

Separate Ethics Complaints Filed Against Brad Anders and Lee Tramel

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Law Department has confirmed that two ethics complaints have been filed. One complaint involved Knox County Mayor candidate Brad Anders and the other is against Knox County Sheriff candidate Lee Tramel.

Both candidates are being backed by current Sheriff J. J. Jones, who has attacked their opponents in campaign ads and internet posts.

Powell resident Bruce Williams is charging that

Anders accepted gifts and plays on the Rural/Metro Ambulance golf team often and then voted to extend that company's contract a year before it was due to be renewed.

Tramel is charged by retired Police Investigator Don Wiser with violation of federal and state law for campaigning while on duty, in uniform, using a county-owned car to campaign and using his position with the sheriff's department to further his campaign.

Sheriff Jones has obviously put Tramel out front publicly as

the spokesman for the department on various issues in order to help his campaign.

The complaints will be thoroughly investigated by the law department and eventually be passed along to the ethics committee.

When asked, Knox County Law Director Bud Armstrong said, "The law department will complete its investigation into both complaints and submit its findings to the Knox County Ethics Committee as soon as possible."



Commissioner Bob Thomas meets the press following the dismissal of an ethics complaint against him and Commissioner Charles Busler. Thomas is a candidate for Knox County Mayor and has said all along that this issue was nothing more than a political attack by his opponents in the current election.

Ethics committee dismisses complaints against Busler and Thomas

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When is it not wise to make an ethics complaint?

Answer: When you can't prove it. That's what happened when the Knox County Ethics Committee voted 7-1 to dismiss charges against Commissioners Bob Thomas and Charles Busler Friday.

The complaint was made by failed former county commission candidate and current Circuit Court Clerk candidate Richard "Bo" Bennett, which he based on a Knoxville News-Sentinel story about a golf tournament that Thomas and Busler took part in. He was unable to prove the allegations and only ethics member Barbara Chandler voted to uphold the complaint.

Both men were accused by Bennett of accepting a gift card and playing on the Priority Ambulance Golf Team in August. Bennett also accused both of them for voting against the early renewal of the Rural/Metro AMR ambulance contract with the county. Thomas and Busler denied being influenced to vote against the

renewal.

The result of the hearing means that Bennett may be liable for the all expenses incurred by the county and that Thomas and Busler may now ask the county to repay their attorney fees as well.

Following the dismissal of charges, Busler and his wife prayed together and left the meeting without making a statement.

Thomas, a candidate for county mayor, met with the media following the dismissal and said that charges

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Board Decides to Postpone Vote on 2018-19 Budget

By Anne Primm

Knox County Board of Education Chair Patti Bounds welcomed local officials in attendance at the beginning of the board's regular meeting last Wednesday. Present were: Commission Chairman Randy Smith; Commissioners Dave Wright and Evelyn Gill; City Council representatives Stephanie Welch, Lauren Rider and Gwen McKenzie; County Education Association President Tonya Coates; Lydia McCoy of UTK; and Knox County Trustee Ed Shouse.

Changes to the agenda included postponing recognition of both Farragut and Bearden High School Dance teams. Deputy Law Director Gary Dupler requested withdrawal of item 7.D.16 from the Items and Contracts Agenda.

Next, Sixth District Representative Terry Hill proposed to postpone the final vote on Regular Agenda Item 11E. To approve the Fiscal year 2019 Knox County Board of Education General Purpose Budget at the Major Category Level for \$483,300,000.00. This proposal was seconded by Fourth District Representative Lynne Fugate. Hill stated that she had contacted State Representative Eddie Smith regarding some of the specifics of state funding that affects Knox County Schools, like TCRS and RTI. Representative Smith said he did not have all the numbers but would obtain them as soon as possible and get back to Sixth District Representative Hill. For this reason, Hill wanted to postpone the vote until the board has a clearer picture of the amount of state funding that will be available.

First District Representative Gloria Deathridge

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School Budget Pandemonium

By Focus Staff

There was pandemonium at a recent meeting of the Knox County Board of Education. Last week, the board met in both work and regular sessions to discuss the budget proposed by Superintendent Bob Thomas. Thomas and the board are facing a \$3.5 million shortfall. Having little choice but to recommend cuts, Thomas proposed cutting back spending on magnet schools and Project GRAD. That recommendation brought out a crowd from Knoxville's inner city and no fewer than eighty-seven people signed up to speak at the board public forum last Monday night. The board patiently listened to everyone for 7 ½ hours, remaining in session until 12:30 a.m.

The school system, like every other department and agency of government, must send over a budget for the inspection of Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett and the County Commission. Much of the shortfall has to do with two things: habitual overspending by the school system and increased costs for employee insurance and funding teachers' pensions.

Board member Gloria Deathridge, who routinely supported overspending the school system's budget during the reign of former superintendent Jim McIntyre, was the first to cry the Board could not be held responsible for the shortfall. After all, who could have foreseen the cost of insurance premiums rising and increased pension payments for teachers? Deathridge quickly took the position as the board could not have possibly anticipated such fateful events so the county commission should be asked by the board to just provide more money. Deathridge seemed not to realize the board having to cross the street from the Andrew Johnson Building to the City-County Building was a tacit admission the board cannot manage its own budget.

Unfortunately, the county commissioners are acutely aware of the continual overspending by the school system during McIntyre's administration. Estimates range to as much as \$60 million in overspending during McIntyre's administration. One thing is certain:

during the last two years of McIntyre's rule as superintendent, the school system overspent by \$30 million, almost ten times the amount now needed by the schools to balance their budget. Some observers still remember that one year the school system received an additional windfall of \$14 million in funding, which McIntyre and the former board spent in a single night.

A free-spending superintendent and penny-pinching mayor were certain to butt heads and McIntyre's penchant for using one-time money in his budget as a continuing expense began to rankle both the mayor and the county commission. McIntyre finally resorted to pushing adoption of the largest property tax increase in Knox County's history, aided daily by the Knoxville News-Sentinel and a \$50,000 advertising campaign orchestrated by the Chamber of Commerce. Big-business types like now gubernatorial candidate Randy Boyd came to urge commissioners to "do the right thing" by increasing property taxes.

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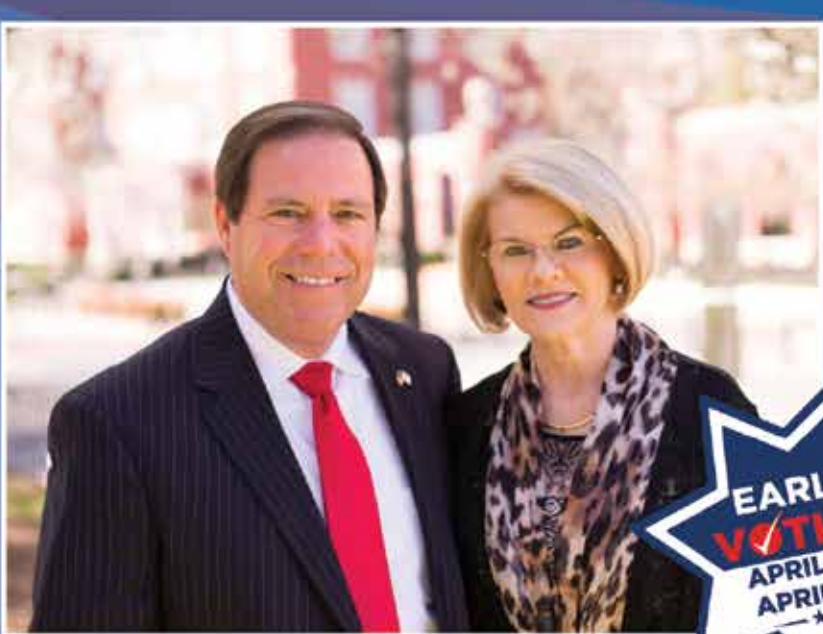
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Board Decides to Postpone Vote on 2018-19 Budget

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inquired about the final date that the Knox County School Board could submit their budget. Deputy Law Director Dupler replied that the Knox County Charter had been revised in 2004 making the current due date May 1. Upon hearing that piece of information, Representative Fugate mentioned that the board could defer the budget vote until the April 30, 2018 meeting. After a brief discussion among board members, Representative Hill amended her original motion to read: proposes to defer voting on Agenda items 11,E,F, and G until a special called meeting before April 30, 2018. The amended motion was seconded by Representative Fugate. The motion was voted on and carried. Another motion was proposed by Third District Representative Tony Norman to delay the vote on Board Policy 8.B. for thirty days. This policy involves

discipline policy J-191 "Misbehaviors and Disciplinary Options." The proposal was seconded by Representative Owen. Norman stated that with everything else going on he just hasn't had time to think about this policy. Most comments at the meeting's public forum were about the proposed cuts to the Gifted and Talented Program in Knox County Schools. Gifted and Talented Programming is included under the realm of Special Education Services in Knox County Schools. This program is also one that will be cut for FY 2019. Tiffany Nicely spoke first. As a gifted/talented coach, she has seen the number of "coaches" reduced from twenty at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year to thirteen at midyear with another five to be slashed by the end of the 2018 school year. She questioned, "Do you really think eight coaches can serve all gifted and talented

students system-wide?" Nicely was followed by a mother and son duo, Coleen and Josh Martinez, who spoke about the benefits of the gifted and talented program at Cedar Bluff Schools. Both mother and son testified to usefulness of the program even though it is only forty-five minutes a week. Rachel Hodges, Knox County parent and employer, feels like the Knox County Gifted and Talented Program is grossly underfunded. Referring to the mission statement of Knox County Schools she emphasized, "Excellence for All Children, not just those who are struggling." These are comments from just a few of Public Forum participants. There were several others who spoke in favor of gifted and talented programming, magnet schools and Project GRAD. Most of the sentiments had already been conveyed before by others speaking before them.

Oh, What a Night!

Hundreds attend School Board Work Session

By Anne Primm

The Knox County Schools Work Session meeting was attended by more than 300 people on Monday evening, April 9, 2018, and stretched to over seven hours in length. Deputies had to lock the doors of the City-County Building due to limitations of the Fire Marshal. Most of the people were there to express their feelings about proposed cuts to fiscal year 2018-19 Knox County Schools Budget. Representative Gloria Deathridge was traveling but joined the meeting via Skype. All other representatives were present. Chair Patti Bounds opened the meeting by welcoming all the guests and local dignitaries present like the chairman of Knox County Commission, Randy Smith; Commissioners Dave Wright and Evelyn Gill; Councilwoman Stephanie Welch; and former Commissioner Sam McKenzie. Superintendent Bob Thomas presented his report which included congratulations to Patrick Pollack, winner of ORAU's 10th Annual Extreme Classroom Makeover which encompasses \$25,000 in new classroom technology. Pollock is

a fourth grade Math and Science teacher at West View Elementary School. Pollock believes that with a 21st century classroom, his students will have the opportunity to be immersed in the infinite possibilities of STEM learning. Superintendent Thomas announced that the Barney Thompson Scholarships will be awarded at Ijams Nature Center on April 24, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. A note of thanks was also extended to Wallace and Wallace Realtors for sponsoring the reception. Because of the anticipated length of the night's meeting with 89 people signed up for Public Forum, school board members declined to give committee reports. The Consent Agenda passed with no discussion and there was little discussion about Items and Contracts except that Deputy Law Director Gary Dupler pulled Item 16 which was in regard to a program known as HABIT until a later date. The board moved on to a discussion of policy. Second District Representative Jennifer Owen expressed that she was still not at ease with Knox County Board of Education Policy J-191, "Misbehaviors and Disciplinary Options." Her unrest mainly stemmed from the comments written by the teachers about the policies. Owen said this is "very concerning." She further noted that it looked

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Publisher Steve Hunley
Editor, Art Director Marianne Dedmon
editor@knoxfocus.com, design@knoxfocus.com

Managing EditorRose King, rking@knoxfocus.com
Mike Steelysteelym@knoxfocus.com
Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com
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Publisher's Position

Buzz Thomas: Knox County's Chicken Little



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Lord have mercy! To read the editorial penned by Buzz Thomas in the Knoxville New Sentinel a week and a half ago, one would think the world as we know it was coming to an end. Fortunately, it's more of a case of Chicken Little and "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!"

Thomas, once the abundantly well-paid head of the Greater School Partnership and one-time interim superintendent of the Knox County School system, is fading away into long overdue retirement. Yet before departing for distant shores, Thomas wrote a bitter editorial castigating the Knox County Board of Education basically for failing to continue the "model" that he and former superintendent Jim McIntyre put into place.

In fact, one thing Thomas seems miffed about in particular is the fact the Board of Education severed its ties to

the Leadership Academy, which is still run by Jim McIntyre. McIntyre evidently earns \$180,000 at the University of Tennessee to teach one class per week, while Knox County was providing a whopping ten participants to go through McIntyre's Leadership Academy at the bargain basement price of quite nearly \$1 million annually.

There was a time when Buzz Thomas stoutly maintained Jim McIntyre was the best superintendent in the country and continually warned one and all we must be mighty careful lest some other system come in and swoop him up right from under our noses. Ol' Buzz would have us believe McIntyre was an innovator of the first order, if not an outright educational wizard. As it turned out, nothing McIntyre proposed was new and he simply Googled this, that or the other thing, all of which had been tried in other places. Now mind you, McIntyre never bothered to find out whether it worked well or worked at all, but it was new to Knoxville and therefore needed to be tried and price was no object, like McIntyre's "balanced calendar," which he estimated to cost somewhere between \$2 and \$20 million. That was a pretty big gap and despite some assistance from Survey

Monkey, McIntyre never did manage to convince much of anybody it was a good idea, much less a bargain at the price.

During the last two years of McIntyre's reign he overspent the budget by \$30 million, likely thinking the county commission would bail him out. Instead, McIntyre finally ran the school system's financial ship onto the rocks and was forced to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Mayor Tim Burchett and the county commission, requiring some fiscal restraint. That same overspending depleted the school system's financial reserves, which has landed the school system in the tight spot they are in today. The school system has a shortfall of \$3.5 million, causing current Superintendent Bob Thomas and the board of education to look for areas to cut. Buzz failed to mention that in his editorial.

Jim McIntyre's leadership style proved to be toxic and his imperial style of governing the school system caused him to be loathed by the teachers and other school system employees while barely tolerated by the mayor and the county commission, and thoroughly disliked by many parents and taxpayers.

Nor was McIntyre's Leadership Academy

the great success Buzz Thomas would have you believe it was; it matters little whether some educational bureaucrats thought it to be a model program.

The fact is, after a thorough researching of the academy program, Knox County discovered it couldn't tell a significant difference between those principals who had graduated from McIntyre's academy and those who hadn't spent a day in McIntyre's Leadership Academy.

Another fact is that a mentoring program for new principals by successful principals doesn't have to cost \$1 million, nor does it have to include Jim McIntyre's approval. Virtually any school system can set that same system up on their own. Ol' Buzz also ignores one other very pertinent fact: when people don't have any confidence in the person running an outfit, they tend not to buy its product.

Buzz Thomas shrieked in print that it is disgraceful board members have publicly criticized or "attacked" central office staff. In recent months there have been two egregious examples of fraud and graft inside the school system that run well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. At least one supervisor seemed to notice nothing and at the same time a mechanic managed to spend almost

\$200,000 buying auto parts for luxury vehicles for his private business and Knox County owns no luxury automobiles in its fleet. Apparently Ol' Buzz thinks a restorative practice session for central office staff members too busy to do their jobs would be more appropriate than a good old-fashioned chewing out.



Project GRAD, like Topsy, is an idea that kept growing and growing. It's not a fundamental aspect of the school system yet the Executive Director of Project GRAD has earned as much as \$140,000 annually while the taxpayers shell out around \$1 million to support it. The executive director's salary is roughly 14% of the total amount provided by Knox County taxpayers. The vaunted scholarships bragged about by supporters of Project GRAD amount to approximately \$80,000 out of an appropriation of \$1 million. That's pretty measly compared to the \$140,000 salary of the executive director.

Another point refuted in Buzz's editorial is that the Knox County Board of Education never ordered the removal of the plaque (and it was a banner, not a plaque) proclaiming the Knox County School system to be exemplary. Nor did the current board of education drive the ox into the ditch by

overspending. Two-thirds of every tax dollar spent in Knox County is spent by the school system. The school system's current budget amounts to almost one half of a billion dollars. It's not that the school system doesn't have enough money; it's how they choose to spend it, always thinking they can get more whenever they want it, irrespective of the fact they have wasted huge chunks here and there. One of McIntyre's favorite gambits was to take one-time money and put it in the budget as a continuing expense. Any accountant worth their salt would tell you that it is a "no no" to use one-time money for recurring expenses.

Ol' Buzz himself was caught in a meeting plotting to figure out how to squeeze more taxes from you in a meeting that was video taped. If you've forgotten my editorial about that, you can find it right here: <http://knoxfocus.com/2017/02/alternative-facts-judge-reply-letter-buzz-thomas/>

Ol' Buzz has tried to draw a vivid image of screaming children being driven off a cliff by evil and irresponsible board members. Not true at all. The folks who drove the bus over the cliff were perfect free-spending and mighty well paid bureaucrats like Jim McIntyre and Buzz Thomas.



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School Budget Pandemonium

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McIntyre packed the main auditorium of the City-County Building to the rafters with supporters, but the response from the public was swift and terrible.

So many citizens called the City-County Building, the telephone system crashed. A torrent of emails deluged the commissioners' email boxes. Then-County Commissioner Mike Hammond, who had flirted with increasing the sales and property taxes, said at the meeting, "We got the message." Apparently they did, as not a single member of the county commission dared to make a motion to increase taxes.

Financially, McIntyre and the former board of education never recovered. Neither did the News-Sentinel and the Chamber of Commerce. The failure of the tax increase was the start of News-Sentinel editor Jack McElroy's vendetta against Tim Burchett. McIntyre continued to constantly live in the hope he could spend whatever he liked and the county commission would eventually be forced to give him more money.

Eventually, caught in a trap of his own making, McIntyre was desperate and forced to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Burchett promising the school system would live within its means. The MOU had to be approved by both the board of education and the county commission and the agreement remains in place today.

Gloria Deathridge's protestations aside, Bob Thomas, candidate for Knox County mayor to succeed Burchett, has gone on record as saying

Knox Countians are adamantly opposed to paying higher taxes for any reason. Thomas' opponents, Brad Anders and Glen Jacobs, have refused to take tax increases off the table. Burchett has been widely popular due to his vocal and highly visible refusal to recommend tax increases.

Yet hope springs eternal and apparently never having heard the old saying "avoiding one's burden make the cross heavier to bear," board member Terry Hill galloped to the rescue at the board's regular meeting last week. Hill proposed delaying a vote on the budget, citing a conversation with State Representative Eddie Smith. Hill offered nothing more than vague assurances Smith was sympathetic to the school system's plight. Hill had penned a letter to Representative Smith outlining the school system's dilemma, hopeful the State of Tennessee will come up with more money for Knox County. Just why the State of Tennessee would want to pay a bigger portion of Knox County's obligations for increased insurance premiums and teachers' pensions was never explained by Ms. Hill who is notorious for her long-winded speeches detailing every side of every question before landing on one side or the other. Presumably, Terry Hill was simply feeling the heat generated by the residents favoring retention of Project GRAD and the magnet programs. Hill represents a district in northwest Knox County which includes Karns and Hardin Valley. In fact, many of the citizens speaking at public forum

and contacting board members assailed the opening of two new middle schools, one of which is in Hill's district. If Hill's goal was to placate as many as she could, she failed miserably.

Superintendent Bob Thomas' recommendation for trimming support for both Project GRAD and the magnet program has merit. Despite praise by some for the scholarships doled out by Project GRAD, the amount is less than five cents on the dollar of annual expenditures. Virtually any student in the state is able to go to college through the Tennessee Promise program. The Tennessee Promise program offers students two free years of college and the Hope Scholarship program will help carry qualified students through the rest of their college career. Curiously, the scholarships provided by Project GRAD equal almost to the dollar the interest income on a multimillion dollar investment account held by Project GRAD. The executive director of Project GRAD has been paid up to \$140,000 annually, while the nonprofit spends over a million dollars on salaries. Local taxpayers provided just over \$1 million in funding for Project GRAD yearly.

Despite the cries of "inequality" by some parents and pastors, inner city schools seem to do pretty well in per-pupil spending by the school system. For example, Knox County spends \$10,612 per student at Austin-East, in contrast to \$5,292 per student at Farragut. According to Knox County school records, 630

students attend Austin-East, while Farragut has a student population of 1,738. Spending per pupil at Bearden High School is \$5,207 with a student population of 2,048.

Per pupil annual spending at Vine Magnet Middle School is \$12,619, while the figure at Cedar Bluff Middle School is \$5,390. Vine Magnet Middle School has a student population of 337; Cedar Bluff Middle School has a student population of 604.

Per pupil spending at Green Magnet Elementary School is \$10,515, while per pupil spending at Powell Elementary School is \$5,836: Green has a student population of 356. Powell Elementary School has a student population of 851. Clearly, inner city schools fared much better than most in per pupil spending.

The contention the magnet schools weren't exactly providing an excellent education for students drew a furious response from many attending the board's work session. Amber Rountree, South Knoxville's representative on the board of education and a former librarian, was appalled to learn data from testing indicated 89% of magnet students read at "below proficiency."

Most speakers seemed not to consider the possibility that not every area outside the city limits was "affluent." It seemed not to occur there might be other students in Knox County outside of the inner city who are underprivileged, mired in poverty, or vulnerable.

Reverend Valentino McNeal, who likely could use a refresher course on

the "Golden Rule," bitterly excoriated members of the board. McNeal chastised the astonished Rountree, while flatly charging Hill as a "white supremacist." McNeal urged that Hill be removed from the board or forced to resign. The good reverend also demanded Hill recuse herself from voting on the budget. McNeal also complained board Chair Patti Bounds had not "redirected and clarified some of the misguided presentations made by other board members," not realizing Bounds had no authority to do so. McNeal huffed that Bounds should have run the meeting "in a more professional manner and displayed more sensitivity to the concern of the constituents," none of whom was treated remotely rudely by any board member. McNeal simply didn't like the fact that not every board member agreed with him. McNeal griped Rountree had "inaccurately" conflated "literacy data" as evidence Project GRAD and the magnet schools were not producing excellent educational results. McNeal charged Rountree's wide-eyed surprise at the testing data was "an insult to people with common sense and especially those who have expertise in this area." McNeal believed the comments made by citizens speaking at the public forum "refuted and rebuked" Rountree's alleged "disingenuous and ill-fated attempt" to consider the reading data. Evidently, no public official has the right to question the hefty expenditure of taxpayer dollars on a program the good reverend feels benefits his own

community. McNeal's bitterness and heated remarks certainly fell far short of the biblical adage, "Judge not, lest ye be judged."

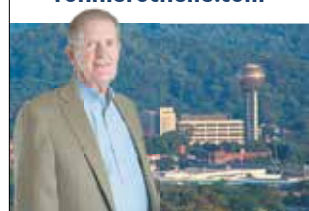
Not surprisingly, some of the most eloquent and intelligent commentary, not to mention least polarizing, did not come from parents and pastors, but from students. One made the excellent point that perhaps it was best not to condemn other communities for what they have received, but instead to support one another.

In spite of Terry Hill's last minute move to kick the can down the road in the hope that help may be on the way, board members may well find themselves on the horns of a different dilemma. As the board is hoping to "find" more money, others may well come to the trough to demand the board "find" even more dollars for them. The odds are mighty good the board will find itself right back where it started from, perhaps even in a worse spot before Terry Hill began to squirm and wheeze.

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Ethics committee dismisses complaints against Busler and Thomas

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were politically motivated.

"This has been held over my head," Thomas said after the hearing, adding "I wanted to go through the proper channels to get this resolved.

"I think that everyone that wants to swear a complaint is subject to perjury. You can't come and say whatever you want that sounds like the truth," he continued.

"I've been campaigning

non-stop," Thomas said of his campaign for county mayor. "We're going to work just as hard. I've knocked on 5,000 doors in the last two or three months and heard more people say they are mad this is being used as a political tool," he said.

Ethics chairman Jonathan Cooper limited the complaint to the main issues and gave Bennett wide latitude in his testimony. Bennett admitted that he made some mistakes in his charges. Cooper

allowed ethics members to ask questions and after almost four hours moved to call for a vote. The options were to "uphold or dismiss." Although a few members stated their concerns as to how the charges made the county and the commission look, they also voted to dismiss the complaint.

Cooper said that most of what Bennett charged was "hearsay" from a third party, the daily newspaper, and was not admissible.

Oh, What a Night!

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like logistically, some of the teachers could not even click on the links to access the policies online.

The regular agenda items were next. These items were approved with no discussion until the board came to item 11. E.- which involved the approval of the General Purpose Budget for FY 2019. A budget of \$483,300,000 was recommended by the superintendent. To be able to keep this budget in-line with last year's budget some programs had to be cut. The proposed cuts are to programs that primarily affect the First District: two magnet schools and Project Grad.

All school board members have been receiving phone calls and emails ever since Superintendent Thomas' budget was released Friday, April 6. Most people expressed concern over the loss of Project Grad and Magnet Schools. Knox

County's internal research has shown that neither program has obtained the results that officials had hoped for academically. Knox County Schools is looking at a deadline put forth by the State of Tennessee to have 75 percent of all third graders reading at grade level by 2025. Right now, the number of third graders reading at grade level at Green Magnet and Sarah Moore Greene is about three percent. This leads Knox County School Administrators to believe that some other programming should be implemented to help improve this statistic before the state's deadline. The same situation is true with Project GRAD. Since its inception in 2003, the plan was to improve graduation rate. Knox County Schools' research has not shown this overwhelmingly to be the case, even though there may certainly be other benefits.

Board members say that

the district would have more discretionary money to spend if not for unfunded mandates. Response to Intervention is an unfunded mandate that consumes thousands of dollars. Technology, pointed out Vice Chair Amber Rountree, is another huge unfunded mandate. As of this year, all high school students must take state tests online. That means Knox County has to provide enough computers for students to do so. Rountree further commented about the inequities of the Better Education Funds which continue to shrink each year.

Public Forum continued until 12:31 a.m. where most of the comments were in favor of keeping Project Grad and Magnet Schools as they are. Several speakers reminded the group that one of the purposes of magnet schools was a response to an Office of Civil Rights mandate.



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26th HonorAir trip flies 132 veterans to DC

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Twenty-six flights and more than 3,300 military veterans: the numbers backing the history of Knoxville's Honor Air are impressive but the real story is the precise organization it takes to run events behind the scenes.

Prestige Cleaners owner Eddie Mannis, founder of the effort to recognize area veterans, is the cog behind HonorAir's success.

I was honored to accompany the veterans on the trip as the media representative and a veteran myself last Wednesday and was impressed with the absolute organization and seamless coordination shown by Mannis and his employees, the volunteers, the American Airlines crew, and the National Park Police who escorted the many buses from one monument to another.

Of the 132 veterans on last week's trip, eight were veterans of World War II, 23 were Korean War veterans and 101 were Vietnam veterans. The oldest veteran taking the day trip to Washington, D. C. was 98 years old and the youngest was 65. The trip included three female veterans and a Vietnam helicopter crewman who had been shot down ten times.

The day began with a welcome at the Knoxville airport and greetings from Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. Both spoke briefly and then shook the hand of every veteran and their escorts as they boarded the plane to the music of a patriotic band.

I was delighted to sit next to Mannis and Dawn Ford, who



PHOTOS BY MIKE STEELY.

Judge Charles D. Susano, Jr., pictured with HonorAir volunteers, displays a name rubbing captured from the Vietnam Memorial Wall during the Honor Air visit to Washington, D.C.

coordinates the flight logistics, on the way up and back. The plane was packed with volunteers, escorts, and veterans. Many of the veterans have never been to the Washington monuments and everyone was anticipating the trip and the experience.

The all-volunteer team includes several veterans. Jim Cundall is the flight coordinator and spends many hours working on the list

of veterans to be honored. He is assisted by Jan Rector who is a full time employee of Prestige Cleaners. Flight commander is Retired Col. Joe Sutter. Charlie Harr is also a Vietnam War veteran and serves HonorAir as a team leader. Others that serve on the team are Kay Kirkland, Taylor Wortham, Nathan Wienbaum, HonorAir also travels with a full medical team that is prepared for any emergency that may arise.

The flight was just over an hour and, during the trip, the veterans were served sandwiches and snacks. At one point each veteran and their escort were given a small paper bag of snacks prepared by the students at Corryton Elementary School. Each bag had a message from the students to the veterans.

Arrival in the Reagan National Airport in Washington meant another band, well-wishers and awaiting buses. The lead bus was escorted by National Park Police vehicles with emergency lights on and, for the most part, traffic between stops honored the vehicles and pulled off to let the

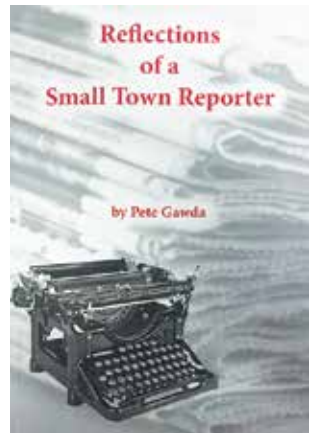
buses by. Mannis said that without the police escort the visits would not be on time.

He also said that without the volunteer escorts, each of which pays their own way, the trips would not be possible. These helpers play a huge role in helping to provide safety and assistance for every veteran. At each stop the buses unloaded the escorts first so they could help with wheelchair-bound veterans and collect their other veterans for the visits.

The one-day outing began at the new U.S. Air Force Monument that sits atop a hill overlooking the Pentagon. The local tour guide pointed out sites along the way with a bit of history and stories about each monument, even those we passed but didn't visit.

Upon arriving at the Lincoln Memorial the veterans and their escorts visited the Vietnam and Korean War Monuments. Downtown D.C. was crowded with other veteran groups from around the nation, and students and tourists, many coming to see the

Continue on page 2



Focus reporter writes book about life in a small town

Focus reporter Pete Gawda has written a book about people, politics and life in the small town of Okeechobee, Florida, where he worked for the local newspaper.

In 238 pages and 69 photographs, the author recounts humorous and interesting tidbits about such things as the city's "perfect" sign ordinance, the unpredictability of the county commission, OBE the Airport Dog who caused an uproar that put the operators of the airport in the doghouse, the "brouhaha at the road department" which ended in the termination of employment of a county administrator and gave rise to the question seen on bumper stickers "Where's Clyde?," the short but memorable term of the next county administrator, the seizure of the chamber of commerce building by the IRS, and the long running battle between the city council and the operator of a "salvage yard" (junk yard) on the city's main street.

The author tells "the rest of the story" and gives his opinion on many memorable events he reported on and photographed for the Okeechobee News.

The book costs \$15 and information about purchasing it can be obtained by emailing pjgawda@yahoo.com or calling (865) 776-3413.



Veterans board the bus convoy to visit another site in Washington, D.C.

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Quilts

One of the new stained glass windows made by Leslie Little reminds my wife of a quilt. The patterns on it are similar to those used for generations by women who have sewn the covers. I've never met



By Joe Rector
jorector@comcast.net

layers of cloth in intricately created stitches. She wore a thimble on one finger that was most in danger of being stabbed with those needles

Even in her last months, Mother sat on

a person who didn't love quilts or who didn't want one or more.

When we were young, Mother covered our beds with quilts that her mother or grandmother had sewn. Back then, quilts weren't considered art. Instead, they were necessities for their families.

Cold weather arrived; money was tight; the best way to keep beds warm was to take scraps of cloth and bind them together on some kind of backing and then stuff the whole thing with some kind of material that might knock off the chill.

We all had quilts and never thought much about them. Sometimes, we would strip them from the bed and use them as mats for wrestling matches in the living room.

We also drove our toy cars across the terrain of the quilts and made believe we were in the desert or some other wild place my brother Jim wrapped himself in his quilt before slipping into a night of violent sleep where he stretched and kicked and yanked the material.

My mother made quilts for years what seemed to us to be a torturous activity provided her hours and days of entertainment. She'd spread out the batting and material and scraps and put them together while watching an episode of "Matlock."

Her bony, crooked fingers worked needles through

the enclosed porch off the kitchen. She worked on a hobnail quilt that was the most intricate pattern she'd ever tackled.

Sometimes, her shortness of breath forced her to put down the work, but she never quit for long. Many evenings Mother sewed until she was exhausted, and at that point, she'd pull the project around her, lie her head on a decorative pillow and sleep until the next morning.

By the time Mother passed, she'd made a trunkful of quilts. She made sure that each of us boys had one and that her grandchildren had the chance to choose one. They are special items to us all.

More than anything, those covers represent the love Mother had for us and the dedication she gave to making special items for us. Hours of her life poured into the making of the quilts we now have, and in some small way, they keep her a bit closer to us, even though she has been gone more than twenty years.

Today, folks shell out piles of cash to purchase a handmade quilt.

At any estate sale, the first things that are sold are those patterned bed covers.

Yes, quilts are special to most folks. They are even more important to family members who have one made by a mother or grandmother.

We probably should use them for everyday use like the one Jim did years ago. That might be the biggest compliment we can give to the maker of the quilt, but doing so might wear them out and leave us wishing we'd have preserved that special item produced by our loved ones.

So, many quilts are hung on racks for decorations or are stuffed in chests for safekeeping. I suppose the main thing is to enjoy a piece of artwork that can even be used in a utilitarian ways.

What Is a Court Order?

If you have ever been involved in a legal proceeding, you may have gone in front of a judge at some point and heard the judge "order" that one or both of the parties to the lawsuit do something. Those

things that a judge says are what is called the court's "order."

However, it is absolutely imperative that what the judge says be typed up and then signed by the judge. What the judge says does not become official until there is a written document signed by the judge instructing that something



By Jedidiah McKeethan
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

occur.

That may not make a ton of sense but let me give you an example. Say there is an heir to an estate who needs to access a bank account of a deceased relative

in order to distribute those assets and the judge has ruled that the heir is allowed to access those bank accounts. Well if the heir just shows up to the bank and says, "Hey, the judge said I can access the bank accounts," the bank is not going to let them access that money. Instead, the bank may say, "That's great, but unless

you have a signed court order, we are not letting you access anything." That's an example of why a written order signed by the judge is so important.

So how do these written court orders come in to existence? If there are attorneys involved in the case, after a judge makes a ruling, one of the attorneys will go back to their office and write up an order, then they will send it to the opposing attorney to ensure that both attorneys agree that the order reflects what the judge actually said at court. If both attorneys agree that the written order reflects what the judge said, then they will send in the order

to the judge for him to sign. Without a written order you cannot ever get divorced, get someone evicted from a rental house, or get a speeding ticket dismissed. Written orders of some kind exist in every case and what is written in them is incredibly important.

Jedidiah McKeethan 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.



A hero's welcome greeted each veteran back to Knoxville last Wednesday after a day in DC. McGhee Tyson Airport estimated that over 1000 people showed up to welcome back area vets.

26th HonorAir trip flies 132 veterans to DC

Cont. from page 1

blooming cherry blossom trees. Some of the veterans visiting the Vietnam Wall took time to trace the name of a relative or friend who lost their life in that conflict.

Mannis said that on one trip a Vietnam veteran refused to go to the wall and only did so after his escort encouraged him to do so. The visit to the wall has helped heal many veterans of memories of that conflict and their unwelcome return home. One Vietnam veteran on the trip said visiting the wall erased a lot of the troubles he had been carrying. Just two examples of many, many stories that are shared during this day.

The HonorAir buses

then went to the World War II Memorial, a striking memorial with a stone for each state and a large fountain in the middle.

The buses loaded again and drove across the Potomac River to Arlington Cemetery by way of a loop downtown past the Capitol and Navy Memorial. At Arlington the East Tennessee Veterans stood in silence and watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The buses wound their way back to the airport and, again, another send off. Yet nothing was like the huge reception we found waiting for us in Knoxville. Over one thousand people greeted us with signs, balloons, and it

seemed everyone wanted to shake hands and say "Welcome Home." For the Vietnam veterans, that phrase means a lot.

Planning and executing HonorAir flights is expensive, about \$80,000 for each trip. The organization has sponsors, including Covenant Health, and takes donations. Recently Mannis asked his Facebook friends to contribute to HonorAir for his birthday.

"Over the years the program has become a community event. Multiple civic organizations and individuals have made it possible to continue honoring the contributions veterans have made to ensure our freedom," Mannis said.

The program costs

about \$200,000 annually and HonorAir partners with the Smoky Mountain Air Show and numerous groups, military organizations, hospitals, city and county employees, businesses and private individuals to make the trips possible.

HonorAir is a non-profit organization that accepts tax deductible donations. Prestige Cleaners provides all the administrative cost so every dollar donated is applied directly to the cost of the flight. The next flight is October 3 and any World War II, Korean War or Vietnam War veteran interested in going on this or any future HonorAir Knoxville flight can apply at www.honorairknoxville.com.

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Mr. Speaker

Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Clearly, one of the most important and powerful positions in the American system of government is Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives. The last Tennessean to occupy this vital post was Joseph W. Byrns.

Joseph Wellington Byrns was born July 20, 1869 in Cedar Hill, Tennessee. Byrns graduated from Vanderbilt University, where he emerged with a law degree. The lure of politics came early for "Jo" Byrns as he was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1894 when only twenty-five years old. Young Jo Byrns was reelected to the Tennessee House from Davidson County in 1896 and 1898, eventually becoming Speaker of the House. Byrns moved up to the Tennessee State Senate in 1900, but decided to run for District Attorney for Nashville in 1902 and suffered the only electoral defeat of his long career.

Byrns recovered from that defeat when he challenged incumbent Congressman John W. Gaines in 1908. Gaines had been in Congress since 1897 and failed to take the Byrns candidacy seriously. It proved to be a serious mistake and Jo Byrns was nominated and elected to Congress where he remained for the rest of his life.

Jo Byrns concentrated upon performing the numerous services required of a Member of Congress, doing small favors for constituents while gaining seniority as he was routinely reelected. Congressman Byrns served during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson from 1913-21, but the decade of the twenties belonged to the Republican Party. The GOP elected three presidents during the twenties and for the most part, the GOP also dominated the Congress. Byrns was selected to be the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 1928, but it was a bad year for Democrats nationally and even in Tennessee.

Occasionally Byrns would face opposition inside the Democratic primary after winning election to Congress in 1908, but he led a charmed political life, as he never really encountered a serious opponent. Congressman Byrns was easily reelected every two years.

Governor Henry Horton and Senator Kenneth D. McKellar were both

reelected, but Herbert Hoover carried the Volunteer State over Democratic presidential nominee Alfred E. Smith. Much of the Democratic political apparatus worked hard for Smith, who was governor of New York, including Senator McKellar and E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political machine. Smith's Catholicism and opposition to prohibition proved too much for heavily Protestant and dry Tennessee.

Congressman Byrns thought of leaving the House in 1930 when a Senate seat opened up in Tennessee. Senator Lawrence D. Tyson had died in August of 1929. Governor Henry Horton actually appointed former Senator Luke Lea to the vacancy, but Lea turned down the appointment. Instead, Governor Horton named wealthy candy manufacturer William E. Brock of Chattanooga to serve out the remainder of Tyson's term.

Congressman Cordell Hull from Tennessee's Fourth District, immediately announced his own candidacy for the United States Senate well in advance of the 1930 election. While Hull was quite respected, not everybody in Tennessee was thrilled with the idea of his being elected to the Senate. E. H. Crump and several others quietly encouraged Congressman Jo Byrns to compete against Hull in the coming primary. Byrns finally decided to make the Senate race and announced his candidacy, although it would be short-lived.

While making a speech at his Senate campaign kick-off in 1930, Byrns suffered a mild heart attack. Congressman Byrns quickly concluded his health would not permit him to wage the kind of vigorous campaign necessary to run against Cordell Hull for the Senate and he withdrew, choosing instead to run for reelection to the House of Representatives. Hull went on to defeat a minor opponent and briefly serve in the United States Senate.

The fortunes of Democrats improved in 1931 when, with the sudden death of several Republican Congressmen, they gained a majority in the House of Representatives. Once the Democrats attained a majority in the House, Jo Byrns became Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a position of considerable power at

the time. By 1933, Byrns moved up the ladder yet again, being elected Majority Leader, a post just under the Speaker of the House. John Nance Garner of Texas, Speaker from 1931 - 33, had reluctantly accepted second place to Democratic presidential nominee Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Roosevelt - Garner ticket had easily defeated Republican incumbents Herbert Hoover and Charles Curtis to win the general election. Garner was succeeded as Speaker by Henry Rainey of Illinois.

Passage of much of the New Deal legislation proposed by President Roosevelt was moved along by Congressman Joseph W. Byrns in his capacity as Majority Leader. Although more conservative in his personal philosophy, Jo Byrns was a loyal Democrat and he personally sponsored the bill to create one of the more successful "alphabet agencies" of the New Deal, the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Ill health had affected Byrns's career negatively, but it was the ill health of Speaker Henry Rainey that helped to move Byrns into the Speaker's chair. Rainey, seventy-three years old, died from a heart attack on August 19, 1934 while the Congress was not in session.

Congressional Democrats convened to elect a new Speaker and their choice was Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee. Taking office on January 3, 1935, Byrns surprised many by his shrewd use of the Speaker's considerable powers. Congressional Republicans attested to Byrns's effectiveness, pointing out much of President Roosevelt's legislation was carefully piloted through the House by the Speaker.

Tennessee was in the unusual position of having several of its representatives hold vital positions during the early years of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Joseph W. Byrns was

Speaker of the House; Cordell Hull was Secretary of State and Senator Kenneth D. McKellar was the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and one of the most influential members of the United States Senate.

Unfortunately, Jo Byrns's tenure as Speaker of the House was all too brief. Although he seemed to be vigorous, Speaker Byrns was in declining health. Byrns suffered a serious heart attack at his Washington home on the evening of June 4, 1936. The Speaker died before he could be taken to a hospital and he was buried in Nashville.

President Roosevelt eulogized Jo Byrns, saying, "Speaker Byrns belonged to that school of statesman which is the hope and justification of our democracy."

FDR went on to say that Speaker Byrns had "a simplicity and rugged honesty which we have come to associate with the name of Jackson."

While Tennessee has seen many political dynasties through the decades, the legacy of Congressman Joseph W. Byrnes was also cut short. Following Byrns's sudden death, Davidson

County District Attorney Richard M. Atkinson won the Democratic primary by a scant fifteen votes to go to Congress in 1936. Two years later, Atkinson was challenged for reelection by Joseph W. Byrns, Jr., the late Speaker's only child.

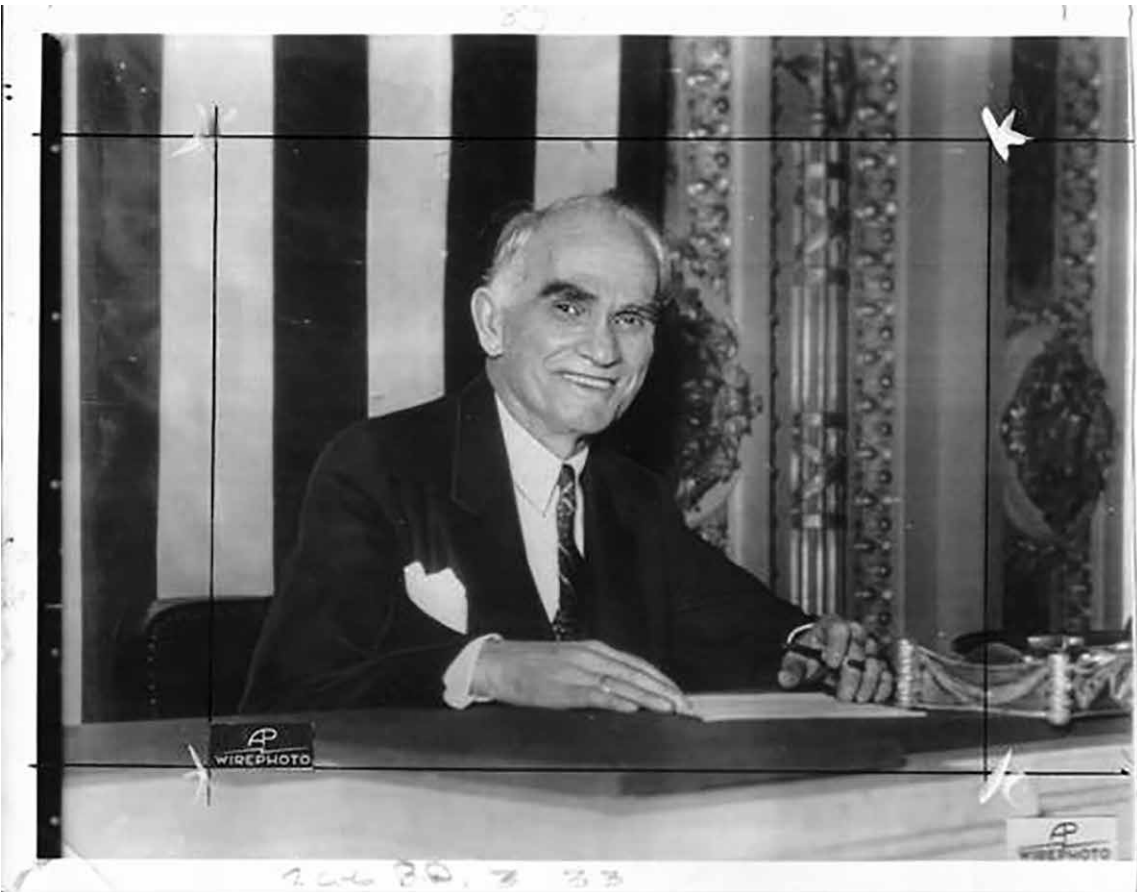
Atkinson was loathed by Senator McKellar and was a controversial figure and he lost the Democratic primary to Jo Byrns, Jr. The younger Byrns quickly proved he did not possess the considerable political skills of his late father.

Largely raised in Washington, Joseph W. Byrnes, Jr. seemed to have a disdain for the people he represented and worse still, he did not seem to be able to mask that disdain. Intemperate in his remarks, Byrns, Jr. made the fatal mistake of referring to his constituents in detrimental terms such as "clodhoppers". While Byrns, Jr. survived a rematch with former Congressman Dick Atkinson in the 1940 primary, he was challenged by Percy priest, a reporter for the Nashville Tennessean, who ran in the general election as an Independent. Byrns apparently expected to win easily, as his district

was overwhelmingly Democratic. Byrns attempted to ride on the coattails of Senator K. D. McKellar and Governor Prentice Cooper, who were also running that year and while there were banners all across the district urging voters to reelect McKellar, Cooper and Byrns, the young Congressman's personality proved to be too much to overcome. In a stunning defeat, Joseph W. Byrns, Jr. lost to Independent Percy Priest who remained in Congress until his own death in 1957. Congressman Byrns could only manage 43% of the vote in his reelection bid.

The younger Byrns left Congress and practiced law and to his credit, served in World War II. Despite being almost forty years old, Joseph Byrns, Jr. joined the U. S. Army and fought in Europe until the end of the war.

Following his military service, Joseph Byrns, Jr. moved to Florida where he lived out the rest of his life. Evidently Byrns lived in semi-retirement following the war and he died in Florida at age sixty-nine. His remains were returned to Nashville where he was buried near his parents in Mount Olivet Cemetery.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION

Speaker of the House Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee

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Spangler devotes time to active shooter preparedness

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

While other candidates were probably indoors during a recent rainy Saturday or knocking on doors, Knox County Sheriff candidate Tom Spangler was hosting an “Active Shooter” preparedness session on the Ag Campus of the University of Tennessee.

Spangler spoke to an audience of teachers, emergency responders, citizens and at least two out-of-county emergency planners. He spent more than an hour talking about how churches, schools and businesses can plan for the unexpected visitor with a gun. He did not mention his candidacy until a very brief comment at the end of the lecture.

The former sheriff’s deputy and interim chief went over several things to help prevent active shooters and what to do if confronted by

one.

Spangler said that having a permit to carry arms doesn’t qualify someone as a security officer. He advised everyone to start any situation with their eyes and report anything suspicious. He said that teachers or others holding a gun when the police enter might become the first target. He said that response from the sheriff or police department has changed and said the officers “go straight at the shooter” now.

“Get to know your building’s lay out. Set up safety teams, hire uniformed officers, ask for a marked unit be parked nearby and establish emergency procedures,” he advised. He said that becoming a security officer at a church, school or business “is no longer a retirement job” and suggested hiring off-duty officers.

“Are you thinking of what could

happen today? Prepare yourself in case of trouble. Here we are in a day when churches have to lock their doors,” he said.

“Do you talk to your kids? They hear things,” he said.

Spangler said that active shootings happen “in three to four minutes” and as police response can take 5 to 7 minutes, “The math is not on our side.”

He suggested that churches not only involve the pastor in planning but include people like the music director, janitor, Sunday school teachers and members. He also suggested that pastors not counsel anyone alone.

“Let people know,” he said of a suspicious individual. “It may be nothing but if you don’t then you’re part of the problem.”

“Denial, Deter and Detect are the guidelines,” he said, explaining that Denial involves underestimating

the severity of a shooter and that can cost lives. Don’t be in denial.

He said that “Deter” involves what to do in preparation.

Detect means reporting suspicious backpacks or activity, and reporting troubled members, employees and following up tips of possible danger.

Spangler said that securing a building involves creating a single point of entry, establishing secure rooms, barricading classrooms and practicing emergency situations. He said preparation also includes finding cover and “technically retreating” from a situation.

He said of arming teachers, “I don’t want to put another burden on teachers.”

He noted that a 60-inch bar to secure doors is less expensive than the loss of a life.

In responding to an active shooter Spangler said to “do whatever



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Former interim Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler took time off his campaign for Sheriff to give a free talk about how to prepare for an “Active Shooter” in schools, churches and businesses.

it takes” in a fight or flight situation adding, “There are people out there who want to hurt somebody.”

Hardin Valley area residents protest proposed developments to the MPC

By Pete Gawda

Residents of the Hardin Valley Hardin Valley area once again proved that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. They came out in numbers to the very lengthy Thursday, April 12 meeting of the Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) to oppose proposed developments in their area. Residents protest increased density, traffic and crowding of schools that they claimed would be brought about by these developments. Some statements were greeted by applause. Residents stated that proposed road improvements were long range and lacked funding. They noted other developments in the area which they claimed were already overloading the infrastructure.

In spite of their protests the MPC approved the concept plan of Hardin Valley Land Partners for the 118 lot, 34 acre Coward Mill Subdivision on the northwest side of Coward Mill Road northeast of Pellissippi Parkway.

MPC executive director Gerald Green stated that the MPC is aware of transportation needs in the area. He said a mobility contract is in the works that will look at existing and future transportation plans. He said the study would identify and prioritize transportation needs.

Commissioner Scott Smith also expressed concern about traffic safety. He said that normally improvements follow growth problems.

Protesting speakers noted that the new Hardin Valley Middle School is over capacity. The audience erupted in laughter when staff stated that the figure used to project school attendance increase by proposed development in the area was 0.4 students per household.

Green suggested concerned citizens put together a community group to work with the county commission and the school system to address their concerns.

“Our sole purpose,” Commissioner Art Clancy said in defense of the MPC, “is specifically land use. We can’t force Knox County to build bigger schools. “He said people who own large tracts of land want to develop it. “We look at land to see what it is good for,” Clancy said “We have to respect the rights of people who own the land.”

However Commissioner Charles Lomax evoked applause from the audience when he offered a different opinion. “We have to make a decision in the best interest of the community, he asserted. He suggested the MPC work with the school system to look at the impact that zoning has on schools.

“It is your responsibility to look at the big picture,” Kim Frazier of Hardin Valley Planning Advocates admonished the MPC commissioners. “Your projections are way off. The information you are getting is not accurate.”

The MPC voted to recommend the county commission change the zoning of property on the south side of Coward Mill Road southwest of Chuck Jones Road from industrial to planned residential with a density of 2.5 dwelling units per acre. In answer to opposition the owner said they did not plan to build a subdivision, just a few family dwellings.

Residents of the Hardin Valley area were successful in having another petition concerning their area denied. Ball Homes inc, had requested a rezoning of property on the northwest end of Bryant Lane, northwest of Hardin Valley Road from business and technology to planned residential with the view of developing a subdivision.

In support of the proposal, Arthur Seymour Jr. stated that Knox County would take care of the traffic on Hardin Valley Road.

Bill Frazier noted that the property in question is in a technology corridor “If it is not used for technology it must be preserved he asserted.”

Fred Martin of Pellissippi College related to the MPC

his organization’s attempt to purchase the land for the college. He said the property is still in probate. The MPC was reluctant to rezone property that is in probate and denied the request. Opposition from neighbors also paid off in the denial of final plat approval for the resubdivision of a lot in Black Oak Meadows which is north of Hatmaker Lane, on the east side of Hopper Lane

After some discussion the MPC voted to recommend the city council change the zoning for Knox Rail Salvage from

C-3 (General Commercial) to C-4 (Highway and Arterial Commercial.) The owner wanted to use the property on the northwest side of E. Depot Ave northeast of N. Central Street for a lumber storage yard. The MPC added the stipulation that the area be concealed by some type of fencing.

To brighten things up after a long and sometimes contentious meeting Bruce Brown expressed concern about his ability to continue grazing his donkeys on the adjacent property of Riley Chauvin -Duchesne on the northeast side of Collier

Road, and the northwest side of Helen Drive if the property were rezoned from agricultural to low density residential. Chauvin-Duchesne assured the MPC that his intention was to subdivide the property to sell one or two building lots but that he would continue to allow Brown to graze his donkeys on the property.

The MPC stated that they had no authority over a private agreement between two individuals. The change in zoning would have no effect on the agreement.



PHOTO BY PETE GAWDA.

A large crowd, many of them from the Hardin Valley area, attended the April 12 MPC meeting to protest proposed developments in their area.

★ ★ ★

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Austin-East plans to assist the Love Kitchen

Basketball camp and sportsmanship clinic also slated for May 5

By Steve Williams

The Austin-East High School boys’ basketball team has the ball rolling. But the target is more than a hoop. The Roadrunners want to be winners in community service and setting an example for good sportsmanship.

“We’ve already started,” said head coach Marcus Stanton when asked about the initiatives A-E administrators told the TSSAA Board of Control they wanted to put in place at the school’s appeal hearing in February.

The appeal was in regard to a two-year ban from post-season play, which A-E and

Brainerd received from the TSSAA after a game between their two basketball teams turned into a “brawl” at the Chattanooga school Jan. 27.

The Board of Control denied the two schools’ appeal but offered to reconsider the second year of the penalty at a meeting in June.

Austin-East High plans to help and work with the Love Kitchen, a popular social services organization in Knoxville that is located on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, just down the road from the A-E campus in East Knoxville.

The Love Kitchen

provides meals, clothing and emergency food packages to homebound, homeless and unemployed persons.

The Roadrunners’ basketball team will make its first trip to the Love Kitchen April 23 during school hours, pending approval of the field trip, said Coach Stanton.

“We’re trying to set it up, so it will be year round.”

Others at Austin-East – students and teachers – also want to participate.

“The cheerleaders are really excited, too,” said Stanton. “Some are already asking, ‘When do we start?’

“Forty to 50 people have already signed up, including teachers and other athletic teams – cross country, softball, baseball and some football players. We’ll be scheduling these people

a few at a time to go there after school.”

Knoxville’s Scarecrow Foundation, an organization to “Help End Hunger in America” has raised money, awareness and volunteers for the Love Kitchen in the past with its best known event – the Gator Hator Week prior to the Tennessee vs. Florida football game.

“They (the Scarecrow Foundation) have never had a high school as a partner to work with,” said Stanton, who has been at A-E since 2003 and became the school’s head coach in 2013.

A Basketball Camp / Sportsmanship Clinic in conjunction with a Love Kitchen “food can drive” also have been scheduled for Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the A-E

gym.

Brainerd’s team is coming to help, said Stanton, who has been in communication with Brainerd Coach Levar Brown since this past season’s incident, which reportedly was made worse by spectators coming on the floor and getting involved.

“We will be promoting good sportsmanship and character in sports,” said Stanton. “We hope kids will come out and learn and have fun. We want parents to be there as well as children.

“We’re inviting speakers to talk about good sportsmanship and character. We hope other teams in Knoxville will attend. It’ll be open to all.”

Regardless of the TSSAA’s ruling, Stanton said “something good can come out of this. That’s the main thing.



Austin-East boys basketball coach Marcus Stanton says many of the school’s students and teachers are excited about assisting the Love Kitchen ... “It’s now a school thing. I hope we can make the best of all this now.”

“We’re happy to have the opportunity to have our suspension lifted. We can’t take back what happened, but just make things better and not let it happen again.”



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Gresham Middle School’s Sammy Long was named Special Olympics Athlete of the Year Wednesday at the annual Track and Field Meet at Hardin Valley Academy Wednesday. Long also played for the Gladiators boys basketball team that won the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament in February.

Blosser shares her love of sports as volunteer at Special Olympics

By Ken Lay

As a softball player at Hardin Valley Academy, Jayden Blosser has competed on the state’s biggest stage.

Blosser, a senior catcher for the Lady Hawks, has played in the Class AAA State Tournament as a freshman. She’s also been a part of two district and region championship teams.

But on Wednesday morning, she took her love of athletics to a higher level. She was one of several Hardin Valley students or student-athletes who undertook the enormous task of organizing the annual Special Olympics Track and Field Meet that the school hosted at its track.

The event was rescheduled for Wednesday after being washed out by morning showers on Monday, April 9.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Powell Middle School student-athlete Daniel Byrd recently competed in the 2018 Special Olympics Track and Field Meet at Hardin Valley Academy. He was one of many competitors at Wednesday’s events.

Blosser said that she and the other peer tutors began planning for the event at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. Part of her duties Wednesday included awarding of medals.

“This is fun,” Blosser said. “It’s been a little chaotic but it’s been a lot of fun.

“We started planning this

Continue on page 2



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Just warming up!



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Christina Ober may have missed this pitch, but it's the try that counts. The 5-year-old youngster was practicing with the Fillies' 6U fast-pitch softball team at Nicholas Ball Park in the Karns area last Wednesday. After recent cool temperatures and gray skies, it was a perfect day to be on the ball field. Like the weather, Christina was just warming up, and she did hit it before her turn at the plate was over.

Blosser shares her love of sports as volunteer at Special Olympics

Cont. from page 1

whole thing back in August or September. This is special because it gives these kids to compete in sports and win medals. Softball is my sport and I've won medals in softball. This gives these kids the chance to win medals."

Special Olympics, which began in 1968, is celebrating its 50th anniversary and that was the theme for the banners that lined the track during the opening ceremonies on a cool and breezy morning that quickly morphed into a beautiful windy spring day.

Coach and Athlete of the Year honored: Copper Ridge Elementary School coach Heather Alexander was named Coach of the Year and Gresham Middle School student-athlete Sammy Long was named Athlete of the Year.

Long has had a memorable 2017-18 academic year in athletics. Long was a 3-point shooter for Gresham Middle School's boys basketball team. He made a pair of 3-point shots in an early-season game against Halls Middle School and students and fans from both schools stormed the court at Central High School back in November.

The Gladiators also won the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament at Karns in February. The Gladiators edged Farragut in the title game as the No. 9 seed.

Central earns series split with comeback win over Red Devils on diamond

By Ken Lay

Central High School's baseball team was advantageous Tuesday night. The Bobcats made the most of some gifts that came their way and the result was a 4-3 comeback victory over Black Oak Ridge rival Halls in a District 3-AAA game on Bud Bales Field at Tommy Schumpert Park.

The Bobcats (7-14 overall, 3-7 in the district) took advantage of five errors by the Red Devils after falling behind early. The victory came approximately 24 hours after the Halls erased a deficit to nab a 3-2

eight-inning win over the Bobcats at Bob Polston Field.

"This was a big win for us," said first-year Central coach Devan Parrott said. "We got down 3-0 early and things just weren't going our way. I told the kids that we needed to work back toward the middle."

"You can't get too high or too low, you always have to work back toward the middle. This was especially big for us last [Monday] night. We lost that game after we were up. They came back and they won in extra innings. But tonight, we were able to come back."

It was the first district loss of the 2018 campaign for the Red Devils (13-7, 9-1). Early on, however, it looked as though Halls would keep its perfect record intact. Starting pitcher Jeff Griffin, a left hander, retired the first 10 Bobcats he faced and had a perfect game until Cole Rheinecker singled with one out in the bottom of the fourth.

Griffin then fanned designated hitter Garrett Hamilton for the second out of the frame but Central scored before Griffin got out of the inning.

Rheinecker advanced to second on a wild pitch and stole third. Seth Armstrong walked. Bobcats pitcher Trevor Ferguson singled in Rheinecker with the home team's first run before courtesy runner Caleb Hill (who was running for Armstrong) scored when Zayne Limbaugh reached on Halls High's first defensive miscue of the contest to make the score 3-2.

The rally came after the Red Devils scored all three of their runs in the top of the second inning.

Continue on page 4

Farragut and HVA play to scoreless tie in boys soccer

By Ken Lay

When District 4-AAA rivals Farragut High School and Hardin Valley Academy took the field Thursday night, the stakes were potentially high. The winner would capture the upper hand in winning the regular-season championship, as both sides entered the match with unblemished league record.

Trouble was: both the Admirals and the Hawks left HVA with a blemish on their ledger as the two squads played to a 0-0 draw.

Farragut, which missed

on several scoring chances during the match and had a bevy of opportunities go awry after halftime. The Hawks, conversely, felt victorious after the two teams settled nothing by the end of the contests.

"It's the same thing every time that we play on this field," Farragut coach Ray Dover said after the match. "You can't play a passing game on this pitch because the ball is always bouncing."

"This kind of soccer isn't fun to watch as a fan. It's not pretty soccer. We have some injuries and we have four starters out and we

have some guys adjusting to some new roles. I was proud of our guys for their effort as they adjusted to these new roles. We had some chances."

The Admirals (6-5-1 overall, 2-0-1 in the district) outshot the Hawks in the match. Farragut had five quality shots on target while HVA (3-4-5, 3-0-1) managed just two shots on frame.

Some injuries and prior academic commitments had Hawks coach Nick Bradford shuffling his lineup. Senior starting goalkeeper Ryan Hart was

absent. That gave sophomore Damonte Foster the shot to start between the goalposts for HVA.

And he didn't disappoint.

He kept the Admirals at bay all night.

"I'm proud of our guys because I feel like we protected our home field," Bradford said. Like Farragut, we had some people out. I'm sure that Ray and I don't particularly like to play this style of soccer.

"But I'm really proud of our keeper. I'm proud of him because you don't go quietly into the night when you make your first varsity start against Farragut."

Thursday's result obviously had an impact on the standings.

The Hawks have one league match left. They'll host Maryville on Friday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

The Admirals, meanwhile, have a pair of district tilts remaining. Both are on the road. They invade Lenoir City Tuesday at 7 p.m. and travel to Blount County to face the Rebels on Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m.




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By Steve Williams

It had been a rather quiet off-season on the local high school football coaching scene until about two weeks ago.

Before then, only two schools had undergone head coaching changes since the end of the 2017 campaign.

Jerry Cooper stepped down at Seymour soon after the Eagles' winless campaign last fall, and Scott Galyon, a former Seymour High great who went on to play at UT and in the NFL, was a popular choice to replace him in late November.

The announcement of Brad Conley retiring from coaching at Gibbs came as a surprise Jan. 9. He had been head coach for 10 years and guided the Eagles to the Region 2-5A title in 2016. Defensive coordinator Brad Turner was elevated to the head post in early March.

A month passed and with spring practice for most teams not far off, no other changes were anticipated.

But like a low-scoring game that has a flurry of touchdowns in the closing minutes, news of more coaching changes piled up in a hurry.

At Powell, Coach Rodney Ellison on April 2 put on his Twitter account the first inkling of his resignation. Oddly enough, four days before on March 29, Ellison had tweeted, "It was a great week of workouts for the Panthers! Spring practice is just over a month away."

Later that week, J.D. Overton announced April 5 he was stepping down at Halls. He had been honored as the Region 2-5A Coach of the Year after rallying the Red Devils to the region championship.

Ellison tweeted on April 9 he would be an assistant coach on Steve Matthews' staff at Knoxville Catholic, which captured the Class 5A state crown last season.

And the morning after, on April 10, it was reported that Matt Lowe was leaving The King's Academy to return "home" to Powell, where he had previously coached with great success and also starred as a player himself in the mid-1990s.

Lowe's departure left TKA to find a head coach and athletic director.

"I think I always knew at some point that I would end up back at Powell High School," Lowe said last Wednesday (April 11). "That's where I played. That's where my family is from. That's where my father played."

"When the opportunity came, I think it was the right time and the right fit ... for us as a family and me individually to get back to where everything started."

Lowe, 41, had informed TKA administrators of his decision last Monday (April 9) and was introduced to the Powell squad the following day.

"We talked for maybe five to 10 minutes," he said. "It was great to see those smiling faces. You could tell there is a lot of excitement there. They could tell I was excited and I look forward to getting to work with all those young people."

The Panthers will start spring practice under Lowe the first or second week of May.

Lowe compiled a 49-23 record in six seasons (2006-11) at Powell in his first head coaching job. The Panthers qualified for the playoffs each year under Lowe and played in the Class 5A state championship game in 2011, falling to Henry County 17-14.

After not coaching in 2012, Lowe was hired by The King's Academy. He had a five-year record of 30-25 and steered the Lions to an 8-4 record and the Division II-A state quarterfinals last season before falling to Nashville Christian 28-7.

Marc Weekly, TKA Vice President for Development, said: "To say Matt leaves the program better than when he arrived would be an understatement. His tireless planning and exciting brand of football put TKA into the playoff landscape."

TKA Headmaster Walter Grubb added: "We love the style of football Matt introduced here, and we are committed to maintaining that same level of intensity ... We hope to make a decision and an announcement soon, but we will be thorough in our selection process."

At Halls, Overton stepped down after six seasons as head coach, including the first year as an interim.

"I resigned to pursue opportunities in education that do not include coaching," he said.

Last season was Overton's best as he guided the Red Devils to their first region title in 21 years.

"We were not a good football team the first couple weeks of season, but we were playing our best at end of year because of our players' commitment to each other," said Overton.

Meagan Booth, Halls' athletic director, stated: "We hate to see Coach Overton leave coaching. He's a top notch coach, educator and all around great guy. Halls football is without a doubt a better program now than when he took over."

That vast improvement is because Coach Overton dedicated countless hours to building a great program and loving on our kids."

Because of the region championship, added Booth, "We've had lots of interest (in the vacancy) and are currently making decisions on interviews. Our goal is to have a coach in place by spring practice which starts April 30."

"Our current coaching staff is doing an incredible job keeping the ship moving in the right direction until a head coach is announced."



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Matt Lowe poses with his daughter Lizzi prior to her softball game at Nicholas Ball Park last Wednesday. Lowe announced last week he was coming back to coach football again at Powell High, his alma mater. Lizzi is a member of the Team Tennessee 11U team. The Lowe family also includes wife Stacy and daughters Erica and Linni.

HVA student-athletes finalize college plans at signing ceremony

By Ken Lay

Ten Hardin Valley Academy student-athletes finalized their respective commitments to continue their athletic careers in college. They did so at a signing ceremony Wednesday morning in the school's auditorium.

Hawks and Lady Hawks, who will move on to compete at the next level, include: Lizzie Davis; Paige Gentry; Brock Umberger; Sydney Dukes; Kayla Domon; Kenton Bachmann; Madison Grimm; Sydney Bailey; Lainee Griffin and Kenya Sloan.

Davis, Bachmann and Grimm will all compete in multiple sports in college.

Davis will play basketball and compete in track and field at Lynchburg College in Virginia. Bachmann, a distance specialist for HVA's boys track team, will run both cross country and track for Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. The Demon Deacons are members of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Grimm will compete in both cross country and track at Arkansas State University.

Together, the duo helped Hardin Valley make a State Sectional appearance in 2016-17 as juniors. HVA shared the 2017-18 District 4-AAA regular-season championship with Bearden, which went on to win both the District 4-AAA Tournament Championship and Region 2-AAA Title en route to reaching the Class AAA State Semifinals in Murfreesboro.

Brock Umberger, a top baseball player for the Hawks, will move on to play college ball at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate.

Dukes will play softball for Walters State Community College. She's had a stellar career on the diamond at HVA. As a freshman, she helped the Lady Hawks win both the district and region championships and make their first-ever trip to Spring Fling and the Class AAA State Tournament. During her sophomore season in 2016, Hardin Valley again won the district and region titles before being eliminated in the State Sectional round by Seymour, which lost to the Lady Hawks in the sectional the previous season.

Domon is in her first season at HVA but she previously played on back-to-back state championship teams at Christian Academy of Knoxville. She'll play at Florida Southwestern State Community College.

Bailey and Griffin will both play soccer for the Carson-Newman University Lady Eagles in Jefferson City.

Sloan is undoubtedly the most dominant high school female wrestler. She went 32-0 over the winter and pinned 31 of her opponents. She is the first four-time female State Champion. She went undefeated during her high school career.

She will attend Campbellsville University in Kentucky. The school boasts the top-ranked women's college wrestling program in the nation.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Ten Hardin Valley Academy student-athletes finalize their college plans at a signing ceremony Wednesday morning in the HVA auditorium.



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Orange and White Game returns to traditional scoring

By Steve Williams

One of the biggest differences Tennessee football fans will see in new head coach Jeremy Pruitt's first Orange and White Game will be on the scoreboard.

Instead of final scores 95-71 and 129-100 Volunteer fans saw in former coach Butch Jones' modified scoring format in 2013 and 2014, they may see something like 17-14, the final score of the 2012 game – the year before Jones became UT's coach. Pruitt wants it to be “like a Saturday in the fall,” so standard scoring and rules will be used in Saturday's spring game at Neyland Stadium.

The players will be divided up so that the first-team offense will face the first-team defense.

Kickoff will be at 2 p.m. Admission and parking is free.

“There's something about going out into Neyland Stadium and playing the game,” Pruitt said. “One thing that we want to do, from the coaches to the trainers and managers,

and everyone in the entire organization, we want to approach the spring game and actually play a game.

“My challenge is for our fan base. The first two scrimmages aren't open, but the spring game obviously is. The best way to put them in an adverse situation is to show up. That presence will create pressure which will prepare them for next season.

“I want to create a game-like situation for the team to see who the competitors are,” Pruitt added. “That's one of the things we talked about going into spring practice, it was finding the guys who love to compete when the game is on the line. The only way to figure that out is to put them in a game-like situation and pick sides and ‘let's go.’”

Vol Village will open at 9:30, and like on real game days, there will be a Vol Walk starting at 12:55.

Free shuttles will be available from UT Ag Campus and Kingston Pike Building (Lot 40).

The clear bag policy for Neyland Stadium will be in



First-year Tennessee Head Coach Jeremy Pruitt hopes UT fans will treat Saturday's Orange and White Game likes it's a Saturday in the fall.

effect.

Extreme weather forced the 2017 game to be called off at halftime with the White leading the Orange 44-29. That win by the White tied the all-time series record at 27-27-3

since the spring intrasquad contests started in 1961.

The largest attendance for an Orange and White Game was 73,801 in 1986.

AUGUST FAN DAY: Tennessee will transition the

autograph session, which has been a part of the Orange and White Game in the past, to a date in early August during fall camp. The transition will give fans an additional opportunity to watch the Vols practice in

Neyland Stadium.

Following the August Fan Day open practice, fans will be able to meet the players and coaches and collect autographs.

A sneak peek into UT football under Coach Pruitt

There's a few things we'll be seeing in Tennessee football again under new head coach Jeremy Pruitt and it's possible we may get a glimpse in the upcoming Orange and White game.

Remember the huddle? Grandfathers and dads should be prepared to explain when young fans ask, “What's that?” Pruitt has indicated during spring practice his offense will huddle at times and sometimes go “no-huddle – we're mixing up tempos.”

Tennessee reportedly also is moving away from an up-tempo spread offense to a pro style attack. That means the quarterback will be taking the snap from under center more often and throwing more play action passes.

Pruitt also would like to install a power run game. Of course that will take strong blockers up front and hopefully a fullback.

Apparently one thing Tennessee fans won't be seeing again is the Smokey Grey uniforms. Personally, if the players like that look, I wouldn't mind if they wore them once a year in a non-conference game. But the Vols need to wear the Orange and White in all the big games.

Tennessee players also will be going back to wearing black cleats – like back in the day when the Vols were winning championships!

BEARDEN'S RECORD of 38-2 this past season may be the most wins ever by a Knox County boys'

basketball team. If you know of one better, please let us know.

For sure it is a school record for the Bulldogs, said Coach Jeremy Parrott, and their 16 wins in district league play also was a new mark.

I can only verify top records of teams that played in TSSAA state championship games over the years. Holston's 1978 Class AA state title team posted a 34-1 record and tops that list for winning percentage. Bearden's 2011 Class AAA state runner-up team also is on that Top 10 list with a 35-3 record.

Parrott's Bulldogs lost to eventual state champion Memphis East in this year's semifinals.

“We were ranked nationally, different times through the year, in different positions,” said Coach Parrott.

OUTGOING HALLS football coach J.D. Overton said the “greatest satisfaction” from coaching is simply being a part of the team.

“It is incredible being a part of something bigger than yourself,” said Overton. “Seeing young men grow and develop into someone their parents and community can be proud of because they buy into this team concept is special.”

FORMER UT Athletic Director John Currie's comment about Tennessee fans being “wacko” for how they reacted to his attempt to hire Greg Schiano may not have offended one group of fans.

I'm referring to that crazy bunch of Lady Vol softball supporters known as the “Locos!”

Central earns series split with comeback win over Red Devils on diamond

Continued from page 2

Halls got its first run when Hunter Housewright scored on a wild pitch. The Red Devils scored two more runs when Skylar Stalcup's double scored Trey Messer and Blake Rauhuff, who both walked earlier in the frame.

Central would eventually win but the Bobcats left the bases loaded in the fifth thanks to a walk and two Halls errors after Griffin stuck out the first two batters of the inning.

The 'Cats tied the game when Ferguson scored on another Halls error in the sixth. They got the go-ahead run when a single by Gabe Rives plated Bryson Stamps, who also reached on an error.

Griffin deserved a better fate

according to veteran Red Devils coach Doug Polston.

“He really pitched pretty well,” Polston said of Griffin, who struck out seven. “Hat's off to [Central]. They deserved to win this game. We just didn't play very well.

“We didn't hit with runners on base and we didn't make plays. We didn't make the plays that we should've made.”

Ferguson, who had five strikeouts and picked up the win, was lifted with two outs in the seventh after surrendering a single to Housewright.

Rheinecker earned a save when he recorded the game after giving up a walk.

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Fergisms

A rare disease has touched our family three times, though it would be years before we connected all the dots. First, an adopted daughter couldn't move her arms. Then, there was a bride who didn't smile. And most recently a sister in law started choking and couldn't swallow.

To the best of my memory, I have diagnosed only one case of myasthenia gravis in more than forty years of medical practice. And this is unusual because the prevalence of this rare disease is approximately 200 per million population. As a rough estimate I have treated 140,000 patients during forty years of traditional medical practice, not including throngs of patients I've treated in a half dozen medical mission trips in Guatemala. Therefore the probability of an internist encountering a patient with this neuromuscular disease is quite small.

To comprehend myasthenia, picture an electrical outlet on the wall of your home. If you want to light your room, you have to plug the cord of your lamp into the outlet so electrical energy can activate the light bulb. Now, imagine that you want to move your arm. First, you conceive of this movement in your brain. This is known as praxis. Then, an electrochemical impulse is generated and sent down nerve roots to the muscles of the arm. There is a gap between the nerve endings and the muscle cells called the neuromuscular junction. The arrival of the nerve impulse triggers the release of a chemical messenger called acetylcholine (one of a half dozen such neurochemical messengers). Acetylcholine (ACh) then binds to a specific receptor within the neuromuscular junction, ultimately stimulating muscle cells to move your arm.

When our kids were young, and since we now have grandchildren, Becky and I are careful to keep a plastic cover on unused electrical outlets. Like all humans, kids are curious and if adults are not careful to use plastic covers, kids will stick things into an electrical outlet and kill themselves. Now, imagine the neuromuscular junction in the setting of myasthenia gravis, a situation analogous to electrical outlets. Myasthenia gravis is an immune system disease where antibodies are produced which bind to and "cover" neuromuscular receptors, thus preventing ACh from activating muscle cells. The result is muscle weakness of arms, inability to smile and difficulty swallowing.

The treatment of myasthenia gravis includes medications to increase ACh levels in an attempt to override the blockage at the neuromuscular junction. And since myasthenia is an immune system disorder, agents to suppress the abnormal blocking antibody production is also beneficial. Interestingly, there is an association between myasthenia gravis and tumors of the thymus gland. The thymus gland lies beneath the breastbone and is quite large in newborns. I won't digress into arcane immune system development, but the thymus is very important in the

maturing immune system. The gland normally shrinks as we age, but tumors can develop which produce blocking antibodies and cause myasthenia gravis. If tumors are found in association with myasthenia, and blocking antibodies are measurable, surgical removal of the thymus is often recommended as part of the treatment.

Years ago when I was in a large internal medicine group, my partners referred to my many medical axioms as "Fergisms." Axioms are principles or truisms. My axioms derive from observations of life and my conclusions of why things are as they appear. I once thought of doing a story around my observations, but decided such might be boring, especially if offered out of context. So instead, I've decided to sprinkle Fergisms more liberally within my stories as food for thought.

Years ago I was trying to explain the humanistic concept of empathy to a medical resident who just didn't get it. I told him that "if he lived long enough he'd experience the aches and pains of his patients" and he'd have more wisdom and empathy for their complaints. His confusion was evident as he furrowed his brow and cocked his head slightly, just as I've seen my dog do when trying to triangulate a sound. I finally told him to go and think about

it, and I was sure he'd have an epiphany.

My concierge practice business card reads, "Advice, Advocacy and Treatment." Most of the time I listen to concerns, explain sometimes confusing symptoms or the medicalese of consultants and give advice. Often, my explanations reassure folks and they are fine just watching and waiting. Many times concerns resolve. And if testing becomes necessary a logical plan of evaluation is preferable to directionless worry.

Advocacy is especially important when you're sick. I've been deathly ill and experienced a bureaucratic, compartmentalized medical system and an aloof doctor who projected little concern for me. Fortunately, I found other caring doctors who interceded on my behalf and I had a successful outcome. When you are vulnerable an advocate is essential. Too often people choose expediency and don't recognize the crucial role of advocacy. Andy Warhol once said everyone desires fifteen minutes of fame. Woody Allen once said 85% of life is showing up. I say, all of life is relationship and being included. If you don't sense advocacy from your doctor, leave before an inevitable crisis occurs.

And, yes, I sometimes give penicillin as treatment in my concierge practice!

Myasthenia gravis is more common in women and the three patients I described are women. As homage to these stalwart ladies who battle myasthenia, I thought it might be fun to sprinkle a few Fergisms dedicated to and celebrating the fairer sex.

-Women are the glue of civilization. Without them men would be savages.

-A man should never leave the building until he sees his wife precede him. Otherwise, he will only sit in the car and be either hot or cold and frustrated. Guys, they're still in the building gluing relationships together. Embrace it.

-Women do not need segues in conversations with other women. However, men think in a linear fashion and segues between thoughts are required.

-Women shop; men buy.

-Women have intuition; men have gut feelings.

-Women smell better than men, and they have a keener sense of smell.

-Champagne and pearls go with everything. Guys, remember this at your next anniversary.

And last of all in this confusing world where fitting in and being included is important,

"If you live with someone long enough you'll become like them." There's hope, guys!

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

National Adopt A Shelter Pet Day

April 30th is National Adopt-a-Shelter Pet Day and we have five



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

tips for success. Adopting a pet from an animal shelter or rescue organization should be exciting, fun,

and filled with a sense of adventure. I often wonder how people approach the task of adopting a pet. A couple friends of mine recently adopted a greyhound from a local greyhound rescue group. I am excited and happy for them as they searched for the perfect dog—the dog that would

match their energy and enthusiasm for adventure.

Hobo's adoption tips offer a practical approach to pet adoption. Adoption day can be a joyful and relatively stress-free experience. Hobo the Wonder Dog and I suggest the five P's—Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance. Being prepared on adoption day will create success for you and the new addition to your family.

5 Tips for Adoption Success:

1. Do your homework. Research the breed of dog you want to adopt. Do you want to start with a puppy, middle-aged or senior dog? Each life stage has unique

challenges and rewards. Search animal rescues and animal shelters many post pictures of adoptable pets on their websites.

2. Prepare your home. Like the expectation of a human baby the family prepares for months and a pet should be no different. Designating an area to confine your new pup offers a safe area for relaxation without constant monitoring. Having a crate, bedding, food, water and feed bowls, leashes, collars, and time. Yes, time. Introducing a new pet to their new home is important and should not be rushed.

3. Be Perry Mason. Ask questions and get as much information about prospective adoptions as possible. Acquire as much information about where the pet came from, behavior at

the shelter, and any medical history when available. Spend time with the animal and get to know them.

4. Acknowledge the big adjustment. Bringing your new family member home is a big adjustment for you and the pet. Taking it slow will give everyone time to explore each other and get to know their new environment. The first few days are awkward for human and animal alike so relax and take it easy. Remember, if you have other animals or small children introduce them slowly and keep it positive.

5. Know your frame of mind. Know when the time is right for you. Adopting a pet before you leave on vacation or business meeting is probably not the best idea. Managing your resources

and knowing what to expect is equally important. Ask for support from friends and family this is a big decision it is an addition to your family.

Prior preparation prevents poor performance and is the foundation of successful adoption. A new pet is a rewarding experience. Know in the first few days there will be accidents, joys, frustrations, and maybe feeling overwhelmed. The journey is short take it in stride and the dog you save will be the best friend, the companion, the steady, that is always with you no matter what the world throws your way.

Life is better with a dog—Woof!

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

FORECLOSURE NOTICES

Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, Substitute Trustee
119 S. Main Street, Suite 500
Memphis, TN 38103
www.rublinlublin.com/property-listings.php
Tel: (877) 813-0992Fax: (404) 601-5846

Ad #134777 04/09/2018, 04/16/2018, 04/23/2018

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated August 20, 2004, executed by AMANDA C. BURGESS and JASON P. BURGESS, conveying certain real property therein described to SECURITY ESCROW & TITLE CO. as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Knox County, Tennessee recorded August 24, 2004, at Instrument Number 200408240016784;

and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, D/B/A Christiana Trust as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust V who is now the owner of said debt;

and WHEREAS, the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, having been appointed as Substitute Trustee by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Knox County, Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable, and that the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on **May 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM** at the City/County Lobby of the Knox County Courthouse, Knoxville, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, the following described property situated in Knox County, Tennessee, to wit:

SITUATED IN DISTRICT NO. SIX (6) OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE AND WITHOUT THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE AND BEING A PART OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN MAP BOOK 54-L, PAGE 20A, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN IN THE SOUTHEASTERN LINE OF BLACK DRIVE, WHICH IRON PIN IS 2229 FEET, MORE OR LESS, SOUTHWEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN LINE OF BLACK DRIVE AND THE CENTER LINE OF SNYDER SCHOOL ROAD, IF EXTENDED TO INTERSECT, AND ALSO BEING COMMON CORNER TO PROPERTY NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY HOWERTON; THENCE WITH THE LINE OF HOWERTON, SOUTH 29 DEG. 11 MIN. EAST 444.23 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE WITH THE SOUTHEASTERN BOUNDARY OF HOWERTON AND PROPERTY NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY SEXTON, NORTH 61 DEG. 25 MIN. EAST 237.69 FEET TO AN IRON PIN IN THE LINE OF PROPERTY NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY KNOX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL; THENCE WITH THE LINE OF SAID PROPERTY, SOUTH 29 DEG. 25 MIN. EAST 363.34 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, CORNER TO PROPERTY NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY LEE; THENCE WITH THE LINE OF LEE, SOUTH 64 DEG. 21 MIN. WEST, 190.88 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, CORNER TO PROPERTY NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY PUCKETT; THENCE WITH THE LINE OF PUCKETT, NORTH 24 DEG. 35 MIN. WEST, 329.38 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 61 DEG. 25 MIN. WEST, 100.0 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, CORNER TO PROPERTY NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY MYERS; THENCE WITH THE LINE OF MYERS, NORTH 29 DEG. 22 MIN. WEST, 420.43 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, CORNER TO PROPERTY OF FIRST UTILITY; THENCE NORTH 27 DEG. 34 MIN. WEST, 47.0 FEET TO AN IRON PIN IN THE SOUTHEASTERN LINE OF BLACK DRIVE; THENCE WITH SAID LINE, NORTH 57 DEG. 01 MIN. EAST, 25 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, THE POINT OF BEGINNING AND ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY OF MICHAEL E. LUETHKE, SURVEYOR, RLS# 842, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE DATED MAY 9, 1994 BEARING TENSSEWEE NUMBER 94200. THIS CONVEYANCE IS SUBJECT TO BOOK 2047, PAGE 57, AND ANY AND ALL RESTRICTIONS, EASEMENTS, INCLUDING A PERMANENT EASEMENT IN BOOK 2047, PAGE 57 SETBACK LINES, CONDITIONS, PLAN OF RECORD, AND ENCUMBRANCES OF RECORD IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE FOR THE AFORESAID COUNTY. SAID PROPERTY ADDRESS IS 11738 BLACK RD. KNOXVILLE, TN 37932 CLT# 130-041.

Parcel ID: 130 041
PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be **11738 BLACK ROAD, KNOXVILLE, TN 37932**. In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control.
CURRENT OWNER(S): AMANDA C. BURGESS and JASON P. BURGESS
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: CACH, LLC, MIDLAND FUNDING LLC AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO CITIBANK NA SHEL, State of Tennessee-Department of Revenue and SUNTRUST BANK The sale of the above-described property shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. This property is being sold with the express reservation that it is subject to confirmation by the lender or Substitute Trustee. This sale may be rescinded at any time. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The Property is sold as is, where is, without representations or warranties of any kind, including fitness for a particular use or purpose. In addition this sale shall be subject to the right of redemption by the State of Tennessee-Department of Revenue, pursuant to T.C.A. 67-1-1433C(1) by reason of the following tax lien(s) of record in: Instrument Number 201510020021182. Notice of the sale has been given to the State of Tennessee in accordance with T.C.A. 67-1-1433B(1).

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

Sale at public auction will be on **May 1, 2018 on or about 10:00AM** local time, at the North door, Knox County Courthouse, Knoxville, Tennessee, conducted by the Substitute Trustee as identified and set forth herein below, pursuant to Deed of Trust executed by RICHARD G. CHANDLER AND THE CHANDLER FAMILY TRUST EXECUTED MAY 10, 2013, to FNC Title Services, LLC, Trustee, on June 3, 2015, as Instrument No. 201506260071418 in the real property records of Knox County Register's Office, Tennessee.

Owner of Debt: AMERICAN ADVISORS GROUP

The following real estate located in Knox County, Tennessee, will be sold to the highest call bidder subject to all unpaid taxes, prior liens and encumbrances of record:

All the following described real estate situated in the sixth (6th) Civil District of the County of Knox, State of Tennessee, and being known and designated as follows, to wit:

Lot 2, Smoky River Subdivision, as shown by the Map of the same of record in Map Cabinet K, Slide 222-C, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, to which specific reference is made for a more particular description thereof.

Being the same property conveyed to Patricia G. Chandler, Trustee of the Chandler family Trust executed May 5, 2013, and her successors in office, by Quitclaim Deed from Patricia Chandler, single, by and through her Attorney-In-Fact, Richard Gordon Chandler, dated November 19, 2013 and recorded November 20, 2013 as Instrument No. 01311200032362. Patricia G. Chandler having passed from this life on December 4, 2013 thereby leaving Richard G. Chandler as first successor trustee of the Chandler Family Trust executed May 10, 2013.

Being the same property conveyed to Patricia Chandler, by Warranty Deed from Sherry A. Kean, unmarried, dated September 26, 2013 and recorded September 30, 2013 as Instrument No. 201309300021638.

Being the same property conveyed to Sherry A. Kean, by Deed from Robert Martinez and wife, Deborah S. Martinez, dated July 17, 2006 and Recorded July 19, 2006 as Instrument No. 200607190005668.

Tax ID: 0910A 002
Current Owner(s) of Property: RICHARD G. CHANDLER AND THE CHANDLER FAMILY TRUST EXECUTED MAY 10, 2013

The street address of the above described property is believed to be **2074 Smoky River Rd, Knoxville, TN 37931**, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property sold herein and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description referenced herein shall control.

SALE IS SUBJECT TO OCCUPANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION.

THE RIGHT IS RESERVED TO ADJOURN THE DAY OF THE SALE TO ANOTHER DAY, TIME AND PLACE CERTAIN WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION, UPON ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE SALE SET FORTH ABOVE. THE TERMS OF SALE ARE CASH. ANY TAXES OR FEES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PURCHASER. IF THE SALE IS SET ASIDE FOR ANY REASON, THE PURCHASER AT THE SALE SHALL BE ENTITLED ONLY TO A RETURN OF THE PURCHASE PRICE. THE PURCHASER SHALL HAVE NO FURTHER RECOURSE AGAINST THE GRANTOR, THE GRANTEE, OR THE TRUSTEE.

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: COMMERCIAL REALTY CO., C/O FATH, INC. AND SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

If applicable, the notice requirements of T.C.A. 35-5-101 have been met.

All right of equity of redemption, statutory and otherwise, and homestead are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee.

If the U.S. Department of Treasury/IRS, the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue, or the State of Tennessee Department of Labor or Workforce Development are listed as Interested Parties in the advertisement, then the Notice of this foreclosure is being given to them and the Sale will be subject to the applicable governmental entities' right to redeem the property as required by 26 U.S.C. 7425 and T.C.A. 367-1-1433.

This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the lender or trustee. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
MWZM File No. 18-000024-220

MACKIE WOLF ZIENTZ & MANN,
P.C., Substitute Trustee(s)
PREMIER BUILDING, SUITE 404
5217 MARYLAND WAY
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
PHONE: (615) 238-3630
EMAIL: TNSALES@MWZMLAW.COM

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated September 12, 2012, executed by VERLIN MILTON CRAWFORD, conveying certain real property therein described to FNC TITLE SERVICES, LLC, as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Knox County, Tennessee recorded September 28, 2012, at Instrument Number 201209280020710;

and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to Reverse Mortgage Solutions, Inc. who is now the owner of said debt;

and WHEREAS, the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, having been appointed as Substitute Trustee by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Knox County, Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable, and that the undersigned, Rubin

Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on May 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the City/County Lobby of the Knox County Courthouse, Knoxville, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, the following described property situated in Knox County, Tennessee, to wit:

SITUATED IN DISTRICT NO. SIX (6) OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, AND BEING WITHOUT THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, AND BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 11, BLOCK A, ORCHARD HILL SUBDIVISION, AS SHOWN BY MAP OF THE SAME OF RECORD IN MAP BOOK 38-S, PAGE 9 (NOW PLAT CABINET D-155A), REGISTER'S OFFICE, KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, TO WHICH MAP SPECIFIC REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION AND ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY OF WADE B. NANCE DATED MAY 9, 1989. THIS CONVEYANCE IS MADE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD IN DEED BOOK 1252, PAGE 653. REGISTER'S OFFICE, KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, AND BUILDING LINES AND EASEMENTS THEREIN: 35 FOOT MINIMUM BUILDING SETBACK LINE, 5 FOOT UTILITY AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT ALONG ALL LOT LINES, PER PLAT OF RECORD IN MAP BOOK 38-S, PAGE 9, SAID REGISTER'S OFFICE.

Parcel ID: 057MA026
PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be **5700 CHESSWOOD DR, KNOXVILLE, TN 37912**. In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control.

CURRENT OWNER(S): VERLIN MILTON CRAWFORD

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

The sale of the above-described property shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. This property is being sold with the express reservation that it is subject to confirmation by the lender or Substitute Trustee. This sale may be rescinded at any time. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The Property is sold as is, where is, without representations or warranties of any kind, including fitness for a particular use or purpose.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, Substitute Trustee
119 S. Main Street, Suite 500
Memphis, TN 38103

www.rublinlublin.com/property-listings.php
Tel: (877) 813-0992Fax: (404) 601-5846

Ad #134996 04/09/2018, 04/16/2018, 04/23/2018

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

Sale at public auction will be on **May 10, 2018 on or about 10:00AM** local time, at the North door, Knox County Courthouse, Knoxville, Tennessee, conducted by the Substitute Trustee as identified and set forth herein below, pursuant to Deed of Trust executed by JENNIFER TEMOUDEN AND ABDERRAHIM TEMOUDEN, to Robert Wilson, Trustee, on May 19, 2009, as Instrument No. 200905270076855 in the real property records of Knox County Register's Office, Tennessee.

Owner of Debt: Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC
The following real estate located in Knox County, Tennessee, will be sold to the highest call bidder subject to all unpaid taxes, prior liens and encumbrances of record:

SITUATED IN DISTRICT FIVE (5) OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, and within the 50th Ward of the City of Knoxville, and being known and designated as Lot 7, Block E, Sutherland Heights Addition, as shown by map of record in Map Book 14, Page 156, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, to which map specific reference is hereby made for a more complete and particular description.

BEING the same property conveyed to Jennifer Temouden, married from Kathleen Puckett and Thomas Puckett by Warranty Deed dated April 29, 2008 and recorded May 7, 2008 in Inst#200805070083538, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee.

Tax ID: 107EK008
Current Owner(s) of Property: JENNIFER TEMOUDEN AND ABDERRAHIM TEMOUDEN

The street address of the above described property is believed to be **3936 N Bellemeade Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37919**, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property sold herein and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description referenced herein shall control.

SALE IS SUBJECT TO OCCUPANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION.

THE RIGHT IS RESERVED TO ADJOURN THE DAY OF THE SALE TO ANOTHER DAY, TIME AND PLACE CERTAIN WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION, UPON ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE SALE SET FORTH ABOVE. THE TERMS OF SALE ARE CASH. ANY TAXES OR FEES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PURCHASER. IF THE SALE IS SET ASIDE FOR ANY REASON, THE PURCHASER AT THE SALE SHALL BE ENTITLED ONLY TO A RETURN OF THE PURCHASE PRICE. THE PURCHASER SHALL HAVE NO FURTHER RECOURSE AGAINST THE GRANTOR, THE GRANTEE, OR THE TRUSTEE.

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: SUPERIOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND ENERGYRIGHT SOLUTIONS

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

If applicable, the notice requirements of T.C.A. 35-5-101 have been met.

All right of equity of redemption, statutory and otherwise, and homestead are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee.

If the U.S. Department of Treasury/IRS, the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue, or

the State of Tennessee Department of Labor or Workforce Development are listed as Interested Parties in the advertisement, then the Notice of this foreclosure is being given to them and the Sale will be subject to the applicable governmental entities' right to redeem the property as required by 26 U.S.C. 7425 and T.C.A. 367-1-1433.

This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the lender or trustee. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
MWZM File No. 18-000229-670

MACKIE WOLF ZIENTZ & MANN,
P.C., Substitute Trustee(s)
PREMIER BUILDING, SUITE 404
5217 MARYLAND WAY
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
PHONE: (615) 238-3630
EMAIL: TNSALES@MWZMLAW.COM

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on the 3d day of October, 2006, by a Warranty Deed dated October 3, 2006 recorded at Instrument Number 200611020038357, in the Register of Deed's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, Melissa H. Beggs, known also as Melissa H. Ludlow, did purchase the hereinafter described real estate subject to all applicable restrictions, covenants, reservations, and conditions of record; and

WHEREAS, the hereinafter described real estate at the time of purchase by Melissa H. Beggs, also known as Melissa H. Ludlow, was subject to the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for BROOKSTONE HOA, INC., recorded at Instrument Number 200408310018647 in the Register of Deeds Office for Knox County, Tennessee, including the obligation to pay Annual Assessments and Special Assessments; and

WHEREAS, default has been made in the payment of the said Annual Assessments and Special Assessments, the same being now past due and payable in accordance with the terms of said Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Brookstone; and

WHEREAS, BROOKSTONE HOA, INC. has appointed T. Michael Craig-Grubbs, the undersigned, as its attorney, pursuant to the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Brookstone; and

WHEREAS, BROOKSTONE HOA, INC. has called upon the said T. Michael Craig-Grubbs, its Attorney, to foreclose the hereinafter described real estate in accordance with the terms of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for BROOKSTONE HOA, INC., and to sell the said real estate in the satisfaction of the unpaid Annual Assessments and Special Assessments.

NOW, THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT BY VIRTUE OF THE authority vested in me, the said T. Michael Craig-Grubbs, Attorney, I will on the **1st day of May, 2018, at 12:00 noon**, offer for sale and sell at the front lobby of the City-County Building, Knox County, Knoxville, Tennessee, to the last, highest and best bidder for cash in hand, the following described real estate, to-wit:

SITUATED in District No. Six (6) of Knox County, Tennessee, and being known and designated as all of Lot 29, Brookstone Subdivision, as shown by map of same of record at Instrument No. 200402120077137, in the Register of Deed's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, to which map specific reference is hereby made for a more particular description.

BEING the same property conveyed to Landview, LLC, by virtue of deed dated June 27, 2006, from Carter Mills Home, LLC, recorded June 29, 2006, at Instrument No. 200606290110341, in the Register of Deed's Office for Knox County, Tennessee.

BEING the same property subject to a Deed of Trust held by SunTrust Mortgage, Inc., and Larry A. Weissman, Trustee, by virtue of a Deed of Trust dated October 3, 2006 and of record at Instrument No. 200611020038358 in the Register of Deed's Office for Knox County, Tennessee.

BEING the same property subject to a Deed of Trust held by SunTrust Bank, and Jovetta Woodard and Patricia Robinson, Trustees, by virtue of a Deed of Trust dated February 21, 2007 and of record at Instrument No. 200703120073681 in the Register of Deed's Office for Knox County, Tennessee.

THE address of the above described property is **3543 Pebblebrook Way, Knoxville, Tennessee 37921**.

Said property will be sold subject to all unpaid real estate taxes, and any and all other prior liens and mortgages, if any, and subject to all applicable restrictions, building setback lines, and existing easements of record and to all other prior liens, judgments, and all unpaid taxes as the same may lawfully affect said property, including any valid filed or unfiled mechanic's and Materialmen's liens, there being no representations by the trustee as to the validity or enforceability of any memoranda of mechanic's or Materialmen's liens or any suits to enforce the same. Further, the property will be sold in its "as is" condition without warranties of any kind and it will be the responsibility of the successful bidder to obtain possession of the property at his or her own expense.

The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day certain, without further publication and in accordance with the law, upon announcement of such adjournment on the day and at the time and place of sale set forth above.

In the event purchaser defaults, Brookstone HOA, Inc., and its Attorney reserve the right to award sale to the next highest bidder at their sole option.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

This notice shall be published in the Knoxville Focus, a weekly newspaper published in Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee, on the 9th day of April, the 16th day of April, and the 23d day of April, 2018.

T. Michael Craig-Grubbs
Attorney for Brookstone HOA, Inc.
1810 Alton Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee 37921

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY
WHEREAS, Bradley Ross Branam and Jessica Ann Branam executed a Deed of Trust to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Mortgage Investors Group, Lender and Charles E. Tonkin, II, Trustee(s), which was dated May 30, 2014 and recorded on June 3, 2014 in Instrument No. 201406030068294, Knox County, Tennessee Register of Deeds.

WHEREAS, default having been made in the payment of the debt(s) and obligation(s) thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the current holder of said Deed of Trust, Tennessee Housing Development Agency, (the "Holder"), appointed the undersigned, Brock & Scott, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee, with all the rights, powers and privileges of the original Trustee named in said Deed of Trust; and

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Deed of Trust by the Holder, and that as agent for the undersigned, Brock & Scott, PLLC, Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in it,

will on **April 26, 2018, at 10:00AM** at the usual and customary location at the Knox County Courthouse, Knoxville, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Knox County, Tennessee, to wit:

Situated in District Six (6) of Knox County, Tennessee, and without the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being all of Lot 12, Block 1, Unit 2, of Bonta Vista Subdivision, as shown in Plat Cabinet E, Slide 44-A (formerly Map Book 53-S, page 65), in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Knox County, Tennessee, and to which map specific reference is made for a more particular description of said lot.

Being part of the same property conveyed to Bradley Ross Branam and wife, Jessica Ann Branam, from Lela Elizabeth Tipton, being one and the same as Elizabeth Tipton and Lela E. Tipton, Executrix of the Estate of David L. Clark, and individually, by Warranty Deed dated May 30, 2014 and of record in Instru-ment No. 201406030068293 in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee.

Parcel ID Number: 028KD-013
Address/Description: **7508 Pinen Drive, Knoxville, TN 37938**.

Current Owner(s): Bradley Ross Branam.
Other Interested Parties(s): Southeastern Emergency Physicians, LLC dba UT Medical Center Emergency Department and Tennessee Housing Development Agency.

The sale of the property described above shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any and all liens against said property for unpaid property taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; a deed of trust; and any matter than an accurate survey of the premises might disclose; and

All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above.

This office is attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Brock & Scott, PLLC, Substitute Trustee
c/o Tennessee Foreclosure Department
4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Ste 310
Atlanta, GA 30341
PH: 404-789-2661 FX: 404-294-0919
File No.: 17-15115 FC01

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY
WHEREAS, Karen L. Walker, unmarried executed a Deed of Trust to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Investors Group, Lender and Charles E. Tonkin, II, Trustee(s), which was dated October 31, 2008 and recorded on November 13, 2006 in Instrument No. 200811130031847, Knox County, Tennessee Register of Deeds.

WHEREAS, default having been made in the payment of the debt(s) and obligation(s) thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the current holder of said Deed of Trust, Tennessee Housing Development Agency, (the "Holder"), appointed the undersigned, Brock & Scott, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee, with all the rights, powers and privileges of the original Trustee named in said Deed of Trust; and

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Deed of Trust by the Holder, and that as agent for the undersigned, Brock & Scott, PLLC, Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in it, will on **April 26, 2018, at 10:00AM** at the usual and customary location at the Knox County Courthouse, Knoxville, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Knox County, Tennessee, to wit:

SITUATED IN District No. 5 of Knox County, Tennessee, and being known and designated as:

WITHIN the 44th Ward of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being known and designated as all of Lot No. 9 of the Wooded Acres Subdivision, Unit 2, as the same appears of record in Map Book 87S, Page 61 in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, to which map specific reference is hereby made for a more particular description.

BEING the same property conveyed to Brian Walker and wife, Karen Walker by Warranty Deed dated 11/25/2003 and of record in Instrument No. 200312090060446 in the Register's Office for Knox County, TN. Upon execution of this Instrument, grantor makes oath that Brian Walker and Karen Walker were husband and wife, there being no intervening divorce or legal separation between them until the time of death of Brian Walker on or about _____. Therefore, Karen Walker obtained title to the above described property as surviving tenant by the entirety. Further, that there is no unpaid claims or taxes due against the estate of Brian Walker.

Parcel ID Number: 092CH-009
Address/Description: **5905 Slater Mill Lane, Knoxville, TN 37921**.

Current Owner(s): Karen Walker.
Other Interested Parties(s): N/A

The sale of the property described above shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any and all liens against said property for unpaid property taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; a deed of trust; and any matter than an accurate survey of the premises might disclose; and

All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above.

This office is attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Brock & Scott, PLLC, Substitute Trustee
c/o Tennessee Foreclosure Department
4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Ste 310
Atlanta, GA 30341
PH: 404-789-2661 FX: 404-294-0919
File No.: 18-02607 FC01

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

Conquering the grave

We are told that Jesus died at 3 p.m. The Jewish Sabbath would begin at sunset about three hours later, for the Jewish day ends and the new day begins at sunset. The body of Jesus was taken down and hurriedly prepared for burial before the Sabbath began. Joseph of Arimathea asked permission from Pilate to bury the body of Jesus. Permission was granted.

Mark tells us that Joseph was a "respected member of the council" (Mark 15:43). This council was the Sanhedrin, the one that condemned Jesus



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

to death. Joseph was a good and righteous man and did not agree with their actions (Luke 23:50-51). John tells us that he was a secret disciple of Jesus out of fear of the Jews (John 19:38). Many Christians can relate to Joseph. They fear what others will think of them if they find out that they take their faith seriously. Have you ever been a secret disciple out of fear of what others might think of you?

The fear Joseph experienced while Jesus was alive left once Jesus was dead. We are told by John

that Joseph was joined by the Jewish leader Nicodemus, another secret follower of Jesus, to help prepare and bury Jesus (John 19:39). Nicodemus brought with him one hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes. They quickly cleaned and wrapped the body of Jesus in a linen shroud. We are told that Joseph laid Jesus "in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock" (Matthew 27:60). A large stone was then rolled in front of the tomb to seal it. John tells us that the tomb was located in a garden.

We are told that Pilate set up a guard at the tomb because the Pharisees reported that Jesus had

said he would rise from the dead. They worried that the disciples would try to take Jesus' body and then spread the lie that Jesus had risen. But the disciples had no thought of this in mind. They were hiding behind closed doors from the authorities, fearful for their own lives. These men had left much to follow Jesus: homes, jobs, and time with family. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah. They had watched him work in amazing ways, and now all of their hopes and dreams had been crucified with Jesus. Their King was gone and now they were in despair.

Many of us know the

feeling of the "day after;" the "day after" a loved one dies, or the "day after" the diagnosis of cancer. Others have experienced the "day after" a spouse walks out of the house never to return. The "day after" is a day where hope is not to be found. But a day later everything changes. On that Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene was the first to discover that the tomb was empty. It is fitting that it was Mary. She had been healed by Jesus early on in his ministry from demon possession. Word spread that the tomb was empty as Jesus began to make appearances to hundreds of people over forty days.

At first, the disciples could not believe their ears and eyes. But as Jesus ate with them, taught them, and as they touched his nail-scarred hands, they believed. He was alive. They might have deserted Jesus before the resurrection, but after it, never again. They would proclaim the good news to the world – the crucified Savior is raised from the grave. They would face difficult days ahead, but they had hope. Christ is the victor! We can have this same hope today despite the pain and disorientation of the moment.

Food Giveaway

Beaver Ridge UMC, 7753 Oak Ridge Hwy, is getting ready for a FREE food giveaway!! The Second Harvest Spring FOOD GIVEAWAY will be Saturday, April 28 from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. The community and those in need are invited to come by and pick up bags/boxes of food along with some household and personal hygiene items. Beaver Ridge also has a Food Pantry for the community on Mondays from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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Celebrating 18 Years!

Immediate need for Residential Counselors, Director of Nursing, Nurses

Norris Academy is a residential treatment program serving youth between the ages of 5 to 18 with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other neuro-developmental disorders.

Youth Care Workers, also known as **Residential Counselors**, assist in direct care and management of children and adolescents as prescribed by the Physician, Licensed Therapist and Treatment Team. Provides safety and assist in crisis management for residents. Orientates, trains, keeps records and supervises residents under direction of the Team leader.

The **Director of Nursing** ensures the daily operational activities of residential care. The Director of Nursing systematically evaluates the quality and effectiveness of nursing practices and nursing services, analyzing appropriate internal and external data and information to identify opportunities for improving services and patient outcomes. Coordinates staff to assure that effective nursing services are provided. Discusses progress toward goals with residents such as medication regimen, family relationships, educational programs, social development, discharge plans. Consults with psychiatrist or other specialists concerning treatment plans and amends plans as required. Maintains regular contacts with other agencies/professionals regarding resident progress in the therapeutic treatment program through phone calls, letters, and/or monthly reporting. Completes and maintains assessments and diagnoses of patients.

Norris Academy has an immediate need for a **PRN Registered Nurses** to provide skilled nursing care to our residents 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 p.m. or 7:45 p.m.- 8:15 a.m. Offering a Sign On Bonus for this position!

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1 Knoxville in bloom

2018 Dogwood Edition | The Knoxville Focus

E2 North Hills Garden Club to host annual plant sale on April 21

The North Hills Garden Club is hosting its annual plant sale on Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the North Hills Park, 2419 Kennington Road. The event will take place rain or shine.

This plant sale is a popular event for local gardeners who value native plants that thrive in our area. Residents of historic North Hills donate different varieties of hardy perennial plants and shrubs harvested from their own gardens.

In partnership with a local nursery, the garden club also offers herbs, veggies and gorgeous blooming annuals. Several of the club's master gardeners will also be onsite to answer questions and give gardening advice. In addition, there will be a garden shed with bargain prices for gently used items, arts and crafts booths, and even activities for the kids.

Proceeds from these events support beautification of the neighborhood's boulevards and park. For more information on the North Hills Garden Club visit the club's Facebook page or website at <http://northhillsgardenclub.wixsite.com/nhgc>.



Wild Edibles Foray Workshop at UT Arboretum April 28

Learn the skills of wild foraging from expert foragers

The UT Arboretum Society is sponsoring a Wild Edibles Foray Workshop at the UT Arboretum Auditorium and Sharp Program Shelter on Saturday, April 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Participants will learn the skills of wild foraging as well as how to prepare the harvest from two experienced foragers, Pandy English and Windy Hunter. These skilled foragers of woods, fields and streams have taught wild edibles to many groups. Everything from bread, preserves, teas, tonics, poultices, dyes, greens, roots, dried fruits, nuts and natural medicinals will be shared. In addition, safe identification will be stressed. Come ready to enjoy preparing and sampling nature's bounty. Participants will receive a notebook of recipes.

This event will take place rain or shine. Participants



Wild Edibles Dandelion-and-Apple-Salad

should dress appropriately and this includes walking boots, pants, gloves, rain gear and insect repellent.

Participants must pre-register by Monday, April 23. The cost is \$25 for UT Arboretum Society members and \$30 for non-members. A waiting list will be monitored and vacancies will be filled as they occur. This is a program for ages 18 and above unless attending

with a parent and approved at registration.

To register, contact Janet Bigelow at janet_bigelow@tds.net or call 865-675-3822 to register and pay in advance.

Andrea (Pandy) English holds a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries from the University of Tennessee and a Master's degree in Biology from Austin Peay State University. She has been an interpretive naturalist

for over 34 years at Woodlands Nature Center at TVA's Land Between the Lakes, Dunbar Cave State Natural Area and the Warner Parks Nature Center. She returned to TWRA in 2012 and served as the Instream Flow and Project WILD Coordinator for Tennessee. She is now TWRA Assistant Chief of Biodiversity and serves as the Chair of the Tennessee Naturalist Program.

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FOUNTAIN CITY DOGWOOD TRAIL

Welcome to the Garden Side of the Fountain City Dogwood Trail, where spring comes a little later and lingers longer. Because of Fountain City's high elevation, dogwood blossoms often are just opening here when other Trails have passed their peak.

The Garden Side of the Trail begins on Gibbs Road, noted since the early 1920s for its double row of bright pink dogwoods. (There are native pink dogwood trees in Knoxville's woodlands but are very pale in color. Pink and red dogwoods have been commercially developed by grafting the wild pink on white dogwood rootstock.) At the end of this street, the Trail turns left onto Jacksboro Pike.

Stone columns mark the right turn into Harrill Hills, where clouds of white blossoms overhang colorful plantings of azaleas and wisteria, with an occasional dark red maple tree for contrast and emphasis.

On Dogwood, Crestwood, and Briarcliff Roads, wildflowers carpet the shady glens. Look for violets –blue, purple white and particolored –wild blue phlox, may apples and trillium.

FOUNTAIN CITY (EAST)

TRAIL BEGINS AT GIBBS DRIVE



Leaving Garden Drive, the Trail climbs halfway up the steep side of Black Oak Ridge to enter Beverly Acres, where handsome houses blend into their forest setting and acid-loving azaleas flourish in the rich woodland loam.

The lovely "weeping dogwood" is unique to the Knoxville area. Its slender, pliant branches sweep down from the top of the trunk. Whenever it chooses to grow, a weeping dogwood must be left undisturbed.

It cannot be transplanted.

A right turn from Garden Drive onto Briarcliff leads into an area of concentrated beauty known as "Fantasyland."

Beneath white canopies of dogwood blossoms, dooryard gardens glow with candytuft, tulips, iris (Tennessee's state flower), narcissae, and perhaps late daffodils.

Go slow on Forrest Lane, between masses of brilliant azaleas in unusual shades.

FOUNTAIN CITY TRAIL
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FOUNTAIN CITY (EAST)

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2. Todd & Betty Wiesenber
5101 Angeles Dr, 37918

The route continues on Garden Drive to North Broadway, where a charming garden triangle is planted and maintained by the Fountain City Council of Garden Clubs.

The Fountain City Dogwood Trail continues on the other side of the highway.

Turn left on Broadway to the stoplight at Hotel Avenue, where signs mark the entrance of the Trail's Panorama Side.

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TRAIL BEGINS AT 7400 WINDY KNOLL DR.



Chalk Walk Turns Knoxville Sidewalks Into Canvases

Chalk Walk returns to Downtown Knoxville's Market Square on Saturday, April 21st. Chalk Walk is a family-friendly festival that makes Knoxville a more vibrant and creative city. Professional and emerging artists of all ages will be turning downtown sidewalks into canvases celebrating the long standing tradition of Italian street painting. Live street painting is a truly unique form of public art as it combines the visual and performing arts, captivating a crowd while challenging the artist to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece in a short period of time.

Chalk Walk will have over 150 artists including collaborative teams who will be working on site from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. to complete their artwork. Awards will be given to the most exceptional creations in 13 categories at 7 p.m. from the Market Square stage.

New this year: Sidewalk Sideshow! From 1 p.m.-5 p.m., the sidewalks all along Gay Street and around the Old City will be full of fun and performers of all kinds... something around every corner. There will be jugglers, stilt walker, marching bands, unicyclists, aerialists, caricature artists, and more! And in the Old City, don't miss the Beale Street Flippers. Top-rated NBA halftime performers, semi-finalists

on America's Got Talent, and one of the most popular entertainers on Beale the Beale Street Flippers will be bringing their street flipping to Downtown Knoxville for one day only!

Chalk Walk is presented by ORNL Federal Credit Union. Sponsored by Doug's Other Honey and First Tennessee Bank. Additional support for this event comes from Jerry's Artarama and Status Dough Donuts. If you'd like to sponsor a square at Chalk Walk, please visit: <https://www.dogwoodarts.com/chalk-walk-square-sponsorship/>

When: April 21, 2018

Where: Market Square and Krutch Park (Downtown Knoxville)

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm

How much: Free (though on-site donations to Dogwood Arts are encouraged)

Rain date: April 22, 2018

Dogwood Arts, presented by ORNL Federal Credit Union, is a 501(c)3 organization with a mission is to promote and celebrate our region's art, culture, and natural beauty. For more information on Dogwood Arts, visit www.dogwoodarts.com or call (865) 637-4561.

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TRAIL BEGINS AND ENDS AT HOTEL AVENUE/WEST SIDE OF BROADWAY

Dogwoods, redbuds and kwanzan cherry trees, along with spring blooming bulbs surround the school.



UT Arboretum Society to hold 51st Annual Plant Sale April 21

The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society's 51st Annual Spring Plant Sale will gather the best of four local nurseries in one location.

The public sale will be held on Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the UT Arboretum at 901 S. Illinois Ave. (Hwy. 62) in Oak Ridge. The "Members Only" sale will be on Friday evening, April 20th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Memberships may be purchased at that time for this "early bird" shopping opportunity. By joining UTAS on Friday night, people can enjoy the membership benefit of having the first pick of our beautiful selection of plants, some of which sell out that evening."



Gardeners at a previous UT Arboretum Sale

Checks, cash and credit cards will be accepted.

Beaver Creek and Riverdale Nurseries from

Knoxville, Sunlight Gardens from Andersonville and East Fork Nursery from Sevierville will be offering a large and varied selection of shrubs, trees, wildflowers, perennials, annuals and edibles. Two plant propagators from the Chattanooga area will have unusual and a few rare plants at the sale. Additionally, an assortment of donated plants from Society members will be offered.

Brad Greenwood Designs will be returning with botanically themed copper garden ornaments and steel features for the home and yard. Dano's Hot Dogs from Lenoir City will be offering an expanded sandwich menu along with his famous lemonade.

Retired U.T. horticulture professor Dr. Will Witte, the "Answer Man", will be on site to answer your plant questions.

Concerts on the Square series begins May 8

The City's Concerts on the Square live music series on Market Square begins the second week of May.

The Knoxville Youth Saxophone Ensemble kicks off Tuesday Night Jazz on May 8, from 7-9 p.m. For the rest of the jazz season, Marble City 5 will play 8-10 p.m. on Tuesdays, from May 15 through Aug. 28.

Meanwhile, Symphony on the Square initiates Variety Thursdays. The Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra will perform from 7:30-9 p.m. on Thursday, May 10.

After the Chamber Orchestra kickoff, Variety Thursdays will feature the following acts every Thursday, from 7-9 p.m.:

- May 17: The Young Fables
- May 24: The Ville Band
- May 31: Frontier Band
- June 7: Ensemble Swing Time
- June 14: Square on the Square
- June 21: Josh Cottrell
- June 28: Bary Jolly's Jimmy Buffett Tribute

All Concerts on the Square events are free, including parking for motorists entering City-owned garages after 6 p.m.

No alcohol or food will be sold on Market Square proper, although 14 restaurants – many with patios – are located on the Square.

Stay informed about the bands performing and any weather-related cancellations by following City of Knoxville Special Events on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofKnoxvilleSpecialEvents>.

For more information, visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/concerts.

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National Playwright Pens Story of Local Hero in new one-man play

Sergeant York: The Play

Picture of the Washington Presbyterian Church Easter Sunrise Service last year by the lake on the Simmons farm, by Weston Babelay

Dawn of a New Day

It was before daybreak when we left for Johnson City. Our publisher had scheduled a television interview to promote our latest book, "Piddle Diddle, the Widdle Penguin, and the Texas Longhorns." As before, we left very early to arrive by 9 a.m. In the quietness of the morning, an amazing transformation takes place. Darkness gradually changes to light! We watch the sunrise of a new day, and I am reminded of the Easter Sunrise picture that took place on the Simmons farm last year. No doubt, that scene was replayed many times across our country as we celebrated the greatest day in history recently.

Daylight once again revealed the beauty of East Tennessee's landscape as we traveled through Greene County in Upper East Tennessee. Redbuds provided splashes of color. Lush green hillsides were dotted with lots of cattle, a diminishing scene on our Knox County farms. One farm's pastures were



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

covered with sheep. Even though it is spring, temperatures in the thirties made it still feel like late winter. Last year was much warmer. It was great to see the host of the program, Chris McIntosh, who interviewed us the first time we were in Johnson City. On the way back, we traveled through historic downtown Greeneville to Hal Henard Elementary School where we read to three classes of children.

How blessed we are to have days filled with activities, friends, and fun! How truly blessed we are when we can experience the start of those days and witness a miracle---the sunrise ushering in the dawn of a new day!

April 20 will mark the opening night of another world premiere by national playwright Lisa Soland. This time she also sits in the director's chair, directing local actor Greg Helton in her new one-man play, "SERGEANT YORK: The PLAY."

"Sergeant York: The Play" depicts the life and times of Pall Mall, Tennessee resident, Alvin C. York, also known as Sergeant York, the most decorated Army soldiers of WWI. York received the Medal of Honor for killing 28 German soldiers and singlehandedly capturing 132 others in the battle of the Argonne forest, France. Gary Cooper won an Academy Award for best actor portraying York in the beloved 1941 film, Sergeant York. Ms. Soland's live stage version will also dramatize what York accomplished in his community following the war. He built roads into Pall Mall and constructed the Alvin C. York Institute, which forever changed the lives of the people of The Valley of the Three Forks of the Wolf.

Soland presently teaches playwriting at Maryville College where her drama "The Sniper's Nest" premiered, as well as her hit comedy "Waiting," both also directed by the playwright. She moved to Eastern Tennessee nine years ago from Hollywood, where she had directed and produced over 80 shows, 55 of which were original.

"I started out as an actress and my most memorable experience was working with director Charles Nelson Reilly and the Broadway playwright William Luce, on one of Luce's world premiere plays, produced at the Burt Reynolds Jupiter Theatre," recalls Soland. "There's just nothing else like it - having both director and playwright present during the creative process, and getting to watch the play come to life right before your very eyes. And, as an actor, you get to play a significant role in that process."

Soland acted

opposite Burt Reynolds and Charles Durning in the hit CBS-TV comedy series Evening Shade and she starred in the ABC-TV mini-series War and Remembrance. She has also played alongside Richard Hatch, Helen Reddy, Alice Ghostley, Mary Wickes, Patrick Wayne and other recognizable names. Her plays Waiting, Cabo San Lucas, Truth Be Told and The Name Game, along with the anthology The Man in the Gray Suit & Other Short Plays, are published by Samuel French Inc. Additionally, Soland's work can also be found in "best of" anthologies published by French, Smith & Kraus, Applause Books, and Dramatic Publishing.

Soland received a Tennessee Arts Commission Grant for her work on "Sergeant York: The Play" and has received full support from York's descendants making themselves available for interviews. The cast and crew travelled to Pall Mall this past

February 17, to present the finished script to the York family, after which they gave a resounding "Thumbs up!" They plan to attend the play in Knoxville.

"Sergeant York: The Play" opens at Cedar-Brook Outreach, to launch a new facility on the campus of West Park church, 8833 Middlebrook Pike, April 20 and April 21 at 7:30 p.m. The play will then run Thursday through Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m., as well as Saturday afternoons at 2 p.m. through Memorial Day, May 28, 2018. Tickets are free. Secure your seat online at: westparkbaptist.org/sergeantyork/ (SERGEANT YORK: The PLAY will also be produced alongside Sergeant York Patriotic Foundation's events commemorating the 100th Anniversary of WWI in Pall Mall, Tennessee, and then tour national-wide.)

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KAT receives \$3.6 million federal grant for electric buses

The Federal Transit Administration has awarded Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) a \$3.6 million grant to purchase electric buses and charging equipment. The grant will fund the purchase of the first fully electric buses in KAT's fleet, which are initially planned to run on Route 17 along Sutherland Avenue.

The grant is part of \$264 million in FTA funding awarded to 139 projects across the United States, to "improve the safety and reliability of America's bus systems and enhance mobility for transit riders across the

country." The grant had the support of Congressman John J. Duncan Jr., who serves as vice chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

"This grant is great news for Knoxville residents and KAT riders," Mayor Madeline Rogero said. "It will allow us to add new, energy-efficient buses to our fleet and continue our reduction of carbon emissions from City operations. Thanks to Congressman Duncan for his continued support of transit in Knoxville."

Congressman Duncan stated, "I am pleased that

this funding can be used to provide Knoxville with quieter and cleaner transportation alternatives."

The grant provides an 80 percent match toward the purchase of buses and charging equipment, which will enable KAT to acquire up to five new buses and install the necessary infrastructure.

"We anticipate having these advanced, quiet, efficient vehicles on Knoxville streets by the end of 2019," said KAT Director Dawn Distler. "This will be a great addition to our fleet, which already includes 13 hybrid electric buses and trolleys."

All Democratic candidates may speak at Truman Day

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The younger leadership of the Knox County Democratic Party have been busy in getting their party candidates out for elections so far this year. The May 1st Primary Ballot has many more candidates, especially in county commission races, than in years past.

On Friday, May 4 the Democrats celebrate their annual Truman Day fundraiser and celebration and the program will include all the primary candidates.

"Our speakers will be our state and local candidates. As you can imagine it will be a tight program," Chairperson Emily Gregg told The Focus.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and early tickets are \$65 until April 24 or \$70 thereafter. Proceeds go to support hiring a field staff for the county and state candidates. For information you

may contact Linda Haney at linc@comcast.net. The event is being held at the Foundry at World's Fair Park, 747 World's Fair Park Drive.

Depending on the May 1 Primary results the speakers may include congressional candidates Rene Hoyos and Joshua Williams and state representative candidates Gloria Johnson, Jamie Ballinger, Justin Davis, Donna Jean Habib, Alex Dunn, Jr., Rick Staples, Rex H. Lindsey, Joshua Gregory, Greg Mackay, Edward Nelson, Coleen Martinez, and Keifel Agostini.

Local Knox County candidates that may speak include Knox County Mayor candidates Linea Haney and Rhonda Gallman. County Commission candidates include Cody Biggs, Steve Hart, Tori Griffin and Daniel Gerke. Sheri Ridgeway, candidate for Circuit Court Clerk, may also speak.



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