiden Thomason of Farragut High School  
Ayden Case of West high School  
Jordyn Butler of Halls High School  
Caroline Whitehead of Powell High School  
Sydney Craig of Bearden High School  
Tayrohn Jackson of Central High School  
Riley Hughes of Fulton High School  
Jahson Jackson of Austin-East High School  
Madison Jackson of L&M Stem Academy

Robert Feller of South-Doyle High School  
The next special recognition was given to the 2017 Reward Schools. Chairwoman Bounds and Superintendent Bob Thomas offered congratulations to the following schools which ranked in the top 5 percent for student performance: Bluegrass Elementary, Gap Creek Elementary, Sequoyah Elementary and L&M Stem Academy.

East Knox Elementary, Pleasant Ridge Elementary and Whittle Springs Middle School were congratulated in being in the top 5% for student progress.

Bounds asked Second District representative Jennifer Owen to address the board about the latest Tennessee School Board Association Meeting. Owen shared that there were several noteworthy items on their legislative agenda that had passed by huge margins. One was the proposal that the student

to school nurse ratio has been lowered from 1:3000 to 1:750. Another resolution that passed overwhelmingly was that TN Ready scores should be returned by the end of the school year in which the test was given.

Sixth District Representative Terry Hill also attended the TSBA meeting and remarked about BEP funding. The Tennessee School Board is considering amending the BEP formula. Eight million dollars is earmarked for education in Tennessee as Better Education Funds. State audit shows only six billion was actually spent. What accounts for the gap? Hill also related that other issues confound the state school board like vouchers, school bus safety, assessments and using the ACT instead of TN Ready, to name a few.

There was more discussion on the use of coupon book money to fund the Teacher of the Year Banquet.

Eighth District representative Mike McMillan reiterated that he is not opposed to having a celebration for the teachers of the year. He thinks using coupon book money for this purpose is an inappropriate use of funds. McMillan stated that he thinks Knox County Schools should continue to look for corporate sponsorship.

Board member Lynn Fugate proposed a substitute motion that the Knox County School Board use \$500 to reserve a place at the Knoxville Convention Center for the Teacher of the Year Banquet while the board continues to investigate corporate sponsorship and/or a less expensive venue.

In the Public Forum, Ms. Candace Bannister spoke to the board about circumstances surrounding her son's suicide in the spring of 2017. Her son got into trouble and was placed in an alternative school

environment, night school. He was supposed to receive guidance counseling while he was in the alternative educational environment. Apparently this never happened. Bannister wonders if having had access to guidance sessions would have changed her son's outcome.

Louise Poplin thanked the Board for the Hardin Valley rezoning. She also expressed gratitude for the board taking the time to review and update its policies.

The final speaker in the Public Forum was Persephone Webb, an advocate for LGBT students and teachers. Webb expressed disappointment with the board for "leaving the LGBT community unprotected in Knox County Schools." She further stated that the board needs written policy protection for LGBT students and teachers.

## Kids' Coupon Book Money to be Spent on Lavish Banquet?

Cont. from page 1

notified the former sponsor no longer wished to underwrite the event. Arrangements were being made by the school system for 500 people to attend, while each school selects a "teacher of the year," each of whom is allowed to invite two guests. McMillan figures that would account for around 300 people and wondered why the school system didn't resort to having guests pay for their own dinners before dipping into coupon book sales.

"Evidently that was an idea never considered by the

administration," McMillan said wryly.

"There are parents all across the county who are being asked to contribute money toward buying school supplies, like paper towels and copy paper," McMillan said. "Considering that, I think there will be some parents outraged by the notion of the school system using \$15,000 for a big party."

The school system spends more than half a billion dollars annually in Knox County alone. Two-thirds of every tax dollar spent in Knox County goes to the school system. McMillan,

a former county commissioner, says he believes every member of the Board of Education has a responsibility to taxpayers as much as children, parents, and teachers. The school system has been under fire recently, in large measure for things having to do with money. The school system has been going through an embarrassing scandal related to the CTE program after nobody in the administration seemed to realize that \$450,000 more or less disappeared. That in spite of the fact the head of the program had been the subject of an official reprimand and a scathing

report from the Tennessee Comptroller's office. The matter is now under criminal investigation.

"The truth is, over the years, the school system hasn't gotten a lot of scrutiny in how it spends taxpayer money," McMillan said. "That certainly hasn't helped with either transparency or accountability."

McMillan reminded The Focus while still serving as superintendent, Jim McIntyre had a habit of overspending, while constantly seeking higher taxes from the county commission. McIntyre's overspending brought a reaction from Mayor Tim Burchett and the

county commission in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, which was designed to keep the school system's spending within its own budget.

"People have a right to expect the school system to allocate its resources wisely and well," McMillan stated. "Invoking children at every opportunity is disgusting, especially when the school system is taking \$15,000 for a big party after the kids have worked so hard to sell coupon books. I wonder how many people would have bought a coupon book if they had known that?"

## Coupon book funds discussed at work session

By Anne Primm

Superintendent Bob Thomas congratulated the new Teacher Advisory Committee board members at the beginning of last Monday's school board work session. The Teacher Advisory Board provides a voice for teacher decision making across the county where each district is represented by two members. Two school board members may attend each meeting in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Board member Terry Hill requested that the TAC issue the Knox county School Board a formal invitation to their meetings. Board member Lynne Fugate asked general counsel, Gary Dupler, what the proper way was to disseminate the information that any citizen can attend the Teacher Advisory Committee meetings.

Discussion continued about the "Teacher of the Year Banquet" to be held in the spring of 2018 at the Knoxville Convention Center. The dinner had previously been held at the Holiday Inn at the World's Fair Park but the venue, according to Dr. Clifford Davis, has become "too tight."

The Knoxville Convention Center charges in excess of \$15,000 for the event that will be covered in part by coupon book sales. Eighth District board member Mike McMillan asked about corporate sponsorship and Dr. Davis replied that Knox County Schools usually has a corporate sponsor for this banquet but it "did not work out" this year. Board

member McMillan mused about whether or not hard-earned coupon book funds should be used to throw a \$15,000 party. Board member Jennifer Owen echoed those feelings in stating that she thought using the funds in this way was an "inappropriate use of coupon book funds" and that "students thought coupon book money should be used at their school."

The next item for discussion was approval for Karns Middle School to purchase technology up to \$16,449.12 using money from coupon book sales. Owen wondered if students knew that coupon book money would be spent on technology. Sixth District representative Terry Hill said that she believes so because the PTA and teachers at Karns Middle School have set this as a goal for the past several years. Gloria Deathridge, 1st District board member, added that she thinks that schools should be able to use coupon book money as they see fit. Owen asked that students at all schools be informed in advance of sales for what coupon book profits will be used.

Discussion of Regular Agenda items followed the board taking a look at policy. The first listing was the approval of \$188,373.00 transfer for the General Purpose Fund. Owen inquired about this expenditure. Gary Spencer, KCS director of finance, responded that the State of Tennessee required the addition of an Assistant Principal to

the staff at Lonsdale Elementary. Owen followed up by asking Vice Superintendent Jon Rysewyk where the funding for this position came from and he responded that \$10,000 was taken from each magnet school's budget. Deathridge expressed concern that money had been taken away from magnet school budgets without their knowledge.

Owen was the first to speak about the Leadership Academy. She stated that Knox County Schools has always had a pipeline for qualified principals as many teachers have spent their own money on advanced degrees such as an EDS or an EDD. It is estimated that 250+ teachers currently are so qualified. Furthermore, Owen added that the Leadership Academy has never been approved. She stated that she had searched the minutes of Knox County School Board meetings dating back to 2010 and found nothing indicating formal approval of this program. Owen suggested that a forensic audit may be needed in order in view of the serious mismanagement of funds that goes back several years.

Representatives Fugate and Hill both expressed concern about ending the relationship with the University of Tennessee at Knoxville if the Leadership Academy is terminated. General Counsel Dupler agreed that this is the matter that will be voted upon on Wednesday evening.

Deathridge spoke in favor

of continuing the Leadership Academy because she thinks it has advanced the place of women and minorities in the leadership of Knox County Schools. She would like to see the necessary improvements made but ultimately keep the program.

Owen stated that she thinks there is a lot of confusion about the Leadership Academy. For example, where does funding come from? Some have said "Race to the Top" money funds the academy. Owen said nothing is clear. Even after contacting the Knox County Schools accounting department she was told,

"we only know our numbers," and were told a "private donor" was funding part of the program.

Board members Amber Rountree, Fugate and Hill and others acknowledge that Knox County Schools needs some sort of leadership preparation program but think this can be accomplished more economically and equitably than it is currently being done.

In the Public Forum Ms. Candace Bannister, a Knox County citizen and teacher in Knox County Schools, addressed the board about deficits in the schools like lack of copy paper and colored ink for making student

hand-outs. She stated that if we (Knox County Schools) can spend \$800,000-\$900,000 per year on the Leadership Academy, we should be able to fill needs in the classroom.

In the Board Forum, Deathridge congratulated the Austin-East theatre Group for winning several competitions. Representative Susan Horn also congratulated Farragut High School for coordinating a successful food drive between the three Farragut schools for the Love Kitchen.

## November is Epilepsy Awareness Month

*This is Kathleen's story:*

From a Care Giver's View

It has been a joy to be the mother and caregiver of my son Liam for the past 36 years. Liam was always the sweetest, cutest boy. He did, however, have the hardest time keeping still. When he was little he told me "It's like I have an engine in my head that just keeps running." That was before he had his first seizure at 10 years old. We were on an extended trip to Europe and Africa. He had to have many vaccines prior to the trip - too many at one time. From then on he began to have seizures. Prior to that he was perfect: healthy, handsome, funny, athletic, and smart. He still is all of those things, except for the side effects of the three anti-consultants he has to take. He is been taking these drugs for 26 years. His seizures are not controlled well and he's never been able to drive.

Lately we decided to try CBD oil in addition to the other medicines. The CBD oil has made a huge difference. Once he found the right dosage of CBD oil, his seizures have been reduced significantly

in frequency and intensity. Even his auras are gone away for the most part. Liam is in a strong relationship with Jesus Christ, has gone to Christian schools, attends church, and studies the Bible. This helps him live a full and satisfying life. He has been working for the Knoxville Area Rescue Ministry for 4 years now, and praises God for that.

Liam is grateful for the Epilepsy Foundation also. He has been to the national epilepsy walk in Washington DC, as made videos on epilepsy, has joined the epilepsy support group at the foundation, attends most epilepsy foundation recreational, awareness, and fundraising events. He and I both recommend to anyone who suffers seizures to participate in the foundation's activities. The foundation helps the epileptic and the care giver and helps them help each other.

*The Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee is here to help people living with seizure disorders. You can contact us at 865-522-4991 or go to our website [www.efeasttn.org](http://www.efeasttn.org).*

# Samantha Parris Law: Wills, Probates, Trusts

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Do you have a will? Did someone in your family pass away with or without a will? What do you do? Samantha Parris is waiting to help you with your legal challenges. She's experienced in the details of wills, trusts, and probate court. Parris has worked in this field for ten years and has owned her own firm for the past three years. If there's a question about contesting a will, naming executors, questioning claims against an estate, or just about any other matter dealing with challenges or defense of estates, you'll find that she's up on the law. "I love going to court," Parris told The Focus, adding, "I enjoy

working with my clients and guiding them to the best options." Parris said she once was involved with an estate where there was no will that had to be divided among 27 relatives, including people who had never met the deceased. She related that she often sees the sad situation where one waits too long to make a will and is no longer mentally competent. One of the biggest causes of this is dementia and/or Alzheimer's. If a person is no longer competent, it is too late for that person to make a will. Parris has also litigated cases for a spouse that was left out of a will, or where the deceased left a will that predated the marriage. Expenses owed by the deceased can also be

an issue. These are usually paid out of what remains of the estate, but anyone wanting payment must prove their claim. That would include funeral expenses, credit card debt, medical expenses, and personal loans. She said that in one case claims were made on an estate, but the receipts were found to be signed by the deceased after his death. Why specialize in Wills and Trusts? "I was an accounting major in undergraduate school. Math and the law come together in wills and trusts. It is a good fit for me," she said. To start the probate process, she normally meets with the executor named in the will. Occasionally, she runs into an invalid will or no will at

all. The next step is to bring the estate before the probate court. Having a valid will, power of attorney and advanced care plan made while you are healthy is the best way to protect your family when you can no longer do so yourself. Parris encourages everyone to make these important preparations now. Parris is a Gibbs High School and UT Law School graduate and has the highest ranking in Martindale-Hubbell. She opened her business in the Fountain City area and is active in her local community, including serving on the Board of Directors of the Fountain City Business and Professional Association. The Samantha Parris Law Offices is located at 4610 Central Avenue Pike, Suite 102. You can call her at (865)687-8744, email her at Samantha@sparrislaw.com, or find her online at www.samanthaparrislaw.com.



Samantha Parris



Rosie's World

## Poems for the elderly

When I was in high school I was fortunate enough not to have to take the subject English but I was introduced to English Literature which also led me to the subject of Poetry. Some of it was nonsensical, some of it was way over my head, but I enjoyed most of it, especially since I've gotten older. Cornelius Plantinga, who is President of a Seminary in Michigan, admonishes us that aging doesn't have to mean decline; make it a pilgrimage of hope. Cicero says cultivate a calm and judicious life from the time you are young, and then let your life ripen. Poetry is one way of doing that. Here are a few nostalgic poems to consider:

Your Arm Around Me  
Put your arm around me  
There--like that.  
I want a little petting  
At life's setting,  
For it is harder to be brave  
When feeble age comes creeping  
And finds me weeping,  
Dear ones gone.  
Just a little petting  
At life's setting  
for I am old and tired  
And my long life's work is done.

Here are two quotes from Bob Marley that should be uplifting:  
"Love would never leave us alone"  
and "We should really love each other in peace and harmony, instead we're

fussin' n fighting like we ain't supposed to be."  
Robert Browning said it best: "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made."  
My last poem was quoted at my grandmother's funeral and it stirs fond memories in my heart:  
God hath not promised skies always blue.  
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through.  
God hath not promised sun without rain  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.  
But God hath promised strength for the day.  
Rest for the labor, light for the way.  
Grace for the trials, help from above  
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

This lovely poem was written by Annie Johnson Flint, a poetess born in 1866 in New Jersey. For those of you who have access to a computer Google Annie Flint, her life is a remarkable story.  
Enjoying poetry at any age is uplifting, but, when you're elderly, it makes the days brighter, the hours all-consuming and the minutes fly by.  
Thought for the day: For flowers that bloom about our feet, for tender grass, so fresh, so sweet. For song of bird and hum of bee; for all things we hear or see, Father in heaven, we thank Thee!  
Ralph Waldo Emerson  
Send comments to rosemerrie@att.net or call 865-748-4717. Thank you.

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Residents turned out to the Thursday, Nov. 8 meeting of the Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission to protest proposed developments in their neighborhoods.

## MPC discusses the definition of 'land'

By Pete Gawda

A simple definition of a four letter word, "land," was the cause of a lengthy discussion at the Thursday, November 8 meeting of the Knoxville/ Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission.

After considerable discussion the MPC denied the concept plan of applicant Scott Davis for Harpers Grove subdivision on the northwest side of S. Northside Dr., north of Charlottesville Blvd.

The commission and the applicant were using different definitions of the word "land."

The MPC's denial was based on the fact that the lots would be less than one acre, the minimum size for lots on land zoned Agricultural. Davis contended that the lots would meet minimum size requirements if he were allowed to use land that extended under the summer level of Lake Loudon as established by the TVA . He contended that nowhere do regulations state that lot size must be calculated above the summer level. He contended that the land below the summer level can be counted toward lot size.

"The applicant is, in my opinion, using a contorted definition," stated commission attorney Steve Wise. "Property underwater would result in unusual and bizarre results. This logic, taken to extreme, does not hold water."

**Continue on page 4**

# New to computers? Confused? Tech Nav can help



Charlie Harbin of Tech Nav disassembles a laptop. "I heard the complaints of customers who say 'I wish someone could just come to my house and fix this for me,'" he commented on how he conceived his business.

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Charlie and Victory Harbin help people learn how to navigate the computer world, hence the name Tech Nav. The couple offers their expertise in clients' homes to teach, repair and or restore desktops, laptops, iPads and smartphones.

Charlie found that even with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and years of experience he wasn't being challenged in his IT position to the level he wanted. He's pursuing an MBA while chasing his dreams with the new company.

"We do software training in the homes and also offer phone support," Charlie explained. He says the most common problems they see are "Scareware attacks" on computers. These take over a computer and demand the owner to call a number and pay a fee to get the device restored.

"We can come to a home or meet someone in a coffee shop or other place. Not everyone has a younger person at home that can help

them," he added.

Victory said the couple visits with elderly at assisted living homes to teach older people the basics of operating a computer, the basics of email or using social media.

"We had a 97-year-old lady who bought her first laptop. We worked with her to teach her the basics and how to use the mouse pad," she said.

The company began a few months ago when Charlie decided to leave the corporate world behind and venture out on his own. The Harbins are promoting Tech Nav door to door, leaving flyers, visiting senior centers, and using Facebook , the internet and The Knoxville Focus.

Their business is picking up and most of the customers are calling them and referring others for their assistance.

"We can work into people's schedules. I can pick up the laptop, repair it, and drop it off to the person," Charlie said, adding that Tech Nav is a "traveling tech support company that focuses on meeting needs

### Tips from Tech Nav

- Don't call that number that appears on your screen when it freezes.
- Back up your data.
- Be mindful of public Wi-Fi.
- Bust off the dust.
- Update when Microsoft sends updates out.
- Have a different password for each website you use.

without interrupting a client's day."

"We help people connect with loved ones through technology without stress," Victory said.

Tech Nav charges are very reasonable and start at about \$65 for new device set ups, broken device repair, upgrades, tune ups, virus scans, and troubleshooting. Lessons are only \$50 when you

**Continue on page 2**

## Nominations for the 2018 Orchid Awards Are Open

Keep Knoxville Beautiful is now accepting nominations from the public for its beautification awards, the Orchids. Since 1979, Keep Knoxville Beautiful has presented Orchid Awards to Knoxville and Knox County buildings and outdoor spaces that beautify and elevate the local landscape.

Orchid Awards will be granted in the following six categories:

- New Architecture
- Redesign/Reuse
- Restaurant/Cafe/Bar/Brewery
- Outdoor Space (Parks, Patios, Rooftop Gardens, Neighborhoods, etc.)
- Public Art (Murals, Sculptures, Signage, etc.)
- Environmental Stewardship (Properties that incorporate renewable materials, energy efficiency, LEED certification and/or other sustainable building practices)

**Continue on page 4**



# Fall Tire Sale

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# New Ethics members seated

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Three new members of the Knox County Ethics Committee were seated Wednesday morning during the quarterly meeting of that appointed body.

Joining the committee were Michael Covington and Billy Stephens, appointed by the Knox County Commission, and Jennifer Roche, appointed by Mayor Tim Burchett.

The committee also reorganized, selecting Attorney Jonathan Cooper as chair, Mae Killebrew-Mosley as vice chair, and re-appointing Barbara Chandler as secretary. Other members of Ethics are Raj Patel, Gina Oster and Roy Kruse.

Non-voting members include Knox County Commissioner John Schoonmaker, Captain James Carson of the sheriff's office, and Dean Rice of the county mayor's office.

Attorney David Buuck



Seated as new members of the Knox County Ethics Committee were, left to right, Billy Stephens, Jennifer Roche and Michael Covington.

briefed the new members on the duties of the committee. He said that Knox County's Ethics Rules go beyond state law and bans any official with a conflict taking part in a discussion.

He said the existence of the Ethics Committee has "kept everybody in line" and spoke of the county's hotline, how complaints are considered, and noted that the County Law Department has a former

FBI agent on hand to investigate complaints.

Buuck also informed the committee that a complaint would be considered if it was witnessed first-hand and that hearsay is not admissible.

No issues are before the Ethics Committee at present and the next scheduled meeting is February 14th, although when issues arrive the committee can meet in a called session.

## Tech Nav

**Cont. from page 1**  
purchase three sessions and data transfers with a backup is \$75.

"We have a passion about empowering people through education. With patience and a bit of knowledge most things in the tech world are within reach" Charlie said.

"We're excited to be

part of using technology to strengthen relationships. We love to help people connect with their loved ones," Victory said.

You can reach Charlie and Victory by calling (865) 210-9555 or email them at [contact@technav.org](mailto:contact@technav.org). Their website is [www.technav.org](http://www.technav.org).

# How do they afford those things?

Money—it's something that most of us are short on. It is the means by which we can gain things that we need and want. What amazes me is how prices of things have gone up so much over

the years. I often wonder how folks manage to pay for the items they buy.

During my sophomore year in college, the old '54 Chevy gave up the ghost and died in the dorm parking lot. My older brother talked to my mother to convince her to borrow money to buy me a car. I selected a Volkswagen Beetle. It was brand-spanking new. The cost for that vehicle was \$2600. Excited to own a new car but embarrassed that I had to ask my mother to purchase it, I drove that Bug off the lot.

Today, the cheapest model of the VW Beetle averages \$19,995. That equates to an increase in price of almost 8 times what the car cost back then. Yeah, I get that these are different times and that cars are much nicer than they were; however, the fact remains that a Beetle is still a Beetle. I watch men who are mad with desire for trucks plunk down \$40-50,000 to own them. They finance the things for 7 years, which is much longer than the life of most heavily used vehicles.



By Joe Rector  
joerector@comcast.net

Amy and I bought a house after we'd been married a couple of years. It was one built by the vocational building trades class at Doyle High School. We bid \$32,000 for a house that had

a living room, kitchen and eating area, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a half-basement.

A couple of years later, we built a house in Ball Camp. It had two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a large living room and kitchen, eating area, garage, deck, and screened porch on a one-acre lot. We financed our finances to afford this \$36,000 house. The \$241.00 a month payment came with 9% interest. It also included escrow for mortgage insurance and taxes. We tightened our belts and did without some things to be able to afford this house. In fact, we still live there, although the place has undergone two additions and renovations over the years.

At the present time, the median listing price for a house in Knoxville is \$185,000, and the price per square foot for construction is \$114. That means for a 2400-square foot house, the size of my residence, a person would pay \$266,400. For a 30-year loan with a 3.92% fixed rate, the payment for the

house would be \$777.31. That doesn't include taxes and mortgage insurance. The payments alone equal \$9400 a year, only \$600 more than I made each year when we built our home.

Surprisingly, the cost for renting an apartment isn't much better these days. Amy and I rented a three-bedroom house for \$125 a month before building our house. The average rent in Knoxville in 2015 was \$723. How in the world do families find enough money to pay for a place to live? Things worsen when the cost of utilities is included. A 915-square foot apartment has an average monthly utility payment of \$145. So, just to secure housing costs an individual \$11,000 a year.

I could go on about other skyrocketing prices for such things as food and gas, but the costs for vehicles and housing produce enough sticker shock for me. I suppose folks must be raking in huge hunks of money these days. If not, they are treading water fast just to keep their heads above the currents of debt. I don't see how a young family makes it, and I worry that prices in the future will only go higher. Sure the wealthy won't have problems with cash but we who are middle class are that lucky.

So, my question, once again, is how do folks afford those things?

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# Clyde Roark Hoey of North Carolina

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

For decades, Clyde Roark Hoey was one of North Carolina's most personally popular politicians. Even well before his death, Clyde R. Hoey was something of a caricature. Always immaculately dressed, Hoey favored a frock coat and bat-wing collar long after the style had fallen out of fashion. Hoey wore his hair long and as he aged, it turned white and flowed over his collar. Certainly, his appearance was remarkable and if he wished to be noticed, Hoey succeeded admirably. Clyde R. Hoey was almost invariably pointed out by visitors in the Senate Gallery. Hoey may have also had the most appropriate name for a politician in history (pronounced HOO-ee).

Clyde R. Hoey won virtually every office within the gift of the people of North Carolina, serving as a congressman, governor, and United States senator. Hoey was part of the "Shelby Dynasty", a successful political machine that ruled state government in North Carolina for twenty years. The origin of the machine was Shelby, North Carolina whence it got its name. There was an informal agreement between Democratic Party leaders the governorship would alternate between the eastern and western sections of the state. The first governor to be elected by the Shelby machine was O. Max Gardner, who was Clyde R. Hoey's brother-in-law. Both Gardner and Hoey had married well; Gardner was married into the politically powerful Webb family, while Hoey had married Gardner's sister, Bess.

Gardner earned a reputation as a most able and excellent governor. Gardner was succeeded as governor by John C. B. Ehringhaus, who was in turn succeeded by Clyde R. Hoey.

Born December 11, 1877 in Shelby, Clyde R. Hoey received little formal education. After age eleven, Hoey spent most of his time working on the family farm, although at twelve he became a printer's assistant. Evidently he saved his money, as he bought a weekly newspaper when he was only sixteen years old. Hoey began studying law and was admitted to the Bar.

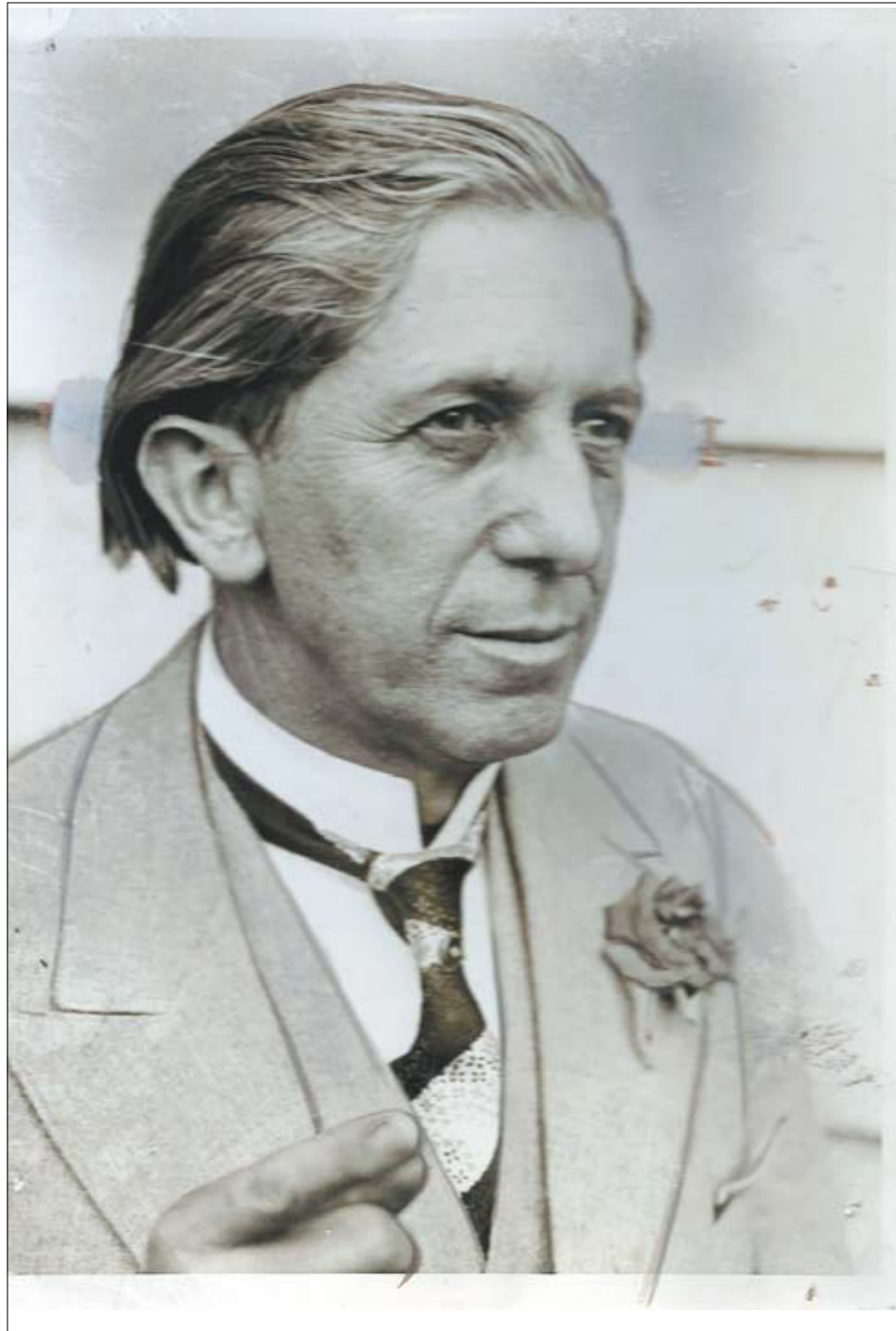
Hoey adapted quickly

to politics, winning his first election to the North Carolina House of Representatives when he was twenty. Four years later, Hoey was elected to the State Senate. When the Democrats won the presidential election in 1912, Clyde R. Hoey was appointed as assistant U.S. attorney the following year.

Hoey won a seat in Congress after Representative Edwin Y. Webb had resigned to accept an appointment to a federal judgeship. Hoey only served two years in Congress, choosing to return home to North Carolina and his business interests and law practice.

Hoey was the candidate of the Shelby machine in the 1936 to run for governor. His path to the governor's mansion was not an easy one, as he faced fierce competition from Ralph McDonald. Hoey's campaign was seriously complicated by the record of his predecessor, Governor Ehringhaus, who had successfully forced a sales tax through the North Carolina legislature. The battle over the imposition of a sales tax was hard fought and McDonald had been one of the leaders against the new tax. An effort was made to repeal the sales tax and Governor Ehringhaus had to use every means at his disposal to preserve the new revenue flowing into the state's nearly empty coffers.

McDonald was an unusual politician for North Carolina; he had only lived in the state for twelve years, having been a college professor in Illinois before moving to the Tar Heel State. McDonald was an enthusiastic supporter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. The leaders of the Shelby machine were outwardly supportive of FDR, but were not enthused about much of the New Deal. The machine had seen some setbacks, not the least of which was the defeat of Senator Cameron Morrison in 1932. Morrison, a former governor, had been appointed to the Senate following the death of Senator Lee S. Overman. Morrison was challenged by Robert Rice Reynolds, a perennial candidate and virtually everyone thought the senator would win easily. Reynolds,



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Clyde Roark Hoey in 1936.

a thoroughly engaging man, ran a highly unusual campaign. Morrison's wife was extraordinarily wealthy and Reynolds shamelessly portrayed the senator as an out of touch and gluttonous rich man. Reynolds would gleefully read from the menu of the Mayflower Hotel where Senator Morrison lived in Washington, D. C. "Buncombe Bob" Reynolds would take his audience through an orgy of food choices, implying Morrison did little but eat breakfast, lunch and dinner at the elegant hotel.

To the surprise of almost everyone, Bob Reynolds upset Cameron Morrison in the primary and went on to easily win the general election.

Ralph McDonald campaigned fervently in 1936 against the sales tax and for the New Deal. McDonald loudly denounced the Shelby machine.

Clyde R. Hoey, despite his old fashioned appearance, was very well liked, an excellent speaker and was well known as a leading Methodist. McDonald did his best to paint Hoey as a creature of O. Max Gardner and as the former governor was Hoey's brother-in-law, it was impossible for him to extricate himself. Hoey promised, if elected, to remove the sales tax from necessities, like food and medicine. Clyde R. Hoey also made a point to praise New Deal programs like Social Security and aid to farmers. Hoey scraped by McDonald in a run-off

election.

Governor Hoey kept his word and worked closely with federal officials to get the most out of New Deal programs for North Carolina. The one exception was the Works Progress Administration (WPA); North Carolina was last in the nation in WPA spending.

Hoey was appalled when President Roosevelt proposed to expand the U. S. Supreme Court, but said little publicly. Governor Hoey was hardly excited at the prospect of Franklin Roosevelt seeking a third term as president in 1940. Hoey thought Secretary of State Cordell Hull should be nominated to run that year. Once again, he was relatively quiet about his objections, but his administration was that of a pro-business, conservative Democrat.

While serving as governor, Hoey left each day to trudge down the street to the drug store where he would enjoy a single Coca-Cola. Clyde R. Hoey's political career might very well have ended after he left the governorship had it not been for his brother-in-law's ailing health. O. Max Gardner had become an astonishingly successful attorney and was the leading candidate to oppose Senator Robert R. Reynolds in 1944.

Despite his high popularity following his initial election to the Senate, Reynolds became increasingly erratic, especially after being reelected in 1938.

Reynolds was the most notable isolationist in the Southland. Most Southerners were noted for their strong internationalist views, but "Buncombe Bob" flirted with fascism and married Evelyn Walsh, the young daughter of the owner of the fabulous Hope Diamond. Reynolds had been married numerous times and by 1944 he was largely disgraced and discredited. Senator Reynolds wanted to run again, but thought better of it.

O. Max Gardner was poised to run for the Senate, but finally decided against it. At age sixty-seven, Clyde R. Hoey announced he was running for the United States Senate. Hoey remained popular and faced Congressman Cameron Morrison in the Democratic primary. Hoey easily defeated Morrison and North Carolina was then still a solidly Democratic state. The Republicans posed no real threat to Hoey's election in the fall.

Being elected to the United States Senate was the crowning achievement of his political career and serving as a senator was a role Clyde R. Hoey relished.

At seventy-three, Hoey was reelected to a second term in the Senate. Until the last moment he fretted that former senator Bob Reynolds would try to reclaim his seat in the U.S. Senate. Reynolds was utterly unpredictable and his young wife had either

died from an accidental overdose of sleeping pills or committed suicide. Reynolds was left with a small daughter; that child was quite wealthy through inheritance from what remained of one of the country's great fortunes. Yet Bob Reynolds was at somewhat loose ends. He had built a home with a sweeping view of Asheville, but missed the prominence, prestige and attention of being a senator.

"Buncombe Bob" was seriously thinking about running again in 1950, but he finally concluded Hoey was too entrenched and popular. He opted to run in a special election for North Carolina's other Senate seat. Reynolds gamely tried to campaign, but quickly realized he couldn't win. He ran a poor third in the first primary. Senator Clyde Hoey was reelected without opposition.

Tall, gaunt, slightly stooped, Hoey's was a familiar figure in post-world war Washington. Tour guides enjoyed pointing out Senator Hoey to visitors to the Capitol in his old-fashioned ties, frock coat, and high-topped shoes. Hoey was also easily recognizable from the fresh carnation he pinned to his lapel every day.

Despite his advancing years, Hoey earned something of a scandalous reputation amongst the female secretaries on Capitol Hill. Bobby Baker, who first came to the Senate as a thirteen year old page in 1943 and rose to become Secretary of the Senate, recalled in his oral history with the Senate Historian's Office that many of the women were wary of encountering the courtly and apparently lecherous senator.

Hoey had the difficult and politically perilous task of heading a subcommittee charged with investigating the "five percenter" scandals during the administration of President Harry S. Truman. Senator Hoey was slowing down, but worked hard at his job. He returned to his suite in the Senate Office Building on May 13, 1954 and sat down at his desk, where he apparently suffered a stroke and died.

Senator Hoey was found by an aide, still seated at his desk, dead.

"He went the way he wished," another aide said. That same aide recounted Hoey had said when death finally found him, he hoped it would come while he was still active.

Senator Hoey was taken home to North Carolina by his two sons and buried. After he had died, Margaret Chase Smith, the only woman serving in the U. S. Senate, quietly placed a lone carnation on Clyde Hoey's empty desk inside the Senate Chamber.

**Pam Russell**  
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# Change



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

It is a part of our daily lives. Our looks change; our circumstances change; our lifestyles may change; and our routines often change.

A look at nature reminds us that the seasons change as beautiful autumn days full of multicolored leaves take on the look of a winter-like

landscape.

I have seen many changes since I first started writing this true, human-interest column 355 columns ago!

Sometimes, I glance back briefly so I can embrace where I am today and then look ahead. What started out as my reflections on life-changing events in "Life

is a Gift" and the late Zane Daniel (criminal defense attorney) and later in "The Real McCoy" with Dr. Kyle McCoy (our mother's cardiologist) has expanded to more stories than I could have ever imagined!

As I was struggling to find topics, a book review of "Heaven is for Real" was the next column in "Glimpses of Glory."

Focus readers may remember my features on our hometown

congressman and the cowboys of Hollywood; teachers, coaches, and veterans; beloved pets and nature; celebrities and neighbors; doctors and dentists; churches and schools; family and friends; tributes to many we have lost; heartbreaking events and stories of hope; and farm life, community, and special celebrations.

The most frequent comment I hear from Focus readers is that they always

look for the Bible verse often included in my column.

Psalms 100:4 (KJV) seems perfect for this season: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

In this season of change, be sure to look for a change in my column in the near future!

Blessings and Happy Fall!

## Nominations for the 2018 Orchid Awards Are Open

**Cont. from page 1**

Anyone can nominate a location or outdoor public artwork by completing a simple online form on Keep Knoxville Beautiful's website, [keep-knoxvillebeautiful.org](http://keep-knoxvillebeautiful.org), or by calling the office at 865-521-6957. Private residences are not considered for this award. Properties that received an Orchid Award since 2008 are ineligible, except in cases of major renovations. For a list of previous winners, visit the

Keep Knoxville Beautiful website. Nominations are due by Friday, December 18, 2017.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful will announce the winners of the beautification awards at the annual Orchids Awards Dinner on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 6:00 at The Standard, 416 W. Jackson Avenue.

For more information, contact Keep Knoxville Beautiful at [info@keep-knoxvillebeautiful.org](mailto:info@keep-knoxvillebeautiful.org).

## MPC discusses the definition of 'land'

**Cont. from page 1**

"We do not have the authority to authorize use of land under water," Jeffrey Roth stated. "I don't think we can allow the acreage under water to apply."

"It is not logical to me," was the opinion of Chair Rebecca Longmire. "Previously we have said that anything underwater is not land."

In other business, with no discussion the MPC approved amendments to the Knox County Zoning Ordinance establishing a Rural Preservation Zoning District (RP). The intent of the zoning is to allow owners of large tracts of farmland to preserve their land for active farming. The zoning must be voluntarily requested by the property owner. Uses of such land are limited to those uses compatible with long-term agricultural productivity. The zoning is designed to conserve agricultural and forest land, water supply and natural, scenic or historic resources.

An unacceptable increase in traffic was the reason given for denying the request of developer H.E.

Bittle III to change zoning from Technology Park/Business and Technology to Low Density Residential/Planned Residential. The property in question is located on the northwest side of Coward Mill Road northeast side of Pellissippi Parkway. The commission did not think that proposed future road improvements were sufficient reasons to approve the request. Several area residents protested the increased traffic that more residential development would bring.

"We continue to voice our opposition," stated area resident Debra Pettit. "This should not be allowed to proceed unless roads are completed." Citing the number of accidents on Coward Mill Road this year she said, "Putting any additional traffic on this road would be a real problem."

The owner of a discount tire store was denied one location for his store and received approval for another location. The MPC denied rezoning that would allow the tire business to open a store on the south side of S. Northshore Drive and

the north side of Osprey Point Lane. Area residents in this neighborhood also turned out to protest saying they did not want commercial development so close to their homes. One resident said the proposed tire store would be "an absolute disaster."

With no public opposition the MPC approved a zoning change that would allow the store to open another location on the southeast side of Moss Grove Blvd, south of Kingston Pike.

In spite of the opposition of area residents the MPC recommended the county commission change the zoning on applicant Benchmark Associates, Inc, property on the southeast side of Hardin Valley Road and the west side of Thompson Road from Agriculture/Technology to General Business. This would allow for future commercial development on the property.

Even though developers King Properties & Development, LLC promised to widen Rather Road, the MPC denied a request for rezoning from Agriculture to Planned Residential. The

developer owned sufficient right of way and planned to increase the number of lots per acre in order to finance the road work. An area resident appeared before the board and presented pictures he claimed showed how narrow the road was and that it would not handle the increased traffic of the proposed subdivision. The proposed subdivision would have been located on the south side of Rather Road east of George Light Road and Pellissippi Parkway.

The MPC voted to recommend that the Knoxville City Council close an alley between W. Emerald Ave. and W. Oldham Ave. at the request of North Knoxville Baptist Church provided that it become a private easement accessible to the public. The reason for the closure was that the church wanted to install an awning on their building where the alley intersects the church parking lot and building property.

Chair Rebecca Longmeyer and Vice Chair Janice Tocher were both nominated for another term.

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## TSSAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

# A cold night turns 'white hot' for South-Doyle

By Steve Williams

A play called "white hot" warmed the hearts of South-Doyle High School football fans on a cold November night at Halls Friday.

It also melted the hopes and dreams of a magical season for the Red Devils.

When just about everyone was expecting the Cherokees to put the ball in the hands of one of their dynamic playmakers - Elijah Young or Ton'Quez Ball -

on third-and-goal from the 6-yard line in the game's final minute, South-Doyle's coaching staff called its last

timeout and reached far back into its playbook.

"The tight end coach said let's throw the white hot," recalled sophomore tight end Nathan Berrier. "They were blitzing inside. So Mason (Brang) just threw it up and I caught it."

"When the ball was coming down, I was thinking, 'Don't drop it, don't drop it.'"

He didn't.

The 6-yard pass to the wide open Berrier gave South-Doyle a 31-28 lead with 38.1 seconds

remaining in the Class 5A second-round thriller at Dink Adams Field and the Cherokees held on for the victory that wasn't decided until the very last second.

"I just feel excited," said the young Berrier amidst the post-game celebration. "That's my first touchdown so far as a high school player."

He also said it was only his second catch of the season. But he's "white hot" now.

The win advances South-Doyle (7-5) into this Friday night's quarterfinals against

visiting Central (7-5), which pulled out a double-overtime win at Sevier County. The survivor will play the winner of the game between Catholic and Oak Ridge in the semifinals.

"It was a play we have in the playbook, but hadn't run since Week 1 or Week 2," said South-Doyle Coach Clark Duncan of his tight end's game-winning reception. "For them to pull that out of the playbook was really special from our coaches and of course the players executed it."

The Red Devils didn't

have any timeouts left but plenty of heart.

Hunter Huff returned the ensuing kickoff 42 yards to the South-Doyle 30. The clock showed 29.4 seconds.

A false start moved the ball back to the 35. Two passes by quarterback Caden Tollett fell incomplete. A third down pass to Jordan Biliter gained five yards, but the clock was clicking off precious seconds.

Halls got its fourth down snap off just in time, but Tollett's pass into the end

zone was broken up.

Game over. Season over for the Red Devils (6-6), who won five of their last seven games and claimed the Region 2-5A title.

"I hate it for our seniors that have put in the work and done the things to put themselves in position to win the game, and we just didn't get it done," said Halls Coach J.D. Overton, who paused a couple of times in the post-game interview to console tearful players.

"All my thoughts and

**Continued on page 2**



Farragut head coach Eddie Courtney addresses his team following a 38-6 loss at Maryville in the second round of the Class 6A playoffs.

# Catholic gets revenge against Falcons 44-14

By Ken Lay

Catholic High School's football team exacted a little revenge Friday night. Last year, Fulton High went into Blaine Stadium and upset the Irish in the Class 4A Playoffs.

In 2017, a couple of things changed. The Irish and Falcons are no longer league foes and both schools moved up to Class 5A.

But they were still on a crash course to meet in the postseason and that meeting came Friday night and again, it was at Catholic. Only this time, it was the Irish who prevailed. They nabbed a 44-14 victory before a packed and spirited house in West Knoxville.

Catholic running back Joe Fluker remembered what happened in 2016 and he certainly did what he could to make sure that his team didn't have a repeat performance.

"We all remembered what happened last year," said Fluker, who scored

a pair of rushing touchdowns, including the first of the contest, that gave the Irish a 6-0 lead with 7 minutes, 33 seconds remaining in the opening frame. "I got hurt in this game last year. So tonight, I wanted to be big in this game."

"This feels really good. It started with practice this week. We wanted to make sure that we got everything perfect in practice. When we didn't we just started over again."

The hard work certainly paid off for the Irish (9-3). One of the few things that went wrong for Catholic was the game's first extra point attempt. It was blocked after the Irish were penalized for a false start.

Fluker, who finished with 42 yards on 12 carries, scored Catholic's final TD of the night on a 1-yard plunge with 9:54 remaining in the contest.

That made the score 44-8 and the mercy rule was

**Continued on page 2**

# Farragut's Season Ends at Maryville

By Alex Norman

The Farragut Admirals were hoping for yet another deep postseason run. Instead, their 2017 season came to an end on a chilly night in Blount County.

Maryville quarterback Dylan Hopkins threw for two scores and ran for another, as the Rebels beat the Admirals 38-6, in the second round of the Class 6A playoffs.

"I know we are better than we showed tonight. But we had a great year and we still take a lot of success out of this year. I'm proud of these guys," said Farragut head coach Eddie Courtney. "We did some good things. Our lack of performance tonight was

not us. I know we are better than that."

"They are very well coached like they have always been and very disciplined," said Farragut senior tight end Jacob Warren. "They are told to go do something and they go do it. We threw some special stuff at them. It worked a little bit but for the most part they were all over it."

"They are a really good football team. Really well coached, and they have some great football players," said Maryville head coach Derek Hunt. "We schemed them just like they did us, but a lot of it was that we made some big plays. We got some momentum, our defense played outstanding.

I'm just proud of our kids. They came out and fought. We talked all week about Farragut being the defending 5A state champs and I think that gave us some urgency to try to get on top early and maintain it."

Maryville sophomore A.J. Davis opened the scoring with a spectacular 73-yard punt return, giving the Rebels a 7-0 lead not even six minutes into the game.

After forcing a Farragut punt, the Maryville (11-1) offense went to work. It was a five play, 71-yard drive, culminating with a 31-yard touchdown run by Hopkins, making it 14-0 Rebels. Hopkins is a Mr. Football finalist and

**Continued on page 4**

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# Catholic gets revenge against Falcons 44-14

*Cont. from page 1*

implemented.

The Falcons (9-3) did add a late touchdown on Dorian Williamson's 28-yard scamper a short time later and regular timing rules were reinstated.

Fulton coach Robbie Black said that Catholic dominated the game.

"They were bigger and stronger than us and they whipped us tonight," Black said. "We knew that they were bigger than us and we were hoping like crazy that we could use our athleticism and make some big plays.

"We made a few but we didn't make nearly enough."

The Irish, who scored on their first four possessions, took a 13-0 lead when senior quarterback Jack Sompayrac connected with Dashon Bussell on a 58-yard scoring strike with

three minutes remaining in the inaugural frame.

Paxton Robertson extended Catholic's advantage to 16-0 with an early second-quarter field goal.

Fulton was finally able to get on the board on a 90-yard scamper by Jashaun Fenderson. The Falcons pulled to within 16-8 on a two-point conversion with 9:52 left in the second stanza.

Josh Brown helped the Irish regain control of the game when he scored on a 10-yard run to give Catholic the 23-8 advantage that enjoyed at halftime. Brown would finish the game with 142 rushing yards.

Fulton and the Irish each started the first half with long drives. Each team, however, came up empty and both squads were forced to punt after untimely miscues and penalties.

Bussell all but put the game out reach with a pair

of long scoring runs after halftime. His two explosive runs came late in the third frame. His 48-yard run made it 30-8 with 2:57 left in the period. He would add a 52-yard scamper a little more than a minute later.

Bussell, a transfer from Indiana, has emerged as a double threat on offense and he also makes big plays on defense and Irish coach Steve Matthews said that the senior has been a much-needed addition for the Irish.

"After every game, I think that we should get Dashon the ball more because he's just so electric when he has the ball in his hands."

Bussell had two receptions for 73 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed for 125 and two scores on six carries for Catholic, who travels to Oak Ridge Friday night to take on the Wildcats, who beat West High 16-6 in the second round.



PHOTO BY KELLY KEARSE

Catholic's Josh Brown leaves several Fulton defenders in his wake in the Irishmen's 44-14 second-round victory.

## A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

# Roadrunners knock off unbeaten Johnson County

By Steve Williams

Austin-East traveled to the upper northeast corner of the state to notch its second-round Class 3A playoff win Friday night.

The Roadrunners defeated previously unbeaten Johnson County 30-21 at Mountain City. Next for A-E is a rematch with the Tornadoes at Alcoa in the state quarterfinals Friday.

"They (players) are ready," said Austin-East Coach Jeff Phillips. "We can't wait for Friday."

Alcoa defeated A-E in the regular season finale at Alcoa that decided the Region 2-3A championship.

"We rallied behind our third-string quarterback and found a way to win the game," said Phillips of the win over Johnson County,

which came into the game 11-0.

"We didn't play well at times on defense but did cause some turnovers that really helped us out."

Derrion Battle had three takeaways on defense with two interceptions and a fumble recovery.

"Isaiah Ligon stepped up again for us and carried the load on offense," said Phillips.

**CENTRAL ADVANCES:** A running game and defense carried the Bobcats to a 27-20 double-overtime win in the Class 5A playoffs at Sevier County.

"It was a very emotional and intense game for both teams," said Central Coach Bryson Rosser. "It's what you come to expect out of a second round matchup between two teams that have played each other once already. The environment was electric and one of the greatest stages of our season. Our kids played really well."

Trey'sean Moore (21 carries for 119 yards and the touchdown in double-overtime) led Central's rushing attack.

Devone Moss added 73 yards on 10 carries and a TD. Quarterback Braden

Gaston threw a TD pass to Demetrien Johnson.

"Defensively, we flew around and kept a great offense on its heels," said Coach Rosser.

Marcus Johnson, Jalynn Clemons, Jakobi Troutman and Philip Young played well in the box, pointed out Rosser. Daunte Holliday had an interception late and Xavier Washington also was a standout on defense.

"Another spectacular stop inside the 5-yard line on the final three plays of double-overtime is what pushed us for the win," said Rosser.

Next up for Central is a rematch at South-Doyle in

the quarterfinals Friday. The Cherokees won the regular season game between the two teams.

**COOPER RESIGNS:** Jerry Cooper resigned as head football coach at Seymour High last Monday. He was 15-27 in his four years at Seymour, including this past season's 0-10 mark. The Eagles' only other winless season in school history came in 1962.

Seymour Athletic Director Gary Householder said the vacancy will be posted online this week and the school already has had some interest in the job.

### Prep playoff results and pairings

#### Second-Round Results

- Class 3A**  
Austin-East 30, Johnson County 21
- Class 5A**  
Central 27, Sevier County 20  
South-Doyle 31, Halls 28  
Oak Ridge 16, West 6  
Catholic 44, Fulton 14

- Class 6A**  
Maryville 38, Farragut 6

- Division II-A**  
Nashville Christian 28, The King's Academy 7

- Division II-AA**  
Notre Dame 32, Grace Christian Academy 29  
Christ Presbyterian Academy 42, Webb School 7

#### QUARTERFINAL PAIRINGS

Friday (Nov. 17)

- Class 3A**  
Austin-East (10-2) at Alcoa (10-2)
- Class 5A**  
Central (7-5) at South-Doyle (7-5)  
Catholic (9-3) at Oak Ridge (10-2)

## A cold night turns 'white hot' for South-Doyle

*Cont. from page 1*

feelings are with these seniors. This is tough to take for a young man. We've all went through it. But they're going to be better men because they played football."

Halls, which lost to South-Doyle 44-6 in the regular season, looked strong and impressive in the first half as it built a 21-0 lead.

Aaryn Spoon caught a 22-yard touchdown pass from Tollett to cap an

11-play, 80-yard game-opening march. Cooper Cook rushed for chunks of yardage and dove in from the 1 to make it 14-0 at the first stop. Huff hauled in a 49-yard pass and Briggs Marcantel added his third PAT kick.

South-Doyle got a 29-yard field goal from Austin Morse on the final play of the first half. Those three points would turn out to be huge.

The Cherokees came out of the dressing room looking like a different team.

Ball returned the kickoff 44 yards to the Halls 31. He then snagged a 19-yard

pass from Brang and the quick-footed Young scampered up the middle and into the end zone from 12 yards out.

It took just 30 seconds for the Cherokees to score.

Ball caught TD passes of 3 and 62 yards to put S-D ahead 24-21 at the end of the third quarter.

The Red Devils retook the lead 28-24 when Tollett scrambled to buy time and found Cook open for a 36-yard TD with 1:48 left.

About a minute later, the cold November night got "white hot."

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# Lady Gladiators snaps long losing streak to Black Oak Ridge rival Halls

By Ken Lay

Kiley Gray picked up her first win as Gresham Middle School's girls basketball coach Thursday. First wins are always special but the new Lady Gladiators coach got her first coaching victory over a rival.

And not just any rival. Gray guided the Lady Gladiators to a 37-19 over Halls at Central High School in a battle for Black Oak Ridge bragging rights. It was Gresham's first victory over the Lady Demons in more than a decade.

Gray was ecstatic but she gave the credit to her players.

"I'm really proud of them," Gray said after her team, which dropped a narrow

37-29 decision to Norris to open the 2016-17 campaign on Monday, Nov. 6. "They worked hard and they really earned this one."

"Our theme for the year is 'relentless.'"

The Lady Gladiators (1-1) certainly lived up to that Thursday night as they dominated the battle of the boards. Both Mackenzie Babbs and Aaniyah Johnson pulled down multiple rebounds for Gresham, which enjoyed a height advantage over the Lady Demons (0-2).

Many of those rebounds resulted in second-chance shots, most of which were converted into points for the Gladiators.

Johnson led all scorers with 21 points (including

15 before halftime). Babbs added six points and Cadence Horner finished with four for the Lady Gladiators, who led 11-8 after the first quarter as the Lady Demons were able to keep things close.

But Gresham all put the game out of reach as its advantage ballooned to 27-8 by halftime thanks to a 16-0 second-quarter run.

"This is the first time that they've beaten us in forever," Halls coach Richard Lee said. "We just couldn't do anything with their size. We had nothing for it."

"This is one of those years where we're young. We're playing seven sixth graders this year. We'll only get better as the season goes on."

While Gresham's post presence proved too much for the Lady Demons in this non-league tilt, Gray had high praise for Lexie Pendergrass, the Lady Gladiators' point guard.

"I thought Lexie did a good job running our team," Gray said.

Anna Jo Mullins scored five points to pace the Lady Demons, who open the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference portion of their schedule at home against West Valley today (Nov. 13) at 4:30 p.m.

Gresham will tangle with Vine in its league opener today.

The Lady Gladiators and Halls will play again in Halls on Jan. 9.

# Gladiators down Halls as player wins hearts of fans

By Ken Lay

The Halls Middle-Gresham Middle boys basketball rivalry is always respectful. But it's also intense as it's a game that both the Demons and Gladiators need to win to claim Black Oak Ridge bragging rights.

But Thursday night, school and community loyalties disappeared --- at least for the fourth quarter of a non-league tilt between the two longtime rivals.

Gresham, which notched a 68-39 victory last week, had the game well in hand when coach Joel Sampsel called on an inspirational player to go into the game at Central High School. Sampsel pleased the Gresham crowd when he tapped Sammy Long and told him to check into the contest midway through the final frame.

Long, a special education student at Gresham took the floor to chants of "We want Sammy" and "Sam-my, Sam-my, Sam-my" and that made the night special enough for the Gladiators (2-0) and their fans.

Long took some long-range jump shots from beyond the 3-point arc. And the crowd, which cheered wildly every time he launched a shot, finally erupted when one went through the hoop.

The Gladiators came off the bench first. Then their fans stormed out of the stands to congratulate their big man. The Halls players on the floor followed and then, it was the Demons' fans who stormed the floor as both cheer teams showered Sammy with their affection.

It was a celebration that rivaled any championship party, and to their credit, the referees didn't enforce a long-standing rule and call a technical foul. They let Long have his moment with the fans as he instantly became a superstar.

And he wasn't finished scoring. He knocked down another 3-pointer as time expired and it was again both Demons and Gladiators faithful who made a point to



Sammy Long

congratulate Long one more time before he left the floor and returned to the Gresham locker room.

He scored six points and inspired anyone who was watching.

"It's a great feeling," said Sampsel, Gresham's first-year head coach. "It's great because he works hard and he's as much of a part of this team as anybody."

"He does his sprints every day just like everybody else. This was a big win for us and it's a great feeling. It's great to see this team rally around Sammy the way that they have."

Even Halls first-year head coach Nathan Sherrod was pleased to see Sammy score.

"This is a great night for him and we're all happy for him," Sherrod said after watching his team fall to 0-2. "It's always special to see a young man get the chance to come onto the floor and get a chance like this."

Long got his break because the Gladiators used their pressure defense to create turnovers and turn them into transition buckets. Gresham led 18-10 at the end of the opening frame. The Gladiators went up 38-22 by halftime and never relinquished control of the contest.

"We had trouble breaking their press and that's my fault," Sherrod said. "We should've had a better break."

"The kids gave a great effort."

Gresham's Darian Bailey had 19 points to lead all scorers. Jeremiah Jeffers added 13 while Carson Jessie and Nick Ellis finished with 10 points each.

Keaton Kid led the Demons with 12 points.

# Lady Bulldogs look to bounce back

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School's girls basketball team opened the 2016-17 season winning a school-record 19 consecutive games.

But things went awry for the Lady Bulldogs during the postseason. Bearden won the District 4-AAA regular-season championship for the third consecutive year. Their only loss before the playoffs came to Hardin Valley Academy at home before a packed house on a Friday night.

Bearden, which went 24-4 last season, would emerge victorious in its final five regular-season games and hold the coveted top seed in the District 4-AAA Tournament. The Lady Bulldogs earned an automatic bid to the Region 2-AAA Tournament.

But Bearden couldn't nab a postseason victory. The Lady Bulldogs lost to Maryville in the tournament semifinals before falling to the Lady Hawks in the third-place game.

Bearden, which went 24-4 last year, had its campaign come to an end at Oak Ridge where it lost to the Lady Bobcats, who would eventually win the region title and advance to the Class AAA State Tournament.

The Lady Bulldogs will enter the 2017-18 season looking to erase the disappointment that was the final stage of the season. They have six returners from last year's team.

During this run that has seen the Lady Bulldogs win



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

**Tennova Tip-off Classic.** Austin-East junior Larrinna Bullard (4) uses a screen from Trinity Turner and drives for a layup at last week's Tennova Tip-off Classic at Thompson-Boling Arena. Bullard scored all 15 of her team's points in an 18-15 loss to Catholic.

the regular-season title in Tennessee's toughest district, Bearden has played its best when it has shared the basketball.

"The biggest thing for us is that these girls have embraced the team concept," Lady Bulldogs coach Justin Underwood said. "We've had girls who have sacrificed personal stats for the team."

Bearden certainly had a balanced attack in the Tennova Tip-off Classic Wednesday night at Thompson-Boling Arena in a 23-6 victory over Gibbs in a 12-minute game.

Jakhya Davis led the Lady Bulldogs with five points. Grace van Rij, Jah'niya Buswell, Trinity Lee and Tytiara Spikes scored four points each.

Top returners for the Lady Bulldogs include: Lee (senior point guard); van Rij (a senior center); Davis (a sophomore post player);

Spikes (junior, guard/forward); Annaka Hall (junior, guard/forward) and Shekinah McLaughlin (junior, point guard)

In other girls games Wednesday:

**Webb 22, Powell 19:** Macy Barnes hit four 3-pointers to help the Lady Spartans outlast the Lady Panthers. Barnes is one of seven freshmen expected to make significant contributions for Webb this season. She played on Farragut Middle School's county championship team last year.

Powell got 10 points from Haley Schubert, a returning starter for coach John Fisher's squad.

**Farragut 11, Fulton 8:** Sophomore Madison Hodge scored seven points for the Lady Admirals, who went 12-14 last season. Farragut had a down year due to injuries in 2016-17 but the Lady Admirals have some lofty expectations. Their season

starts Tuesday night when they host White County at the Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

**Central 13, West 9:** Ashton Blair scored six points to lead the Lady Bobcats past the Lady Rebels.

**Halls 19, South Doyle 10:** Tom Poisal started his tenure as the Lady Devils coach on a winning note Wednesday night. Halls freshman scored 10 points while senior Panda Riggs added eight.

Mikayla Dunn led the Lady Cherokees with six points.

The opening night of the Tennova Tip-off Classic was Monday, Nov. 6. In five games, Catholic edged Austin-East 19-15; Berean Christian edged Tennessee School for the Deaf 14-11; Carter beat Christian Academy of Knoxville 23-10; Concord Christian outlasted Karns 9-7 and Hardin Valley Academy routed The King's Academy 17-5.

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

**Books and observations**

People talk about spring cleaning, but for me fall is a much busier time of the year. It seems that people put off their annual exams as long as possible, and then finally decide to “get it done.” Fortunately, I now have time to accommodate last-minute requests of my concierge patients, since I no longer have an office and a large medical practice.

One benefit of a concierge practice is the absence of waiting rooms since I make house calls. And another benefit for patients is that I run on time because I no longer balance thousands of patients and a hospital practice. I always hated the necessity of a “waiting room.” Like most Americans, I don’t particularly like waiting for medical attention or standing in the grocery checkout line where magazines are displayed with images of people I’ve never heard of.

I was always interested in the books that patients brought to my office and waiting room. I guess they preferred a good book to worn out office magazines where all the good articles and recipes had been torn out by other “waiters.” My dentist has the best magazine selection in the known universe. However, he’s always on time so I don’t have the opportunity to peruse his literature. Perhaps this is why all his magazines seem to be intact. I won’t share with you my non-scientific observational survey of the doctor with the worst office magazine selection.

These days, I occasionally wait on my patients as they attend to last minute details in their home. This affords me the opportunity to scan their book shelves. In another of my non-scientific surveys, the most memorable book I’ve encountered was not the common

and obligatory coffee table book (which no one reads), but a book on aging by the Roman statesman, Cicero (circa 50 BC). You can tell a lot about a person from what they read - or even what they write.

Most of my readers know me far better than I know them. This includes friends who read my stories. I feel strongly that you must write about what interests you or what’s on your heart at the moment, otherwise your words will ring as contrived or hackneyed. I write this opinion column as an avocation, not a vocation. And I write about what’s on my mind in the few days prior to my editorial deadline each Friday morning.

I learned this week that the term sexual harassment was coined by Lin Farley in 1975. Harassment is defined as “aggressive pressure or intimidation.” A synonym for sexual harassment might be coercion of a sexual nature which implies a hierarchy of power. In other words, powerful men can harass women, but can women harass men?

About seven years ago I hustled to the hospital one day during lunch to check on a patient. As I hurried through the nursing station to get the patient’s chart, several nurses called out a friendly, “Hey, Dr. Ferguson.” I waved my hand

to them as I hurried down the hall and replied, “Heidi Ho!” The next day the nursing supervisor called me aside to say that one of the nurses alleged that I had called her a whore. I was gob slapped. Apparently, this young white nurse had never seen Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. I was exonerated of course, and the investigation revealed dysfunction in the nurse’s personal life which was transferred to me. In medicine, transference is a common cause for malpractice complaints. And, if used politically it’s even more pernicious.

We’ve seen many recent cases of women teachers who have apparently been harassing students. Apparently, these cougars prowl high school hallways. But, can teachers become victims if trolled by, for instance, large football players or imaginative teenagers? Again, the definition seems hierarchical. As a doctor I was deemed more powerful than the young nurse, but perhaps I was the victim, though I reject this all too frequently used moniker.

What if someone sees himself as unworthy or inferior to someone else and then identifies as a victim? Can this lead to a claim of harassment? When I was a youngster I was bullied by a neighborhood kid who

actually looked like the bully in the movie A Christmas Story. Once, establishing a pecking order was almost a rite of passage, and my crooked nose is a testament to the journey. Kids today don’t seem to be learning how to handle a schoolyard bully or a pig like Harvey Weinstein. But I shouldn’t be critical of millennials because few in Hollywood or even the California state legislators know how to handle a bully.

The American media have become bullies and disparage and harass a large segment of the American people. The media display a thinly veiled disdain of Christians and those who identify with Americanism. And their overt hatred of Trump is more than just a difference in opinion or ideology.

Republicans have become the victims of the media to the point that these elected officials no longer represent the 84% of the counties and the thirty states won by Trump last year. Like the NFL leadership who chose their employees over their customers -with disastrous consequences - feckless Republicans have succumbed to bullying and harassment by the media and have chosen to seek the favor of Swamp creatures rather than honor their promises to voters.

Apparently, our leaders never learned the schoolyard lesson that bullies never stop unless they are confronted. Notable examples of this truth are the “Rocket Man” of North Korea and Harvey Weinstein. I admire the pugnacious anti-swamp nature of Trump who apparently learned his lessons well on the schoolyards of Queens. Though I might wish for more decorum, I’ll admit that I’ve spouted invectives in the heat of battle just like my President.

Do you ever get tired of the relentless negativity, the rampant dishonesty and the ruthless anti-American and anti-God cabal? Many people have just quit listening, quit reading and have hunkered down in the hope that they won’t be targeted by the bullies. I assure you that running away won’t work. In the Bible Job, Jonah and the Psalmist all discovered this lesson. And neither can we run away because we are in a battle against evil and against the destructive policies of progressive liberalism.

America is the last great hope of freedom. We The People of Mainstreet must stand against the bullies and destroyers for our sake and our children’s.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)

# Hobo’s Holiday Travel Tips

Well folks let’s face it—the holiday season is upon us and Hobo is ready to ride. Hobo the Wonder Dog is always ready for the adventure of travel as we go over the river and through the woods with a wag of his tail and a click in his step—he is ready in an instant. Holiday travel with your trusted four legged family members can present challenges beyond the logistics of packing treats and bedding. Aunt Peggy might not have the enthusiasm to roll out the red carpet for Fido and welcome him with open arms. No matter the family, there’s always drama and stress. Hobo wants to give you the tools to navigate the holiday travel where the whole family can be together and make this the best holiday season



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

ever. The five P’s always come to mind when traveling—and especially when traveling with Hobo the Wonder Dog. Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance; whether in battle or family, preparing for Fido is key to successful travel with your pet. Be realistic, if the host of your holiday extravaganza is not a dog lover chances are Fido is going to have uphill challenges during his trip. In Hobo’s humble opinion, if the party host is not excited for his arrival he would prefer to sit it out. Dogs can sense in a heartbeat animosity toward them making everyone uncomfortable.

Know when it’s better to make Fido comfortable at home. I am sure there have been times Hobo

wondered in his mind; “why am I here.” I have made the mistake of forging onward with Hobo in situations I hadn’t thought through. If you know Aunt Peggy is going to be uncomfortable and reluctantly says, “oh sure, bring Hobo we would love to see him.” Recognize this gesture of family inclusiveness as heartfelt but, know leaving Hobo behind will be more comfortable for all during the holiday gathering.

Hobo’s home away from home: Crate training is the best thing I did for Hobo—he loves his crate it’s his “dog cave” and he loves it. Hobo feels safe, secure, and comfortable when in his crate. The crate is decked out with familiar bedding, his favorite squeaky toy, and a treat. The crate provides a safe place for Hobo to relax when he has had too much togetherness at a party or he needs to chill at a

hotel. If you haven’t crate trained your pooch you want to do this before you travel. Most dogs do well with crate training, start slow and offer lots of rewards. Never use a crate for discipline it should always be a reward.

Hobo’s travel routine: Keeping Hobo’s routine as normal as possible. I try to keep feed time, potty breaks, and playtimes as consistent as possible. Consistency will help keep a pooch happy and regular—they love what they know. Consistency includes Hobo’s food and treats—trust me there is nothing worse than trying a new food or treat to discover it wreaks havoc on their stomach and potty routine—again, they love what they know.

Hobo’s adventure: Make every trip an adventure. You and your dog will love every minute you spend together if you make

everything fun. Every adventure incorporates a little training, more belly rubs, and naps. A dog exercised mentally and physically will sleep longer and enjoy the adventures of travel.

Holiday success with your pooch is all about planning. Making sure your invitation includes Fido before you arrive reduces stress for everyone. Knowing when to crate Fido will be greatly appreciated by all—but remember, make crating fun! A consistent diet will keep the adventure on the trail and not on the sidelines. Remember, use common sense and restraint when traveling with a pet.

Aunt Peggy knows how to throw a holiday extravaganza—but one dog hair on the floor simply ruins her expectations of the perfect holiday gathering. Know your host and know when to leave your pet behind.



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