

...costing \$500,000 in a fightover pensions and vacation days, an effort supported by Mayor Tim Burchett, Sheriff Jimmy "JJ" Jones and Commissioner and mayoral candidate Brad Anders. The dispute has now erupted

...for a deputy who 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

...value 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

... (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

...and pension raises can burden to the taxpayers of Knox County for approximately 600 uniformed officers." Armstrong also noted, "These increases have never
Continued on page 2

Night Out at Henry's Bakery & Deli



Attorney fees for seven retired deputies voted down

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

An apparent mistake in calculating retirement pension funds for Knox County employees has resulted in overpayments beyond what the county allows. Law 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 amount of pension. Armstrong said that past pension board members were unaware of how the calculation was being handled.