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Travis McKinney named Rookie of the Year

roves a rookie. They are usually young, energetic and howeve spent years coaching and training for their big moment to shine. Well that is the case for

Well that is the case for local entrepreneur and Real Estate Agent Travis McKinney of Keller Williams Realty. This 33-year-old energatic real estate professional was recently named the Keller Williams Realty international Rookie of the Year given to the agent with the most production in their first year. This accomplishment came as a huge bonor for Travis.

an investor and appraiser to use and decided to help others buy, sell and invest in real estate. This led to over \$12 million in first year sales, an accomplishment only a select few agents do after years of experience.

Travis is no stranger to real estate. He has spent the last eight years as a real estate investor and ris company 1&T Real Estate investments has rejuvenated over 100 homes in East Tennessee. They continue to rejuvenate Knoxville and increase values all across

Travis is also a state certified appraiser and has been licensed for eight years completing hundreds of appraisals for lenders.

When I was told I had wo this sward I had no clue what it really meant." Mc/inney recalls. "Once I arrived in Anaheim, California for the annual conference and there were thousands of agents and industry experts it all hit me. I am very horocord and humbled to have won this award. This is not just my award. None of this word have have a small property and the control of the second hard the secon

szvety whe and best hield Emily McKinney and business partner Tanner Davis. I look forward to a very big 2018 and helping people and families all over East TN and the US fulfill their real estate dreams. "We want our clients at

the center of our attention and service. It is all about serving them. Helping them find the perfect home for them or getting them top dollar for their house quickly. We always want to be reminded that they are why our heart is in it."



Wetlands being planted at Fountain City Lake

crews began planting two wetlands at Fountain City Lake - one of the last steps in the City's ongoing commitment to improve the lake's water quality.

Once the plantings are completed, the spring-fed lake will refill and saturate the new beds. The fast-growing plants – including cardinal flower, blue flagins, button bush, soft rush and wintergioen – should fill out the new wetlands beds by this summer.

For years, thick aligae has overwhelmed the lake. The City's aim has been to repair the lake's infrastructure so that the ecosystem can regain its long-term balance.

"Restoring Fountain City Lake to better health and beauty has required persistent effort and a lot of patience," Mayor Madeline Rogero said. "But we knew from the beginning it would take time to correct problems that were decades in the making." David McGinley, Storm-David McGinley, Storm-

water Engineering Manager, said the new wetlands plants will be attractive, but their main purposes will be to enhance the lake's water quality and discourage algae growth. The wetlands do that two ways: 1. There's now better

water circulation in the lake, because the most shallow, stagnant areas - conducive to the formation of thick algae - have been convert ed into the wetlands wildlife habitst, and.

The wetlands plants absorb nutrients that otherwise would promote the growth of algae.

"These wetlands plantings were selected because they'll do well and require little maintanance," McGinley said. "They'll grow to between 2 and 4 feet tall. These will be controlled wetlands - not jungle, but not manicured." Late last fall, the wet-

lands contractor. Ronald Franks Construction Co., finished building the gabion baskets, which were then soil. The contractor also one the contractor also overshundant ducks) from the lake's bottom. Once the plant material became wailable, subcontractor Landscape Services Inc. In late February instant of late late February instant of late lat



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State Senator Becky Duncan Massey and Knox County School Board Vice Chair Amber Rountree join the new staff during the ribbon cutting of the new library at South-Doyle High School.

21st century library dedicated at South-Doyle High

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.co

South-Doyle High School has a new library that will be the enry of every other school in Knox County. The new facility, complete with a coffee and rack shop, movable furniture to fit any function, a media studio and, of course, books, was officially opened fridaly in a bibbon cutting ceremony.

Two years ago asbestos was discovered in the library. Several people thinking "outside the box" came up with a unique library suited for the 21st century. Involved with planning the new library were Buzz Thomas, then

Superintandent Bob Thomas, school board member Amber Rountree, and Principal Tim Berry. The plans were presented to Sena-

tor Randy Boyd, a graduate of the old Doyle High School who has helped the school out before with the Career Academy and the Boyd Tutoring Center there.

Boyd and wife Jenny agreed to finance the new library and told the gathering of public officials, teachers and students that the library "exceeded my expectations." He said that when he was in high school the library

was his "hangout" and added "Jenn and I are proud to be a part of it."

Berry said the plan began by asking students what they warried. He said the planners also went to the Apple Store in the mail to get ideas. He said that led to the amount of glass partitions in the new library and they added a callé there, ran by students, much like a Starbuckle or Parera. A media room was added where students now broadcast good news lawns to the

"We wanted to make a 21st century library that will be the hub of the school," Berry said.

County commission moves to control subdivision regulations

teelym@knaxfocus.c

Commission voted to support a state legislative proposal to return much of the Metropolitan Planning Commission's powers to the county. Only Commissioner John Schoonmaker voted against the resolution.

The legislation would require

county commission approval for the

adoption of subdivision regulators or to amend existing subdivision regulations recommended by the Metopolitan Planning Commission. The idea surfaced last year when Gerald Green, MPC director, notified the commissionness that, under state law, the planners can establish regulations for new developments that could include aideealisewhen the developments in within a school process.

spoke against developments being designed by a vote of the commission rather than by the MPC. Woodall said that some developers were upset and lobbied the state legislature.

The issue of sidewalks, Woodall

said, "is not a reason to stick a hand in the middle of subdivision regulations."

Continued on page 2

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Jack Woodall speaks to the Knox County Commission in opposition to a resolution calling on the state legislature to give the commission more power over the planning commission and subdivision regulations involving sidewalks.

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