

an even larger potential had on the county treasury in a fightover pensions and vacation days, an effort supported by Mayor Tim Burchett, Sheriff Jerry "D" Jones and Commissioner and mayoral candidate Brad Anders. The dispute has now erupted

under the Knox County Charter a deputy with 20 years of service may retire with a maximum of 75% of full pay. As Armstrong noted in a detailed memorandum to commissioners, "The rest of Knox County and City of Knoxville employees do not

to the formula used to calculate their pensions. Armstrong was alarmed to discover "the Pension Board had been routinely awarding additional retirement income over and above the taxpayer-approved calculation based upon the officers' average

had not been aware of the increased benefits awarded (by the Pension Board) to the retirees. He stated that since he (the actuary) now knew of the increase, he now recommended the taxpayers fund an immediate \$400,000 to make up some of the

Knox County currently funds pensions for the deputies at a rate of two and a half times the ordinary rate for other county employees. But Armstrong objected to the Pension Board allowing deputies to retire with greater benefits than allowed

resents an "actual liability and potential future tax burden to the taxpayers of Knox County for approximately 600 uniformed officers." Armstrong abhorred "these increases have never" *Continued on page 2*

Night Out at Henry's Bakery & Deli



Attorney fees for seven retired deputies voted down

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An apparent mistake in calculating retirement pension funds for Knox County employees has resulted in overpayments beyond what the county allows. Lee Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong said he discovered the error, which has caused the overpayment of retiring sheriff's office employees and costing taxpayers.

He said the unauthorized increase was mistakenly calculated for the Pension and Retirement Board on the advice of highly paid outside counsel. As the law director moved to correct the calculation several retired deputies have objected to now receiving the correct amounts of pension. Armstrong said that past pension board members were unaware of how the calculations were being done. He said he has complied with the request to bring action against the Pension