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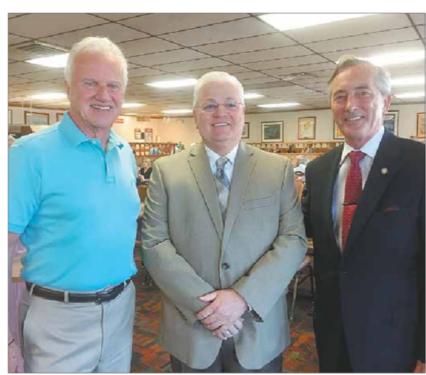
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Ed and Bob sign off with last Night Out'

Knox County At-Large Commissioners Ed Brantley and Bob Thomas held their final Commissioners' Night Out at Wright's Cafeteria Thursday. When elected, Ed and Bob promised to be available to all citizens. This was their 43rd consecutive monthly Ed & Bob Night Out in Knox County.

Ed and Bob always felt that going out to the citizens eases the strain on those who, because of work, commitments, financial situation or the distance to the City-County Building, cannot attend regular commission

Ed and Bob will be honored for their work and service at the commission's regular meeting tonight.



Knoxville Focus Publisher Steve Hunley, center, visits with At-Large Commissioners Ed Brantley, left, and Bob Thomas, right, at Ed and Bob's last Commissioners' Night Out Thursday evening at Wright's Cafeteria.

Hollywood Road zoning, sports insurance and new greenway before city council

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Looks like a busy meeting is in store for the Knoxville City Council Tuesday afternoon. The 6 p.m. regular session may see discussion from everything from finalizing the new noise ordinance to zoning changes to awarding the contract for the new Urban Wilderness Gateway Project.

Neighbors along Hollywood Road in Pond Gap are expected to appear and plead with the council not to pass, on a final reading, approval for an apartment complex designed for 24 units per acre The local homeowners, joined by the Bearden Council and others, objected to the first reading and then protested along the busy connector road recently

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KCSD pension dispute going to court

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Should pensions for former and future Knox County Sheriff's Department employees carry on the vacation days that have been added to pension calculations? Or should the pensions only include 75% of their regular monthly salaries for the last two years served?

That's the question that will be before Chancery Court on Friday, September 7 Because the Knox County Law Department cannot legally sue a division of Knox County the law director hired an outside firm to sue the Pension Board for including those unused vacation days in calculations. The difference could be thousands of dollars in increased pension, some more than 85% of their salaries

Some retiring employees are drawing the increased amount and others preparing to retire want to keep the increase. The county, in effect, is suing its own Pension

Attorney Herb Moncier spoke at public forum during the County Commission's

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Above, Protestors gather at Halls Elementary School Friday afternoon to protest Governor Bill Haslam's "Listening Tour" regarding a myriad of problems with the state TNReady testing program for students. Below, Governor Bill Haslam, center, and Tennessee Department of Education Commissioner Candice McQueen, left, listen to facilitator Wayne Miller during the listening tour session at Halls Elementary School.

Teachers protest Haslam's 'Listening Tour'



We are all here for the same reason. It isn't working - what can we do to make it better? And if we don't make it better, there is going to be a teacher crisis. The new interns are already seeing it," the collective voices of unhappy teachers told The Focus as Governor Bill Haslam kicked off his six-stop listening tour last Friday at

Halls Elementary School. Educator and former executive director

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idrew Johnson

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

An agreement to sell the Andrew Johnson Building has been postponed another 30 days by the Knox County Commission. he understands the delay The matter has faced questions from the commis- buyer, BNA Associates LLC. sion about the appraised amount being much lower than the offer and why of the sale first appeared of the school system and locations have been conthe "per square foot" esti- on the agenda in July; howmate could be too low com- ever the second postpone-

negotiable also. MLS #1053682 \$120,900

properties. The purchase offer, for \$6 million, is about half of the appraised

Commission Chairman is because the proposed modified agreement. Terms

865-922-5500

until the first meeting of the new commission in September.

Commissioner Charles Randy Smith told The Focus Busler called on Superin-conversation about the update on the search for a new location. The Andrew Caldwell to comment. wants to review the latest Johnson Building houses the administration offices

new location to move those offices

Thomas said the county During the work session is leading the way to find a location and he is in a Finance Director Chris

Caldwell told the commissioners that 10 to 15 any agreement to sell the sidered and the list has historic building depends been narrowed down to "less than five" that would

work but added he doesn't help offset any cost "feel comfortable about discussing" the options.

Asked about using the old Rule High School proptendent Bob Thomas for an possible move. He asked cost up to \$40 million to renovate the old facility or possibly \$15 million if there. He said private and county-owned properties are being considered and that liquidating some other county-owned sites could

Busler said the search could result in selling the Andrew Johnson Building for \$6 million and then erty Caldwell said it could replacing it with some place that is "a bit more expensive."

Caldwell said a move a new building is added could be to a facility of at least 96,000 square feet with about 400 parking spaces if it only relocates the administration offices

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