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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 meetings.

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 board.

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'

By Focus Staff



"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

Continued on page 2

Sale of Andrew Johnson Building on hold

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. The matter has faced questions from the commission about the appraised amount being much lower than the offer and why the "per square foot" estimate could be too low compared to other downtown

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

Commission Chairman Randy Smith told The Focus he understands the delay is because the proposed buyer, BNA Associates LLC, wants to review the latest modified agreement. Terms of the sale first appeared on the agenda in July; however the second postponement won't be considered

until the first meeting of the new commission in September.

During the work session Commissioner Charles Busler called on Superintendent Bob Thomas for an update on the search for a new location. The Andrew Johnson Building houses the administration offices of the school system and any agreement to sell the historic building depends on finding and preparing a

new location to move those offices.

Thomas said the county is leading the way to find a location and he is in a conversation about the possible move. He asked Finance Director Chris Caldwell to comment.

Caldwell told the commissioners that 10 to 15 locations have been considered and the list has been narrowed down to "less than five" that would

work but added he doesn't "feel comfortable about discussing" the options.

Asked about using the old Rule High School property Caldwell said it could cost up to \$40 million to renovate the old facility or possibly \$15 million if a new building is added there. He said private and county-owned properties are being considered and that liquidating some other county-owned sites could

help offset any cost.

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

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

Continued on page 2

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Teachers protest Haslam's 'Listening Tour'

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of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents Wayne Miller told the crowd inside, "We want to hear what does and doesn't work. We know everything isn't rosy."

But the teachers who were not allowed to enter the building had a different impression: "The concern shown here isn't genuine. They have chosen one small room in an elementary school at 3 p.m., elementary dismissal time, when teachers can't be present and there isn't enough space for a full forum. This was deliberately and strategically scheduled so that most teachers could not show up and speak."

Haslam briefly spoke with protestors outside after the meeting before leaving to co-host a fundraiser for state Representative Eddie Smith who is seeking reelection in November. Smith's opponent in the November state general election is Gloria Johnson.

According to the governor's office, the goal of the six listening sessions is to provide an opportunity for educators and administrators to share information about recent challenges related to the online delivery of state assessments (TNReady). Each meeting is to encourage feedback on how the state can continue to improve its assessment; a discussion of steps made to-date to improve test administration in 2018-19; and a conversation on ways to improve test delivery through the oversight and selection of the state's next assessment partner, which will occur later this school year.

Tennessee Department of Education Commissioner

Candice McQueen is attending each leg of the tour as well as Wayne Miller and an educator advisory team which will gather information and feedback from each meeting and develop a set of principles and recommendations for consideration by the governor as well as the next administration.

The listening tour will continue in Hamilton, Shelby, Williamson, Greene and Gibson counties. Specific locations and dates have not been announced yet.

Elizabeth MacTavish, who introduced herself as a former teacher, current Educational Researcher and a parent, called the TNReady testing a waste of taxpayer money that could go to the schools and pointed out that there is lack of real, reliable and valid research behind the testing.

"The best way to let teachers have a voice would be to invite them! What has happened here is that they have hand-picked those few who have bought into their system."

She voiced the question many were asking, "If TNReady is all about Technology, then why wasn't technology used for today's meeting to survey and find out what teachers need?"

There is no 'opt out' provision, but her children have not taken the test in four years and that hasn't hurt them at all she claimed. In fact, she told The Focus that teachers have been very supportive of their decision and have even thanked them for being a voice.

"I don't think enough parents know that they have the option to refuse testing but if more did it would send a louder message."



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The Andrew Johnson Building overshadows the City County building in more ways than physical. The future of the historic building, a former hotel and now home of the Knox County School Administration offices, has a potential buyer but the deal has been postponed yet again.

Sale of Andrew Johnson Building on hold

Cont. from page 1

rather than consolidate most of the school services in one location.

Russ Oaks, Chief Operating Officer of Knox County Schools, joined Thomas and Caldwell to speak on the subject. He said that if most of the system's services are located in one

facility it could require 211,000 square feet. Thomas said consolidation at one future facility would involve about 250 school employees plus training employees there.

Oaks said the ideal facility would be centrally located in the county and served by KAT buses.



PHOTOS BY MIKE STEELY

Members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Camp 39 and Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp 87, talk with visitors during the East Tennessee Historical Society's History Fair. The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution and many other groups and historic characters also made an appearance and interacted with the thousands of visitors.

History fair fun for all the ages

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The East Tennessee History Fair was more than anyone could have expected. Thousands of people came to Knoxville recently and visited the many events, booths, demonstrations, exhibits, and chatted with history re-enactors.

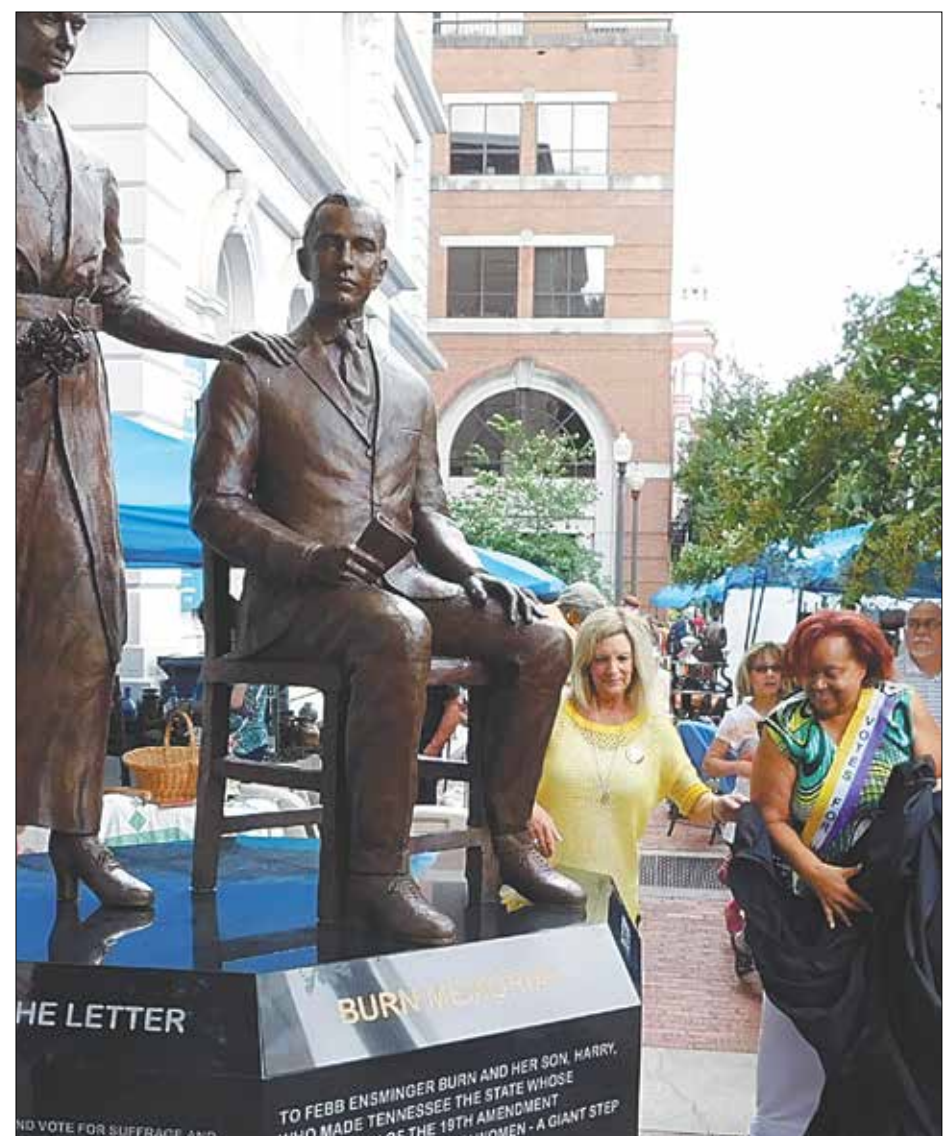
The Saturday event flirted with rain all day but people didn't seem to mind. There was something for everyone including children's activities, antique sales and food trucks, a World War I baseball game, historic home tours, and even a cemetery tour and vintage films at the Tennessee Theatre.

Cherel Henderson, director of the East Tennessee Historical Society, said that attendance overall was down about 20% because of the off and on again showers however attendance at the East Tennessee History Museum was up as people took shelter there to see the displays and artifacts.

The first year of the History Fair, in 2008, saw some 7,000 people attending. Last year Henderson said that 16,000 people came to the fair. "Family-friendly activities for all ages and interests, from a dog costume contest to a checkers tournament and living history interpreters, plus bus tours of historic sites and traditional music, were well received," Henderson said.

"Some 69 organizations from across our 35-county region and several from Nashville were represented with booths and activities," she added.

While Market Square and Gay Street played heavily in the events of the fair lots of merchants



County Clerk Sherry Witt and community leader Vivian Shipe finish unveiling the base of the Burn Memorial. The statue, saluting the ratification of Women's Right to Vote, is almost complete and awaits only some brick for the base.

got involved as well. The Market Square Farmer's Market added to the festivities and the bus and walking tours added to the celebration as well.

Exhibitors ranged from the East Tennessee Historical Museum, Tennessee State Parks, the soon-to-open Tennessee State Museum, The Muse, Davy Crockett's Birthday Celebration, and living history at Crutch Park and on Clinch Avenue. Demonstrators included spinning, caning and basket weaving, handmade jewelry, tin and copper making, handmade quilts, soap, powder horns, and leather-bound journals.

Re-enactors represented the Fort Loudoun State Historic Area, Civil War soldiers of both sides, suffragists, WWI and WWII, Korean and Vietnam Wars and various characters of Tennessee Living History. Even Abe and Mary Lincoln appeared along with General Robert E. Lee and Ed Archer portraying a Mexican-American War surgeon.

The unveiling of the base of the Harry and Feb Burn statues was a highlight of the fair with community leader Vivian Shipe and County Clerk Sherry Witt doing the honors. The sides of the base give a history

of the Right to Vote for Women, information on the Burn family, and one plaque listing the donors for the statue. They were Maureen McBride, Lana McGee, Anne M. McKinney, Randy McNally, Marion Reed, Brenda Credrick, Patricia Pierce, Adonia Phillips, Mary Ann Reeves, Pat Bryan, Lauren Rider, Ann Elizabeth Robinson-Craig, Madeline Rogero, Rogers @ Drevik, Wanda G. Sobieski and John L. Sobieski Jr., Nancy P. Stewart, Liz Stowers, Ann and Kitt Valone, Martha Keck Waggoner, Sylvia Woods, and Sherry Witt.

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Publisher's Position TNReady?



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Governor Bill Haslam's decision to go on a "listening tour" to hear the thoughts of professional educators seems a bit too little, too late. In less than five months' time,

Tennessee will have a new governor and almost surely a new Commissioner of Education, as well as a new legislature. Governor Haslam embarking on a listening tour at this point seems to be less a way to fix a program that has never worked, than a bid to keep TNReady in place. I'll call it the Lazarus Tour to revive the dead.

In fact, the failure of the TNReady program to launch was one of the biggest embarrassments of the Haslam administration. For those who talk about "gains" under TNReady, there is a fact which seems to be lost in the shuffle during the conversation;

merely assessing that data favorable to both teachers and students is worse than none at all. Any person with any common sense will realize accepting skewed data is foolish. It does not provide anything even resembling accurate information. Nor does it provide any real basis to adequately evaluate how good a job teachers are doing in the classroom in teaching our kids.

Davidson County school officials point out students fared better on the paper version of TNReady than the online version; school officials in Nashville claim the problems with the online testing, which have been persistent, account

for the difference in student scores. "We saw very different district results between the Value Added (growth) scores based upon the paper-and-pencil administered TNReady tests in grades 3-8 and the online administration of high school End of Course (year-end) exams." That statement came from Paul Changas, executive director of Davidson County's research and evaluation division. It is an interesting difference.

The truth is, since 2015, neither school districts or parents have had any reliable data to determine precisely how their children are faring as it relates to

learning. Haslam now clearly realizes the problem and is worried Tennessee legislators may simply opt to ditch TNReady. That doesn't seem like such a bad idea to me. It's not like the state hasn't had plenty of time to fix the glitches over three years, as well as spending tens of millions of dollars annually of taxpayer dollars. Perhaps the conversation in assessing TNReady would be better for all concerned if the governor started at a different point; that point being how much better off would we be if teachers were merely able to teach.

Both state and federal law require annual testing, but there will also be a

new legislature come January and perhaps it is time for the Tennessee General Assembly to take a serious look at scrapping the current law and introducing something more simple. There's an interesting concept: simplicity. We ought to keep in mind something all too often missing from government programs: simplicity works best. Even resorting to a pencil-and-paper test should be an option for the entire state.

Holding on to an idea that has never worked is foolish and detrimental and clearly it's past time to start looking for other options.

TNReady was never ready.

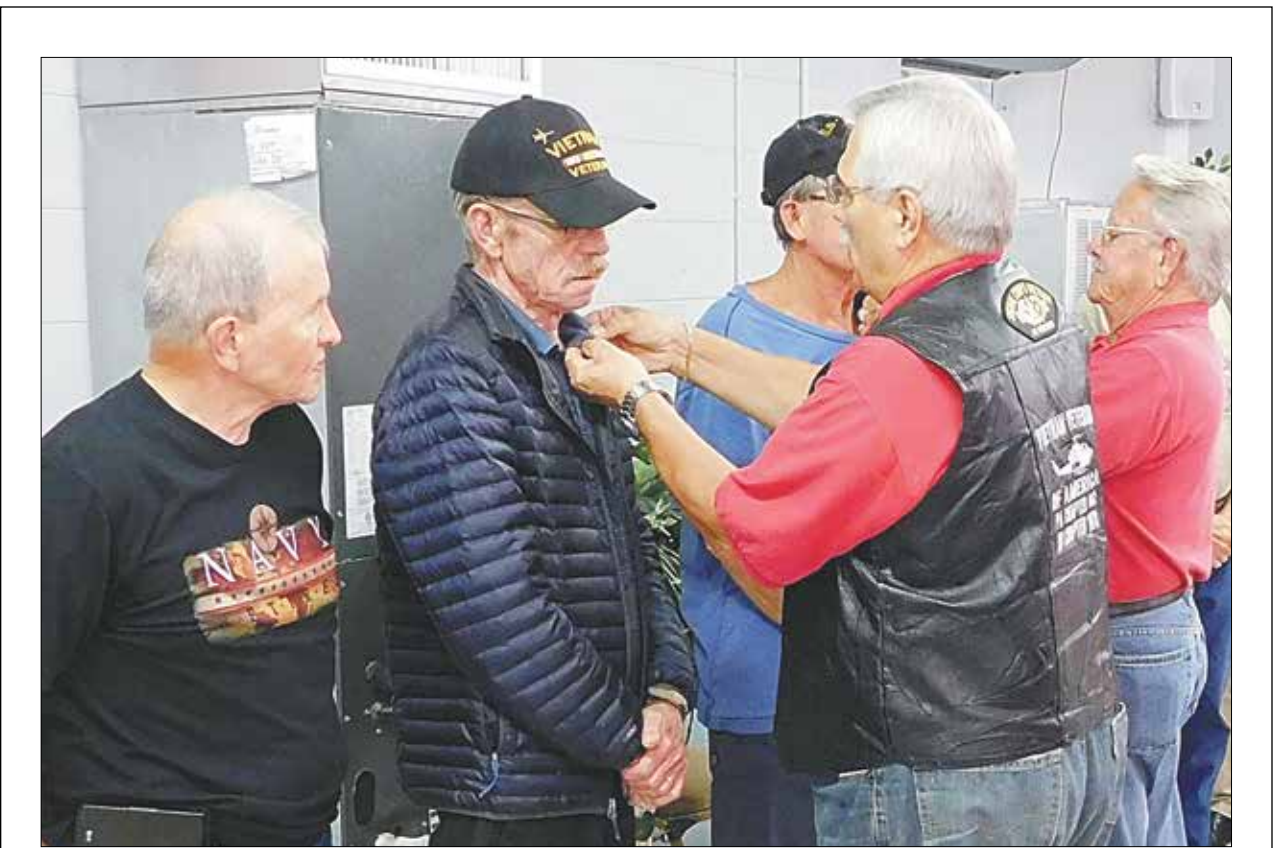


PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Chaplin Pat Polis and Vietnam veteran Art Blank present Vietnam era service buttons to more than a dozen veterans during the August breakfast in Powell.

Vietnam Veterans Honored at Powell Breakfast

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Every third Saturday the Heiskell/Powell Community Center hosts a large breakfast for area veterans. Recently Vietnam Veterans of America Knoxville commander Chris Albrecht welcomed a full house of veterans and presented high school freshman Lily Vandergrift who sang a rousing national anthem.

Albrecht recognized veterans in the audience from World War II and all wars and conflicts since then. The primary recognition during the breakfast was for those who served in Vietnam.

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1078 Chaplin Pat Polis and member Art Blank were proud to present the Vietnam Veterans pin to military members who served during that conflict and had not received the honor before, ending each of the more than one dozen presentations by saying, "Welcome Home."

The Vietnam Veterans of America Bill Robertson Chapter hosted the event. The monthly breakfast always draws veterans and their families for honors, socialization, and to share stories of their service to the United States. All branches of the military were represented at the August breakfast.

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

Cont. from page 1

with signs and banners. Elmington CG LLC is proposing the project, rezoning land there from Commercial to Planned Residential. The same firm is before the council that evening on a final vote on a development planned along Young High Pike in South Knoxville. They are asking for 30 dwellings per acre there. Both requests were approved by the planning commission.

The Community Development Department is asking for \$3,452,825 for Walter P. Taylor Homes on McConnell Street. The funds would include two phases; the final one is

the demolition and hazardous material abatement on McConnell, Bethel and South Olive as part of the Five Points Revitalization.

The council will probably vote on providing sports accident insurance for competitive sports at the Department of Parks and Recreation events and the Gleason Drive Sidewalk Project may get just over \$337,000 on a request from the Engineering Department in an agreement with Design and Construction Services, Inc.

The council may also vote on upgrading the roof for the fire department headquarters for \$156,550 with C. M. Henley Company, selling

three surplus police vehicles to Sevier County, and allowing Mayor Madeline Rogero to sign an agreement with TDOT to allow KUB to build a new Kuwahie Greenway on the north side of Neyland Drive from the Ag Campus to Joan Cronan Way.

The revised noise ordinance now includes adding a measurable distance for sound on public premises, changing the code, and including the criteria for "loud, unusual and unnecessary noise."

The council may vote to give \$1,750 to Ijams Nature Center for the Symphony in the Park annual fund raiser there and award \$110,000 to Knox

Heritage from the Historic Preservation Fund to focus on the Fort Sanders neighborhood.

A request from Mayor Rogero may be considered to allot \$5,000 from her Office Grants and Benevolence Fund to the Tennessee Theatre for public events for its 90th Anniversary.

Other items on the agenda include two separate applications to rezone property on Forest Avenue and on Grand Avenue from Restricted Manufacturing and Warehousing to General Residential. Both requests were approved by the planning commission at the request of Sean Suddes, applicant.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Attorney Herb Moncier addresses the Knox County Commissioner's work session asking them to fund attorneys for retired and future retirees at the Sheriff's Department in a pension dispute.

KCSD pension dispute going to court

Cont. from page 1

Work Session last week and said he has filed with the commission his intent to represent Captain James Carson, a current employee, with Carson serving as a representative of some 600 people in the plan.

"None of these employees have the funds to mount a defense," Moncier said.

He said the commission should allot funds to hire attorneys for the retired and soon to retire sheriff's employees.

The law department responded Tuesday to The Focus and noted that retirees are being represented by pension board lawyers at taxpayer expense and, if the case is not dismissed, the court will appoint an attorney for the retirees who would also be paid with taxpayer money.

Also discussed during the work session was a \$6 million transfer from current year funds to the 2019 funds for various county departments. Commissioner Hugh Nystrom asked Finance Director

Chris Caldwell about the funds including a payment to AT&T.

Caldwell said that AT&T failed to bill the county for services for about a year. Nystrom also pointed out that the transferred funds will include overtime pay for Parks and Recreation employees because last year's budget request failed to include overtime. The matter goes on to tonight's regular county commission meeting.

The commission will honor two departing commissioners, Ed Brantley and Bob Thomas, and also honor the departure of Sheriff J. J. Jones, Mayor Tim Burchett, Clerk Foster Arnett, Court Clerk Cathy Shanks, and other persons, including Garrett Hanas for his role as DAV State commander. The commission will also memorialize State Representative Tom Jensen.

Tuesday, Sept. 4 is the date for reorganizing the commission, making appointments and naming committees beginning at 5 p.m.



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Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc New Zealand 750ml
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12.26 Ea. Bottle



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10.07 Ea. Bottle



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Mix a Case
13.01 Ea. Box



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Mix a Case
15.87 Ea. Box



Black Box All Varietals 3LBox
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Mix a Case
13.68 Ea. Box



Franzia Chardonnay Global 5LBox
15.49 Ea. Box
Mix a Case
13.01 Ea. Box



Barefoot Cellars Pinot Grigio California 1.5L
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Mix a Case
7.55 Ea. Bottle



Sutter Home White Zinfandel California 1.5L
8.59 Ea. Bottle
Mix a Case
7.22 Ea. Bottle



Yellow Tail Chardonnay Australia 1.5L
8.59 Ea. Bottle
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4L Wine

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Chapman Highway Community Workshop Scheduled

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and City of Knoxville will hold a community workshop for the Chapman Highway Implementation Plan on September 5, 2018. The workshop will be held from 5:30-7:00 pm in the library of South Doyle Middle School, 3900 Decatur Drive.

The workshop will be an informal open house. No presentation will be given, but information will be on display at multiple stations in the library. Community members are encouraged to stop by at their convenience to share ideas about how to make Chapman Highway a better place to walk, drive, bike or use public transit. Staff from MPC and other project leaders will be available to talk one-on-one with attendees and to answer questions.

The Chapman Highway Implementation Plan is being led by MPC and the City of Knoxville with the help of consultants from Kimley-Horn and Associates. The study will identify and prioritize needed roadway improvements for the six-mile section of Chapman Highway within city limits that runs from Blount Avenue to just south of Governor John Sevier Highway. A stakeholder committee has formed and met, and community input is now being sought.

Your input is important! Feedback received from this workshop will be used to develop a list of projects to be considered for implementation. A second workshop will be held later to gather input on specific projects determined from the initial feedback.

For more information on the study, visit the project webpage at www.knoxtrans.org/chapman-highway.

Windsor Gardens Assisted Living celebrates 18 years of service

By Focus Staff

Windsor Gardens Assisted Living, which is located at 5611 Central Ave. Pike, is celebrating 18 years of service to the North Knoxville Community. The staff at Windsor Gardens works diligently to create an atmosphere in which seniors can live independently in a quality home-like environment.

What makes Windsor Gardens different from other assisted livings in Knoxville? "It's that we are privately owned and I'm the majority stockholder and onsite administrator," Brian Bartley told The Focus. "I can make decisions immediately without going through the corporate maze. I can change green beans to pinto beans on Thursday and not have to get permission from headquarters," Bartley jokingly said.

Windsor Gardens offers three levels of personal care based on the needs of the resident. Level one is for residents who are self-sufficient in performing their personal care. Level two residents get medical assistance such as medication management, bathing and dressing. Level three is for residents who need more hands-on care that requires additional staff time. All incoming residents' health is evaluated by a licensed nurse and scored based on their medical requirements. The staff then designs a customized care plan targeted to meet the unique medical and personal needs of each individual

resident. "Because of our facility size and everyday exposure to our residents, we can observe and evaluate a resident's health on a daily basis," he added.

Since opening in March of 2000, Windsor Gardens has served hundreds of families throughout the community

"Families are struggling to take care of Mom and Dad. We take a tremendous amount of pride in knowing our residents' family members trust us to deliver the highest level of care to the people they love the most. Windsor Gardens has served many friends, neighbors and parents in our community. We strive to achieve the care and oversight that brings peace and tranquility to the families."

Brian Bartley
 Chief Manager/Owner

Windsor Gardens is licensed by the state of Tennessee for 70 beds and provides care for residents with a staff of approximately 28 and features 24 hour nursing care around the clock. Bartley also noted that the fire department and ambulance are located just down the street.

The facility has daily activities provided through the Life Enrichment Program. Everyday activities include devotionals and fun in the cooking club, and residents can take adventures outside the facility to play Bingo,

shop at Walmart, picnic in parks or go to the Tennessee Theatre. Family and friends are welcome to visit anytime, 24-7, and stay overnight if desired. "We have three to four in-house church services each Sunday and go to three different restaurants that residents choose each month,"

Bartley said. Windsor Gardens has a bus and two vans that provide transportation to activities.

Bartley stated that assisted living demographics are changing. For example, in the year 2000, the average age was 82. Today the average age of residents is 87 with a three to one ratio of women verses men. The average length of stay has changed from 28 months in 2009 to 22 months today.

With three different size rooms available and three levels of care, residents have nine

different price points to choose from. Services provided are three meals a day, housekeeping, laundry, transportation, and activities. Respite services are available on request. Payment for services are from private pay and/ or long term care insurance. There is also a U.S. veteran's military subsidy called Aid and Attendance that is provided for those who have fought in foreign wars. The subsidy is for those who qualify based on income and liquid assets.

Windsor Gardens Assisted Living is proud to give a tour to anyone interested in the facility. Each room provided has a handicapped bathroom, kitchenette, pre-wired for cable and phone, nurse-call but-tons, individual climate control, security, and three meals each day based on dietary requirements of the resident. There is also a therapy spa, barber and beauty shop, walking trails and outdoor patio area.

The facility is conveniently located on one level. Windsor Gardens has been complaint free through the BBB since opening 18 years ago. The Gardens News is published each month and carries interesting stories and a complete schedule of daily events. The motto of the facility is "Let us treat you like royalty."

You can schedule a tour by contacting Windsor Gardens at (865) 205-0151 or visit online at www.windsorgardensllc.com.

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Picture of beautiful sunflowers, courtesy of Bob Martin.

It's still summer!

The beautiful bloom became my new favorite flower many years ago. Several floral arrangements sent when our father passed away 24 years ago this week featured the giant sunflower. For a long time after then, I was attracted to anything sunflower. Jewelry, mugs, sweatshirts, wall art, or anything bearing a picture of the bright yellow petals seemed to burst with cheerfulness. I no longer collect things



By **Ralphine Major**
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with the cheerful reminder these days, but I still enjoy the beauty of the sunflower. Its sunshine-colored petals seem to be a reminder that it is still summer, though fall is nipping at her heels. Some schools have already started, and most vacations are over. Fall festivals are lining up one weekend after the other, and there is a hint of coolness in the early mornings. If those are not enough signs of fall on the

horizon, check the sports news. High school football games are underway, and the long-awaited college games are not far behind. I can almost hear the Voice of the Vols letting us know that it is almost "Football Time in Tennessee!" But for now, enjoy the beautiful sunflowers. It is still summer!

Mark your calendar for the *Thunder Road Authors Rally on Saturday, September 8, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Maynardville Public Library, 296 Main Street, Maynardville, TN 37807, 865-992-7106. Hope to see you there!!*

UT Arboretum Society to hold Fall Wildflower Walk September 8th at Haw Ridge Park

The UT Arboretum Society will host a fall wildflower walk at Haw Ridge Park on Saturday, September 8, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Meet by the kiosk in the parking lot off Edgemoor Road.

Kris Light, an expert naturalist, educator and photographer will lead this fun, educational and easy walk. Participants may want to bring a camera to take pictures of the many wildflowers. Wear clothes appropriate to the weather and boots or good shoes for outdoor walking.

Describing the walk, Light said, "Most people think of springtime as wildflower



season, but late summer and fall color the fields and roadsides in gold, purple and white. Come to the fall wildflower walk to learn more about the wildflowers of the fields."

For more information on the wildflower

walk or the UT Arboretum Society, call 865-483-7277.

This is a free program offered by the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society.

Celebrating 53 years in 2018, this program is one of many lectures and activities that will be offered this year by the UT Arboretum Society.

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The Mystery After J. Will Taylor's Death Part One

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Following Congressman J. Will Taylor's death from an unexpected heart attack on November 14, 1939 there was an outpouring of grief on the part of the people of Tennessee's Second Congressional district. Taylor had long been a power in Tennessee and during the administrations of Presidents Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover, had been the Republican "boss" of the state. It was J. Will Taylor who dispensed most of the federal patronage and appointments in Tennessee during the twelve years of national Republican rule. Taylor remained highly popular inside his own district and reached accommodations with powerful Democrats like Senator Kenneth D. McKellar, which proved to be helpful once Franklin D. Roosevelt came to power in 1933. The root of J. Will Taylor's popularity inside his own district came down to the congressman's industry and indefatigable energy in doing things for his people, a fact "Uncle" Bob Smith, the custodian of the Federal Building in Knoxville and a Democrat, readily admitted. Smith said he never knew "a man who was as quick to do a favor for another as J. Will Taylor."

Like many others inside Tennessee's Second Congressional district, "Uncle" Bob Smith had his own personal story to tell. "I was discharged from the regular army in the Philippines many years ago for heart trouble and general disability," Smith said. "I tried through various others for 10 years to get a pension and made no headway. Then I told Bill Taylor about it. We were on opposite sides of the fence but he got that pension for me in 30 days."

Nor was that the only time J. Will Taylor helped "Uncle" Bob Smith. The custodian told a News-Sentinel reporter, "Recently I lost my discharge from the Army. I told Congressman Taylor about it. He obtained a duplicate from Washington for me within 10 days. That was six weeks ago."

J. Will Taylor had represented the district since his election in 1918. Tributes to the late congressman poured in from colleagues, but perhaps the most interesting observations came from those who had encountered Taylor in other circumstances.

James Wallace, a janitor and elevator operator in the Post Office building knew "Hillbilly Bill" for eighteen years. Wallace readily shared his impressions of the late Congressman.

"Congressman Taylor was never too busy to talk to the lowliest man here about any personal problem, and help however he could," Wallace said. "When I told him sometime ago that I was planning to buy a little place

of my own he said that was a wonderful idea. He went with me two or three times to look at places. And when I finally decided on one Mr. Taylor talked to the owner and helped work out terms that I could meet."

A reporter for the Knoxville News-Sentinel recalled Congressman Taylor's persistence in finding a job for a friend. The future reporter was then attending George Washington University in Washington, D. C. and stopped by Taylor's office and wondered if the congressman could help him find a part-time work. J. Will Taylor put the young man in his car and the reporter recalled they "sailed from one private office building to another." Eventually, Taylor helped his young friend get a job with Southern Railway that the reporter remembered helped to pay for much of his college education. Nor did Congressman Taylor leave it at that; if Taylor hadn't seen his young friend often enough, he would telephone the young man to inquire if he was all right and doing well.

The local manager for the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, Fred Roberts, fondly recalled his late friend J. Will Taylor. Having known Taylor before he was first elected to Congress, the two had long exchanged "Dear Bill" and "Dear Fred" letters. Roberts remembered when he took a delegation of Knoxvilleians to Washington, although he acknowledged they held little hope for successfully pushing their own particular project, which even Roberts described as "a pretty forlorn hope." Roberts said the delegation had not been successful in their efforts when they ran into Congressman Taylor, who promptly asked, "What are you hill-billies doing up here?"

Once the delegation informed Taylor of their mission, he simply said, "Come on."

Roberts marveled, "Closed doors didn't mean anything to Bill. He went on in and around the secretaries until he got the delegation to the man they wanted to see. The results weren't 100% successful, but they were a lot better than anybody expected before Bill took charge of the delegation."

Fred Roberts also related how he had asked Congressman Taylor to testify before the Civil Aeronautics Authority on behalf of Knoxville getting additional airlines. "No letters got prompter answers than those to Bill Taylor and it's the same with Senator McKellar," Roberts said.

Taylor's sudden passing was all the more shocking as he had been in his Knoxville office in the Federal Building the day he died. Assistant Postmaster E. O. Beeler said, "He

came in jolly as ever." The Congressman arrived with "a pile of baggage" Beeler recalled "and we got a man to help him upstairs with it." Beeler said Taylor appeared to be in good health and noted the congressman "didn't complain any."

Yet Lieutenant I. F. Griffin of the Navy Recruiting office had a different opinion. Seeing Congressman Taylor that same day, he thought "Hillbilly Bill" looked ill. "When Mr. Taylor came down the hall to his door, he was breathing awfully rapidly, more so than usual," Griffin remembered.

Ill or in the best of health, J. Will Taylor was only fifty-nine years old when he died. Taylor left his widow and two daughters, Elizabeth and Katherine. The Congressman's office in Knoxville remained in the same condition he left it; much of Taylor's baggage was scattered about his personal office.

A typewriter remained partially unpacked on the congressman's desk. Unopened letters were strewn around his personal office, along with the clothes J. Will Taylor brought back from the special session of Congress. Taylor had friends everywhere, high and low. Friends from two of his favorite destinations in Knoxville, the Farragut Hotel and Weaver's Restaurant, were especially fond of "Hillbilly Bill." Alton Cureton, the Bell Captain at the Farragut Hotel said "us boys as much as anybody" would miss the congressman. "It was a pleasure to serve Mr. Taylor," Cureton said. "He knew the boys by name and he shook hands with us just as quick as anybody. He was an all-year man too - - - not only just before election time." Taylor, "a big fellow", liked his food and enjoyed "a big country breakfast" each morning. Congressman Taylor usually dined on "fruit, cereal,

country ham and eggs" of a morning. Restaurateur Frank Weaver remembered the congressman coming into his restaurant, usually accompanied by three or four others, for supper. "He often liked a steak then, and he was especially fond of frog legs," Weaver said. Weaver had been impressed by J. Will Taylor's friendliness, recalling the congressman usually knew most everyone in the restaurant, but if he saw a stranger, "Hillbilly Bill" made himself acquainted. "He greeted everybody the same - - - Democrat or Republican, white or black," Frank Weaver said.

Shortly after Congressman J. Will Taylor's death, a mystery developed over his office. Taylor's daughter Elizabeth hired an attorney and was anxious to be admitted to her late father's Washington office "without being observed by a large group of reporters, photographers and curiosity-seekers" who had foiled one previous attempt. The regulations surrounding the office of a member who had died were quite clear; the office was to remain open and was to be run by the congressman or senator's secretary or Chief of Staff. In the case of Congressman J. Will Taylor, his chief secretary was Miss Dorothy Schultz. Elizabeth Taylor made it quite clear she wanted to go through her late father's office and personal effects "alone." Miss Schultz, described by a Knoxville News-Sentinel reporter as "an attractive red-haired woman", had been Taylor's secretary for twenty-one years. When asked whether or not Miss Schultz would be allowed entry into the dead congressman's office, Miss Taylor's attorney snapped, "We don't know anything about Miss Schultz or her affairs." It was a mighty peculiar reply involving a woman who had worked

for J. Will Taylor for twenty-one years. It seems hardly possible neither the congressman's widow or daughters would not be well acquainted with Miss Schultz. Even more odd was Elizabeth Taylor's demand that a Capitol policeman stand guard outside the door of her father's Washington office. As curious reporters and photographers began to gather, Miss Taylor retreated to the office of Congressman Walter Chandler, which was next door to that of J. Will Taylor. There was no indication by Elizabeth Taylor as to just when Miss Schultz could enter the office, as it was customary for a congressional secretary to be allowed twenty days to begin gathering up the deceased incumbents papers before being assigned to a temporary office. Prime office space was reserved for living congressmen. Congress had also included in its rules that the staff of a congressman who either died in office or resigned was to be carried on the payroll at full salary for six months or until a successor was duly elected. The staff was to be supervised by the Clerk of the House. Congressman J. Will Taylor had a staff of two and divided his staff between Washington and his Knoxville office. Miss Schultz was Taylor's secretary in Washington, D. C. while Robert Davis held the same duties in the Knoxville office. Each congressman was given an allowance of \$416.66 per month, which he or she could divide between employees as he or she wished; the only stipulation was no assistant could be paid more than \$325 monthly. Dorothy Schultz had been paid \$321.66 per month, while Robert Davis earned \$95 monthly. It was not an unusual practice at

the time for congressman to pay the secretary the lion's share of the allowance and paying the clerk far less.

Taylor's younger daughter, Katherine, was engaged in the far more pleasant pastime of thanking Tennesseans for their condolences on the death of her father. "We wish to express our sincere appreciation to our friends for the many expressions of sympathy and acts of kindness shown us during our recent bereavement," Miss Taylor said in a statement, which she telephoned to the News-Sentinel.

Elizabeth Taylor's attempts to get into her father's Washington office were finally successful and the officer standing guard was allowed to do something more productive. John Moutoux, the Knoxville News-Sentinel's Washington correspondent, reported Miss Taylor and a friend from the late congressman's home city of LaFollette, Mrs. R. J. Buckman, were busily boxing up papers "of a private nature" to take home to Tennessee. Dorothy Schultz sorted through the remaining papers, which were to be removed to an office on the fifth floor of the House Office Building.

The mystery would only grow deeper.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Congressman J. Will Taylor.

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Keeping the old and the new

Well, the day finally arrived. I gave in and purchased another vehicle. Doing so was a difficult decision because I struggle with the idea of having to make a car payment. However, times arrive in life when such actions must be taken.

I bought a "new old car." Ever loyal to Nissan, I chose a 2011 Pathfinder. It has plenty of miles from the previous owner, but otherwise, the vehicle is in good shape for a car so old. Amy and I don't buy new cars for several reasons. One is that we can't afford new cars, nor can I justify paying more for a car than I did my first house. (Yep, I'm old.) The second reason is that new cars lose so much value the moment they leave the lot. Many times, a used car has been drive



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

long enough to work out the bugs so that it can be a more reliable one with a few miles on it. The third reason for buying the car is that I'm tired of dropping into and climbing out of the Nissan Sentra that I now drive. I need something that allows me to either sit straight into it or step up just a little to enter the car without having to promise an arm or a leg.

I've passed the excitement that comes with a new car, including a new used one. It's a thing and a means to move from one spot to another. If I fail to get one car I like, I don't fret much anymore because another one will come around before long. Oh, I like having something to drive that's a bit more up to date, and I only require three options on

a vehicle: electric mirrors, intermittent wipers, and a working radio. All the other gadgets are nice to have, but not necessary.

I'll sell my 2012 Sentra at some point. It only has 56,000 miles on it, and the car is perfect first vehicle for a teenager or a second car for a family. I will keep my other car. My 1987 Nissan Pathfinder stays parked under the carport. It's one vehicle we bought new, and we added a back seat, radio, and air conditioner at later times because it was cheaper to do so. Over the last 31 years, my old Pathfinder has traveled to hundreds of baseball games and has pulled a trailer filled with mulch, flooring, and building materials. The inside shows the wear of so many trips and years. The arm rests are split, and the dash is now covered with a material to hide the deep crevices in the vinyl. Charlie Muncey, our hero mechanic, worked

hard to fill in the rusted out areas under the back seat. The air conditioner and radio no longer function, and sometimes the engine runs too rich.

Even though that old car has more than its share of problems, I can't let it go. In fact, my son just a couple of weeks ago implored me not to sell the old Pathfinder because it is so much a part of the family.

I'll enjoy driving an updated Pathfinder that has plenty of bells and whistles and three rows of seats. The worries of arriving on trips out of town won't linger as they did when I drove the old car. Still, I'll take my favorite vehicle when I need a load of mulch or want to haul a load of materials. We have too much history to just part ways so quickly. Wave at me if you see me in either of my Pathfinders. I'll be the guy driving down the road with a smile on his face.



Cal Johnson was vital to the creation of the National Cemetery in Knoxville. He obtained the bid to move buried bodies from Cumberland Gap and other places to be reburied in the cemetery that had been created by Union General Ambrose Burnside.

What's the connection between Cal Johnson and the National Cemetery?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Born a slave of the McClung family who became a wealthy Knoxville merchant and entrepreneur, Cal Johnson has a direct connection with Knoxville's National Cemetery.

When General Ambrose Burnside's forces captured Knoxville in 1863 the Union Commander ordered the creation of a burial ground. Across the region were various impromptu graves of Union Soldiers either killed in battle or falling to diseases like measles and dysentery. Burnside wanted to relocate those fallen soldiers to a central burial ground for the casualties of Fort Sanders and the Siege of Knoxville.

As a young man who was always looking for opportunity Johnson stepped up.

Capt. E.B. Chamberlain, the assistant quartermaster, was assigned to design the national cemetery at Knoxville. The first interments were remains exhumed from Cumberland Gap, Concord and many other regional sites. Chamberlain's design and system for recording interments was so effective that, in 1866, Gen. E.G. Whitman, observed that the cemetery had been

"the only burial ground of Union soldiers...originally laid out and conducted to the present time in a manner and on a system that render[ed] it suitable to be converted into a national cemetery without material alteration or change, or removal of a single body."

As Johnson and his crew began digging up remains at Cumberland Gap each remain was categorized. Many were unknown. The Union Army at Cumberland Gap suffered in several

skirmishes including a notable one in Tazewell, just to the south of the fortifications at the gap.

In late 1867, National Cemetery received scores of Union bodies from Cumberland Gap, which had been a battlefield off and on throughout the war. The government paid a bounty for each body delivered to the National Cemetery. Hauling corpses that were a few months or years old, for miles over dirt roads, was a job that likely appealed only to the desperate, or the very ambitious.

Johnson was about 21 at the time and participated in the program, according to a story published repeatedly since 1887, earning the capital to begin a significant business career. Within twenty years of his emancipation, Johnson became leading businessman in Knoxville. Despite the obvious problems of a black man in the South during the 1860s, Johnson became the owner of a chain of saloons serving both the black and white parts of town, became involved in horse racing and real estate, and even became a philanthropist, donating funds to improve the city park that bore his name.

Established in 1863, the cemetery currently encompasses 9.8 acres (4.0 ha), and as of the end of 2007, had 9,006 interments. The 60-foot (18 m) Union Soldier monument, which stands in the eastern corner of the cemetery, is one of the largest Union monuments in the South. In 1996, the cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places as part of a multiple properties submission for national cemeteries.

Taking the Ocoee Loop

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Looking for an afternoon drive? How about heading south along what was once the Old Federal Road? The route was first developed in a treaty in 1805 and improved in 1819 as a toll road. Today we know the basic route as Highway 411.

The highway skirts the foothills of the lower Smoky Mountains and extends all the way to the first town in Georgia, aptly named "Tennga." Along the way from Maryville south your drive will take you through and past some very interesting smaller cities, historic sites, and beautiful valley scenery.

You can make a loop of the drive by taking a westward turn in Ocoee, Tennessee, driving over to Cleveland and then back to Knoxville County by way of I-75 or up Highway Eleven.

Going south of Maryville you'll pass through Vonore and the nearby historic

and prehistoric Overhill Cherokee Towns. You may want to make a side trip there and visit Fort Loudoun State Park and the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum. The huge September celebration at Sequoyah Museum is September 8th and 9th.

Back on Highway 411 heading south you'll pass through Madisonville, the county seat of Monroe County and home of Hiwassee College and the late statesman Estes Kefauver. There's a very interesting court house there that, in recent years, wrestled with posting the Ten Commandments.

Today Madisonville's fame is probably more related to Emi Sunshine, the singing sensation.

South of Madisonville you'll encounter Englewood, formerly known as Jellico Junction. Just south is Etowah, a neat little town with a huge two-story Victorian-style railroad depot museum. The town was so named, it is said, when a railroad builder picked up a sign in Etowah, Ga., and placed it there.

South of Etowah is Delano, home of a Mennonite Community and noted for its fresh farm produce. It is also the home of Savannah Oaks Winery.

You can alter your trip



Etowah's historic train depot now contains a museum. It is there that excursions by rail begin on the Hiwassee River Rail Adventure. The route passes through Reliance and passes two "ghost towns" along the way.

there if you wish and turn left on Highway 30 to visit Reliance and the appropriately named settlement of Archville down to Highway 74 and the right to Ocoee.

But if you continue heading south on 411 you'll soon come to Benton, Tn., a noted little town has most of what you'd expect such as a supermarket, fast food, and one other thing you probably would not expect: a pre-civil war fort.

Fort Marr, or at least one part of the original structure, was actually built in "Old Fort" further south of Benton. It was one of 23 stockade forts that imprisoned Cherokee families prior to the Trail of Tears. Years later one corner of the fort's towers was moved to Benton. Originally known as "McKamy's Stock

Stand," Benton was named for Missouri Senator Thomas Benton, a champion of western expansion in the United States.

Just beyond downtown you may want to take Old Highway 411 to visit the Nancy Ward Grave. Ward was the Beloved Woman of the Cherokee and operated a tavern there. She's buried along with family members atop a hill along the old road.

Back on Highway 411 you'll come to Ocoee, a little crossroads community. To the east along Highway 74 may be the "whitewater capitol" of Tennessee as rafting trips form there.

You can turn west in Ocoee and drive over to Cleveland and begin your trip back to Knoxville County.

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Flying high



PHOTO BY NICOLE COONEY / FULCOM

Flags wave as Fulton High students and fans enjoy the football game atmosphere at Central Thursday night. Playing its season opener, Fulton won the Battle of Broadway 18-9.

Fulton grinds out tough win vs. Central

By David Klein

In a physical battle of defenses, Fulton's was slightly better Thursday night in the "Battle of Broadway" at Central High School. Fulton's DaShaun McKinney intercepted a tipped pass and returned it 81 yards for a touchdown and a two score lead late in the third quarter. The interception sparked the Falcons to a 18-9 win over the Bobcats.

"It was a high ball," McKinney said. "Linebacker came out and hit the receiver and tipped in my hand, and I caught it, spun out, took off."

Both offenses struggled in the first half. Fulton had just seven yards rushing and 51 total yards. Central had 16 total yards. Indeed, the only score of the first half came on a 27-yard field goal by Bobcats' kicker Jarred Swislosky.

"In the first half, we blew a lot of scheme situations there," Fulton Head Coach Rob Black said. "We weren't necessarily blocking who we were supposed to block the way we were supposed to block," Fulton Head Coach Rob Black said. "We regrouped a little bit. We did what we planned on coming here to do and we were able to do

that a little bit in the second half and put a few drives together."

Before McKinney's interception, Fulton had squandered good field position in the first half. The Falcons made it inside Bobcats' territory five times in the first half but came away with no points.

"You know they got a lot of guys everywhere," Central Head Coach Bryson Rosser said of Fulton's talent. "We just put our kids in a great position. And they made plays time and time again. I'm extremely ecstatic about the progression of our team."

Continued on page 2

Cooper takes reins of TSD football program

By Steve Williams

Tennessee School for the Deaf has a new head football coach.

Jordan Cooper will take the reins for the Vikings, who will resume playing football this fall after taking the 2017 campaign off due to a shortage of players.

"Jordan Cooper is the new head coach and we have hired Keith Swaney as assistant coach," confirmed TSD Athletic Director

Luke Benson last week. "Jordan has been with the program for a number of years as a volunteer and coach. He has been the assistant coach the last five years.

"Jordan is also our boys' strength and conditioning coach and boys' track and field head coach. He is a tremendous asset for our Athletics Department.

"Keith has played and coached football and wrestling in Seymour and Pigeon

Forge for most of his life. We are fortunate to have him join our staff."

TSD plays eight-man football and its 2018 season opener is scheduled for Week 4 (Sept. 6) at South Carolina School for the Deaf & Blind in Spartanburg, S.C.

Barry Swafford was TSD's head football coach in 2016.

"Barry is still coaching basketball," said Benson. "He is looking forward to competing for a Mason Dixon

championship with a young but talented group."

In other news regarding TSD athletics, Benson said the school has added Ashley Allis as an assistant volleyball coach.

"She brings playing and coaching experience in a few sports to our program," said Benson. "She has been a teacher here at TSD for several years. We are excited to have her on board."

Bearden Invitational set for Labor Day Weekend

By Ken Lay

Some of the state's elite high school girls soccer teams will spend Labor Day Weekend in Knoxville at the Bearden Invitational.

The four-day event opens on Thursday, Aug. 30 and matches will be played at both Turner-Allender Field, and Bill Young Field, home of the Bulldogs football team.

The host Lady Bulldogs will compete, along with defending District 4-AAA and Region 2-AAA Champion Farragut. District 4-AA Champion Catholic will spend the weekend at Bearden. District 3-AAA Champion Powell will also appear in the tournament.

Opening night games at Turner-Allender have Powell playing Catholic at 5 p.m. and Bearden entertaining Giles County. Games at Bill Young Field will feature West tangling with Oak Ridge at 5 and Farragut tangling with Grace Christian Academy at 7.

The tournament kicks into high gear Friday with action beginning at 4:30 p.m. Catholic will take on Giles County on the football field and Giles County will play the Lady Panthers at the Radcliffe-Kelly Soccer Complex and Turner-Allender Field.

At 6 p.m., The Lady Admirals take on Notre Dame at Bill Young Field while Hardin Valley Academy collides with Collierville at Turner-Allender.

At 7:30: Bartlett plays Greeneville (Young Field) and Bearden will play Houston on its home field.

Clarksville tangles with Baylor (Young) and Maryville takes on Arlington at Turner-Allender at 9 p.m.

On Saturday, action begins at 11 a.m. with Collierville playing West and Oak Ridge tangling with Grace. At 1 p.m., Greeneville plays Maryville and Baylor takes on Catholic. At 3 p.m., Clarksville tangles with Hardin Valley and Arlington collides with Farragut.

Houston will play Strongsville (OH) at 5 p.m. Bearden will host Hendersonville and Bartlett will take Giles County at 7.

Action concludes on Sunday, Sept. 2 with Maryville playing Houston at 8:30 a.m. Strongsville tangles with Clarksville at 10:30.

At noon, Oak Ridge takes on Bartlett and Hardin Valley entertains Arlington.

West plays Notre Dame at 2 p.m. Baylor takes on Collierville at 2 p.m. Action concludes with Greeneville taking on Houston in a showdown between two powerhouse programs.

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It's about time Tennessee gets physical

I can't remember a UT football season I've wanted to get here quicker than this one. There are a couple of good reasons why, too.

The Vols under Butch Jones hit rock bottom in 2017, losing eight games overall and going winless in SEC play for the first time in school history. That's one.

Secondly, after five years of Butch and four of Derek Dooley, I believe Tennessee finally has a real football coach again in Jeremy Pruitt.

So far, I like everything I've heard and seen of him. And I

believe the players also feel that way and that they're getting coached up much better by this staff.

Pruitt's plan is to bring back Tennessee football, a physical style of play many of us saw under Phillip Fulmer and Johnny Majors that produced many glory years and championships.

I would like to say it could happen overnight, but that's not likely. I do expect to see marked improvement over last season and from what we witnessed in the Orange and White game this past spring.

Thankfully, the guessing game is almost over. I'm tired of the predictions. This time next week we should have a pretty good idea what kind of season this is going to be.

West Virginia is expected to provide a tough season-opening test come Saturday afternoon in Charlotte when the Volunteers and Mountaineers match up in the Belk College Kickoff, the first meeting ever between these two football programs.

Quarterback Will Grier, considered a candidate for the Heisman Trophy this season, leads West Virginia, which is a 10-point favorite. He was just shy of 3,500 passing yards last season, with 34 touchdowns and 12 interceptions.

By the way, Grier grew up and played high school ball in Davidson, N.C., which is just a little over 20 miles from Charlotte. He was offered a scholarship by Tennessee but signed with Florida in 2014 before

transferring to WV in 2016.

Most local reports I've heard indicate Jarrett Guarantano will start the season as Tennessee's No. 1 QB ahead of Keller Chryst, the transfer from Stanford.

Other offensive leaders for the Vols coming out of preseason camp include wide receivers Jauan Jennings and Marquez Callaway, running backs Ty Chandler and Madre London (transfer from Michigan State) and tight end Dominick Wood-Anderson (from Arizona Western Community College).

Of course, the Vols are glad to have Trey Smith back. The 6-6, 320-pound sophomore from Jackson missed spring practice and most of fall camp with a medical condition. He

is regarded as one of the nation's best blockers. Word also is he carries a sledgehammer around campus. Call it workout on the go. I love that.

UT also will have a transfer from Alabama at center in Brandon Kennedy. Maybe he also can provide some inside info on the Tide.

Defensive standouts heading into the opener include Jonathan Kongbo, a redshirt senior who will lineup as a pass rusher at outside linebacker or end, depending on whether Tennessee is in a 3-4 or 4-3 formation. Kongbo has slimmed down 30 pounds to 254 since last season.

One of the Vols' biggest concerns is the secondary, but junior Nigel Warrior may be a pleasant surprise

and Alontae Taylor, a talented freshman from Manchester, has turned heads all summer. Daniel Bituli, a 6-3, 244-pound junior from Nashville Christian, is expected to be a bright spot in a loaded linebacker corps.

Tennessee's special teams appear to be unproven, but Coach Pruitt says he will have his best players on the field. Among the competing specialists is a local product from Farragut High redshirt-freshman punter Joe Doyle.

Tennessee's home opener will be Sept. 8 against ETSU and Randy Sanders' Buccaneers. The Vols' SEC opener against Florida on Sept. 22 also will be at Neyland Stadium.

I can hardly wait.

Lady Beavers soccer team off to 4-0 start

By Ken Lay

Karns High School's girls soccer team is off to a blazing start in 2018. The Lady Beavers are undefeated out of the gate and first-year coach Jeff Monckton couldn't be happier.

But it's not his squad's perfect record that has Monckton pleased thus far. Nor is it Karns High's scoring margin. The Lady Beavers have outscored its four opponents (Lenoir City, Polk County, Rockwood and Morristown East) 31-3 in four lopsided victories.

It's the squad's collective attitude.

"I didn't have to say anything. The girls did it themselves," Monckton said after the Lady Beavers routed the Lady Hurricanes 9-0 Thursday night at home. They know that they haven't really played anybody yet. No disrespect to those teams. They have good programs, but we haven't seen the best teams on our schedule. Lenoir City and Morristown East are probably the two best teams that we've faced and we've gotten better in every game but we haven't played anybody yet.

"We can't afford to get complacent. We're a dark horse this year. I don't really want to sneak up on anybody this year. I want people to know that we're here and we're coming."

The Lady Beavers (4-0) have yet to open District 3-AAA play but that will change Tuesday night when they host Campbell County Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Monckton is hoping that his side can continue its dominance against the Lady Cougars.

"Lenoir City scored first against us but after that, we've flexed our muscle," Monckton said. "We need to come out and flex our muscle [against Campbell County]. That's our first district game and we didn't beat them last year during the regular season."

The Lady Cougars edged the Lady Beavers 3-2 last year during the regular season. Karns got a 4-1 win over Campbell County in the 2017 District 3-AAA Tournament.

The match against the Lady Cougars opens a big week for Karns, which travels to Webb School of Knoxville Thursday for a tough road match.

"I'm looking forward to playing Webb," said Monckton, who previously coached at The King's Academy, which is one of the Lady Spartans' Division II-A East District 1 rivals. "I have great respect for [Webb coach] Sonny [Trotter] and his team."

At Webb, the Lady Beavers will see one of the county's top players in forward Avery Catlett, who also happens to be one of the area's top scorers.

"She's a tough player to stop," Monckton said of Catlett.

The Lady Beavers, however, have some snipers of their own if Thursday night's game against the Lady Hurricanes is any indication.

Sarah Roberts scored five goals against Morristown East. Hannah Stafford added two markers. Ava Davis and Ryan Branson each added a tally. Branson also dished out a pair of assists. Roberts, Davis, Ally McBryar and Julianna Friel also had helpers against Morristown East.

Young Lady Bobcats sweep South-Doyle in volleyball

By Ken Lay

Central High School volleyball coach Lorri Johnson couldn't hide her excitement after watching her Lady Bobcats sweep South-Doyle Tuesday night.

"We've got a good thing going here," Johnson said after Central dispatched the Lady Cherokees 25-14, 25-13, 25-21 in a non-district match Tuesday night in Fountain City. "The biggest thing about volleyball is that you have to have consistency. We had good serving and good passing."

Johnson took over as the Lady Bobcats' coach in 2017 and she watched as a young team struggled at times. In 2018, Central (2-4) is still young but the Lady Bobcats are quickly emerging as one of the area's most improved teams out of the gate this season.

"We had good serving and good passing tonight and those things enabled us to make good plays," said Johnson, who previously coached both volleyball and tennis at Soddy-Daisy High School. "Last year, we would make a great play and then we would make a good play."

"But we were inconsistent." Central the formula to sweep the Lady Cherokees (1-9) Tuesday night despite having one of the county's youngest rosters.

"I have one senior and one junior and the rest are sophomores or freshmen," Johnson said. "When I sub, I have freshmen on the floor too."

The Lady Bobcats jumped to an 11-3 advantage in the opening set when Megan Merritt served up an ace. South-Doyle would battle its way back into the game and pull to within 13-10 thanks to a key service run by junior Katie Green. Central would close out the set by scoring 11 of the final points of the set.

Central started fast in the second set as it scored the first four points. The Lady Cherokees caught up 4-4 on a service ace by senior Maddie



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

South-Doyle volleyball player Chloe Correll (21) and a teammate go for the ball in a match last week while Lady Cherokees player Halle Leslie (19) and Central's Grace Cochran (24) and Cameron Flatford wait at the net. The Lady Bobcats won in straight sets Tuesday night at Central High.

Reiter. The game was tied once more, at 9-9, in South-Doyle was able to hang around. South-Doyle, which never led in the set was down 13-11 before giving up a point on a side-out that gave Central a 14-11 lead and giving the served to the Lady Bobcats' Leigha Gregory, who scored the next three points of the set to make it 17-11.

From there, Central would prove to have too much for the Lady Cherokees.

South-Doyle showed signs of life early in the final set as it opened leads of 3-1, 9-8, 15-10 and 21-18 only to see the Lady Bobcats notch a comeback victory to close out the match.

"It's hard to beat somebody else when you beat yourself," said Lady Cherokees' coach Alisa Franklin. "We had too many unforced errors and we just dug ourselves too many holes."

"It's hard to come back when you

dig yourself those kind of holes but when we play consistently, we do play pretty well."

Franklin was obviously frustrated after the match. But she knows that there's plenty of volleyball left in the 2018 campaign. She also noted that she was pleased with her squad's effort early this season.

"I'm really proud of the girls," Franklin said. "They're learning a new system."

Central boasted a balanced attack all night.

Cameron Flatford and Grace Cochran each had seven kills and seven aces. Merritt finished with three aces and Emma Biddle notched six kills. Freshman Clarke Blakemore had a key kill and a key solo block for the Lady Bobcats.

For the Lady Cherokees, Reiter had five kills and two aces. Lindsay Sterchi finished with three aces and two kills while Green added two kills and an ace.

Fulton grinds out tough win vs. Central

Cont. from page 1

The Falcons took a 6-3 lead with 3:02 left in the third quarter on quarterback Xavier Malone's 3-yard touchdown pass to JaShaun Fenderson. The Bobcats blocked the extra point.

Central drove the ball to the Falcon 19-yard line when McKinney made his big interception return for a touchdown and a 12-3 Falcon lead.

However, the Bobcats responded by driving for a touchdown. Wide receiver Braden Gaston took a direct snap and scored on a 1-yard touchdown

run on 4th and goal. Central missed the extra point but cut the Falcons' lead to 12-9 with 8:35 left in the fourth quarter.

Aided by a pass interference penalty on Central, Fulton drove the ball to the 47-yard line. Malone fired a bomb to a streaking Fenderson, who got behind the defense for a 53-yard touchdown pass. The score sealed the win for the Falcons and put them up 18-9.

"I threw it to him and let my guy be a player and go get the ball," Malone said of his touchdown pass to Fenderson.

For the game, the

offensive numbers were woeful for both teams. Fulton had 210 total yards to Central's 209 total yards. Central had 33 yards rushing to 83 yards for Fulton. Both teams combined for 17 penalties, and Central threw two interceptions.

Central and Fulton play their first regional games next week. Central (0-2) plays at Region 2-5A opponent Sevier County. Fulton (1-0) travels to Region 3-5A opponent Powell

"We love the atmosphere," Rosser said of the Battle of Broadway. "The pride is back in Fountain City."



Fulton's JaShaun Fenderson tries to slip past Central defender Demetrien Johnson near the sideline Thursday night at Dan. Y. Boring Stadium in Fountain City. The Bobcats led at intermission, but the Falcons rallied for an 18-9 victory. Photo by James Spears.

A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

South-Doyle rolling, despite not being at full strength

By Steve Williams

South-Doyle's football team scored 52 points in Week 1 and 61 in Week 2. But Coach Clark Duncan says Cherokee fans still haven't seen their team at its best.

"Our players have worked extremely hard and are very talented as well as very coachable," said Duncan after a 61-21 win over Cherokee High in Rogersville Friday night.

"I have always said that experience is everything and the majority of our players have played a lot of football for us over the last couple of years.

"Ton'Quez Ball, who I think is one of the best

receivers in the state, has not played the first two games. We feel like once he gets cleared to play, we will be a better team than we are right now."

South-Doyle goes to Gibbs Friday for its first Region 2-5A assignment of the season.

RED DEVILS REBOUND: After being shut out in its season opener, Halls put 54 points on the scoreboard as Jeremy Bosken got his first win as the Red Devils' new head coach.

"The credit really goes to the seniors in our Leadership Counsel for keeping our team focused during the week," said Bosken

after Halls came out on top in a 54-42 shootout with Karns. "We all knew Week 1 wasn't really who we are. Our guys played well together tonight as a true team."

GIVE 'EM A BONE: The Bearden Bulldogs notched a 28-20 road win at Cleveland.

"Total team effort," said Bearden Coach Morgan Shinlever after Bulldogs made it two in a row. "We overcame a rough first half where we did not execute. In the second half, we took advantage of their miscues and capitalized off of those."

Offensively, Caleb

Wilkins had 13 carries for 103 yards. Colin Ironside threw for 192 yards and ran for a touchdown.

Addison Ironside had nine catches for 89 yards plus three tackles for loss and a fumble recovery on defense. The Bearden defense forced five turnovers, including three picks and two fumble recoveries.

Julian Kendrick had two of the three interceptions. Bearden has another road test this week at Jefferson County.

WEEK 3 HEADLINERS: Fulton (1-0) will test Powell (2-0) in a Region 3-5A matchup Friday night.

Other top attractions

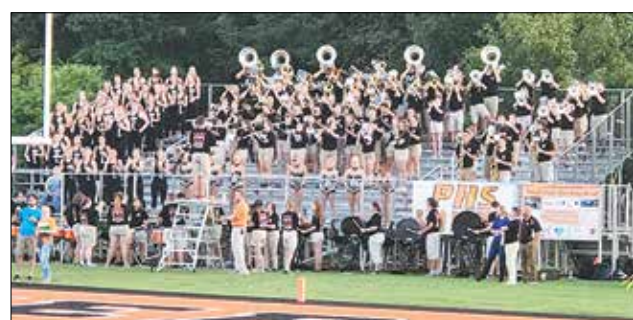


PHOTO BY DIANN BYRD

One minute and four seconds into the game and Powell High's band is already playing Rocky Top Friday night in the Panthers' 42-0 win over Cumberland County.

include Farragut at Morristown West, Central at Sevier County and Seymour at Carter.

PREPS OF THE PAST: August 28, 1998 – Ben Padgett proved you don't

always have to be big to be effective in high school football. Halls' 5-7, 140-pound tailback rushed for 136 yards and three touchdowns as the Red Devils opened the season with a 31-7 win at Karns.

Farragut upends McMinn County 47-7

By Alex Norman

If the first two weeks of the season are any indication, Farragut will be a force to be reckoned with in 2018. On Friday, August 24, the Admirals kept the good times rolling by dominating visiting McMinn County 47-7 at Bill Clabo Field.

"We had a great week of practice and cleaned up some things from week one," said Farragut head coach Eddie Courtney. "We were very balanced tonight and that's something we have to be all year long."

In that first game Courtney alluded to, the Admirals shut out Bradley Central 34-0, giving them an 81-7 advantage in the aggregate so far this season.

At the start of the second quarter, the Admirals faced a fourth down and 2 from the Cherokees 20. Instead of another field goal attempt, Courtney chose to go for it, and the gamble paid off when quarterback Gavin Wilkinson found tight end Alex Keathley for a five-yard gain. On the very next play, senior Kyle Carter ran it



PHOTO BY DAN HARRALSON

Farragut running back Kyle Carter dives for the end zone in the Admirals' 47-7 victory over McMinn County. Carter rushed for 127 yards and a touchdown Friday night against the Cherokees at Bill Clabo Field.

in from 15 yards away, giving the Ads a 10-0 lead.

On their next drive, Isaiah

Gibbs scored on a six-yard touchdown run. The combo of Carter and Gibbs racked up close to 175

yards rushing against McMinn County. Carter himself had 127 rushing yards with Gibbs adding 44.

"They've both done a good job," said Courtney. "They complement each other, they block for each other... and at the same time when they are in a one back set they both offer different things."

Under center the Admirals not only had Wilkinson making plays, but senior Jake Evans saw snaps as well. Evans returns kicks and plays in the secondary too. Evans threw a couple of touchdown passes to Keathley.

Farragut led 27-7 at the half and turned things up another notch with 20 points in the third quarter. Eventually their lead ballooned to 40 points, allowing the mercy rule to go into effect, which meant a running clock throughout the fourth quarter.

With the exception of one long touchdown pass in the second quarter, the Admirals defense might have posted a second straight blanking. "We've made

a lot of improvement and that is something that we stressed all fall camp," Courtney said of his defense. "We're playing a lot of kids right now. That's something that we hope pays off for us."

Courtney's special teams also had a big night. Daniel Bethel's 41-yard field goal in the second quarter was a career long. Punt and kick returns set the Admirals up with shorter fields all evening long. And thanks to the play of the offense, they only punted once, and that didn't come until the final minute of the contest.

Things will get tougher from here, as the Admirals open Region play on Friday night at Morristown West.

"There's still little things we gotta clean up," said Courtney. "It's about execution, playing smart, not taking too many penalties... the biggest thing is just getting better at the fundamentals and that's what we are gonna stress all week long."

Hawks pull out win over West with 0:00 on clock

By Steve Williams

The "Talons and Swords" traveling trophy, which goes to the winner of the game between Hardin Valley Academy and West, has finally made it to the HVA campus.

It may even be on Sallee Reynolds' desk. The HVA principal, who was a long-time teacher at West High, is a key figure in why this rivalry started.

The Hawks beat the Rebels 15-12 for the first time ever in dramatic fashion Friday night at Bill Wilson Field. With no time left on the clock, senior Josiah Lambert kicked a 36-yard field goal for the winning margin.

Just a few moments earlier, West misfired on a potential go-ahead PAT kick with 29.7 seconds left after tying the score 12-12 with a whirlwind finish.

The game will go down as an instant prep football classic.

"Man alive, what a great football game," said Hardin Valley Head Coach Wes Jones. "It couldn't have been more exciting."

Lambert was carried off the field on the shoulders of teammates Loch Hardin and Sam Simpson.

"I felt great after getting carried off the field and all, but honestly, it wasn't my leg that pulled through," said Lambert. "I think God



JEREMY WIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

Six Hardin Valley Hawks close in to stop running back Tadarius Arnett Friday night on the new artificial turf at West High's Bill Wilson Field. HVA came out on top in an exciting finish, 15-12.

guided my leg through with the ball for the field goal and it's 100 percent God that did everything."

Lambert was given the chance to redeem himself, after missing wide right on a 37-yard attempt from just about the same area on the field with 8:15 to go.

That miss kept West, trailing 12-6, in striking distance down the stretch.

On fourth-and-four at the HVA 36-yard line with 42 seconds to go, Rebels quarterback Jawaun Moore

threw a clutch 28-yard pass to Jackson Snodgrass for a first down at the 8. On the next play, Moore threw a dart over the middle to Will Eggleston for the tying touchdown.

Marcel Wilder's potential go-ahead extra point kick got only about two feet off the ground. West Coach Lamar Brown would later say in the dressing room that the ball may never have gotten on the kicking tee.

That would be the last of

many offensive frustrations the Rebels experienced in the contest. But Coach Brown was proud with how his team kept battling.

It looked as though the game would go into overtime, but Kelton Gunn's long kickoff return down the left sideline in front of the Hawks' bench put the ball at the West 36 with 18.5 seconds remaining.

Quarterback Grayson Vaughn gained seven yards on a keeper. His second down pass over the middle

was incomplete and his third down pass in the end zone dropped incomplete as the final seconds ticked off the clock.

But West was called for holding on the play and by rule; a game cannot end on an accepted penalty. The 10-yard penalty moved the ball to the 19 and provided Lambert his opportunity to win it on an untimed down.

Hardin Valley took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter on Vaughn's 8-yard TD pass to Cartez Campbell. The

Hawks increased their lead to 12-0 in the second quarter on a 37-yard reverse pass from Luke Defur to Noah Moro.

It just so happen to be Moro's 18th birthday.

"Hey, for my birthday, I'm going to be honest," said Noah. "I just wanted to win, especially against West. We kind of always beat ourselves in those games. That touchdown was just icing on the cake."

Or birthday cake. "Exactly," concurred Moro, who also had an interception early in the game.

The Rebels cut Hardin Valley's lead to 12-6 in the second quarter on Moore's 11-yard touchdown pass to Grant Tierney.

Jaylen Moore was among defensive standouts for the Hawks. He had a fumble recovery prior to his team's second TD and multiple tackles for loss.

Defur had an interception and Cameron York recovered a fumble for the Hawks' defense.

Tre Everson had an interception for West and Tyrece Edwards pounced on a fumble in the end zone to stop a HVA threat in the second quarter.

Hardin Valley (1-1) will be at home against Heritage Friday night, while West (0-2) seeks its first win of the season at Karns.



**CAREACTER STAR
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK
(Week 2)**

Austin-East: Chris Stevenson.
Bearden: Sam Nester.
CAK: Malachi Harrison.
Carter: Edward Russell.
Catholic: Adam Jones.

Central: Jaylen Gaston.
Farragut: Kyle Carter.
Fulton: Michael Hobby.
Gibbs: John Pittman.
Grace Christian: Luke Kirby.
Halls: Briggs Marcentel.
Hardin Valley: Luke Defur.
Karns: Thomas Harper.

Powell: Duece Shreve.
Seymour: Christian Foister.
South-Doyle: Farrell Scott.
TSD: Shawn Mould.
TKA: Nemanja Kovacevic.
Webb: Kaden Armes.
West: Trey Everson.

PREP FOOTBALL *focus*

HOME GAMES IN GOLD **CONF. GAME** **WVLT RIVALRY THURSDAY GAME**

	WEEK 1 Aug. 16-18	WEEK 2 Aug. 23-25	WEEK 3 Aug. 30-31	WEEK 4 Sept. 6-7	WEEK 5 Sept. 13-14	WEEK 6 Sept. 20-21	WEEK 7 Sept. 27-29	WEEK 8 Oct. 4-6	WEEK 9 Oct. 11-12	WEEK 10 Oct. 18-19	WEEK 11 Oct. 25-26
TSD	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	vs. South Carolina	vs. South Carolina	vs. Carolinas (NC/ENC)	vs. Mississippi	vs. Georgia	vs. Carolinas (NC/ENC)	vs. Middle TN Heat	OPEN
AUSTIN-EAST Class AAA, R2	vs. Gibbs W, 30-12	vs. Wayne (OH) L, 56-20	vs. Kingston	vs. Fulton	OPEN	vs. Halls	vs. Scott	vs. Gatlinburg-Pittman	vs. Pigeon Forge	vs. Northview Academy	vs. Alcoa
CARTER Class 5A, R2	vs. Anderson County L, 7-49	vs. Cocke County L, 15-22	vs. Seymour	vs. Jefferson County	vs. Halls	vs. South-Doyle	vs. Fulton	vs. Central	OPEN	vs. Gibbs	vs. Sevier County
CENTRAL Class 5A, R2	vs. Tennessee High L, 16-19	vs. Fulton L, 9-18	vs. Sevier County	vs. Hardin Valley	vs. Seymour	vs. Clinton	vs. Halls	vs. Carter	OPEN	vs. South-Doyle	vs. Gibbs
GIBBS Class 5A, R2	vs. Austin-East L, 12-30	OPEN	vs. South-Doyle	vs. David Crockett	vs. Campbell County	vs. Morristown East	vs. Sevier County	vs. Seymour	vs. Halls	vs. Carter	vs. Central
HALLS Class 5A, R2	vs. Powell L, 0-35	vs. Karns W, 54-42	OPEN	vs. West	vs. Carter	vs. Austin-East	vs. Central	vs. South-Doyle	vs. Gibbs	vs. Sevier County	vs. Seymour
SEYMOUR Class 5A, R2	vs. David Crockett L, 7-21	vs. Clinton	vs. Carter	vs. Cherokee	vs. Central	OPEN	vs. South-Doyle	vs. Gibbs	vs. Sevier County	vs. Karns	vs. Halls
SOUTH-DOYLE Class 5A, R2	vs. Heritage W, 52-3	vs. Cherokee W, 61-21	vs. Gibbs	vs. Bearden	vs. Sevier County	vs. Carter	vs. Seymour	vs. Halls	OPEN	vs. Central	vs. Powell
FULTON Class 5A, R3	OPEN	vs. Central W, 18-9	vs. Powell	vs. Austin-East	vs. Karns	vs. Maryville	vs. Carter	vs. Clinton	vs. Campbell County	vs. West	vs. Oak Ridge
KARNs Class 5A, R3	vs. Cocke County L, 26-50	vs. Halls L, 42-54	vs. West	vs. Powell	vs. Fulton	vs. Scott	vs. Oak Ridge	vs. Campbell County	OPEN	vs. Seymour	vs. Clinton
POWELL Class 5A, R3	vs. Halls W, 35-0	vs. Cumberland County W, 42-0	vs. Fulton	vs. Karns	vs. Clinton	vs. Lenoir City	vs. Campbell County	vs. West	OPEN	vs. Oak Ridge	vs. South-Doyle
WEST Class 5A, R3	vs. Bearden L, 0-9	vs. Hardin Valley L, 12-15	vs. Karns	vs. Halls	vs. Oak Ridge	vs. Farragut	vs. Clinton	vs. Powell	OPEN	vs. Fulton	vs. Campbell County
CATHOLIC Class 5A, R4	vs. Maryville L, 10-31	vs. Baylor W, 35-16	OPEN	vs. Cleveland	vs. Soddy Daisy	vs. Brentwood Academy	vs. Rhea County	vs. West Greene	vs. Walker Valley	OPEN	vs. Lenoir City
BEARDEN Class 6A, R1	vs. West W, 9-0	vs. Cleveland W, 28-20	vs. Jefferson County	vs. South-Doyle	vs. Science Hill	vs. CAK	vs. Dobyms-Bennett	OPEN	vs. Farragut	vs. Hardin Valley	vs. Morristown West
FARRAGUT Class 6A, R1	vs. Bradley Central W, 34-0	vs. McMinn County W, 47-7	vs. Morristown West	vs. Oak Ridge	vs. Jefferson County	vs. West	vs. Science Hill	vs. Dobyms-Bennett	vs. Bearden	OPEN	vs. Hardin Valley
HARDIN VALLEY Class 6A, R1	vs. Oak Ridge L, 7-23	vs. West W, 15-12	vs. Heritage	vs. Central	vs. Morristown West	OPEN	vs. Jefferson County	vs. Science Hill	vs. Dobyms-Bennett	vs. Bearden	vs. Farragut
KING'S ACAD Class A, East	vs. Silverdale Academy L, 20-48	vs. Grace Christian L, 21-70	vs. Mid Tenn Christian	vs. Greenback	vs. Mt Juliet Christian	OPEN	OPEN	vs. Grace Baptist CH	vs. Friendship Christian	vs. DCA	vs. Ezell-Harding
CAK Class AA, East	vs. Christ (NC) L, 7-44	vs. Greenback L, 20-63	vs. Notre Dame	vs. Lenior City	vs. Chattanooga Christian	vs. Bearden	vs. Silverdale Academy	vs. GCA	OPEN	vs. Knoxville Webb	vs. Boyd Buchanon
WEBB Class AA, East	vs. Evangelical Christian L, 10-13	vs. Asheville, NC L, 10-35	vs. Ensworth	vs. McCallie	vs. GCA	OPEN	vs. Notre Dame	vs. Boyd Buchanon	vs. Chattanooga Christian	vs. CAK	vs. Silverdale Academy
GCA Class AA, East	vs. Alcoa L, 0-49	vs. King's Academy W, 70-21	vs. Boyd Buchanon	OPEN	vs. Knoxville Webb	vs. Greenback	vs. Happy Valley	vs. CAK	vs. Notre Dame	vs. Silverdale Academy	vs. Chattanooga Christian

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

The Journey

Sometimes I wonder how I came to be where I am. Ever the pragmatist, my wife Becky says, "Well, you have to be somewhere." I guess that's true on this "mortal coil." But more importantly, I'm where I'm supposed to be.

Many of my friends are now traveling the world. Some are on safari in Africa. Some are tossing coins into Rome's Trevi Fountain and others are taking cooking classes in Morocco or on cruise ships circling the tip of South America. I once had a wanderlust, but it left me.

I am glad that for five decades I traveled the world. With travel you experience other cultures and perspectives - and other foods. In France you need to be careful with a restaurant menu because a single letter change can summon an unexpected dish. The "meatballs" I thought I had

requested in France were obviously not from Chef Boyardee.

I remember a scene in the movie *The Way We Were* where the friends sat around recalling their best experiences. I recall walking across the Ponte Vecchio one hot day in Florence, Italy and discovering gelato. This Italian ice cream remains my standard of a "ten" by which all other ice creams are measured.

In a dozen trips to Europe, more than a dozen trips across Central America and the Caribbean, as well as adventures in the Adriatic, Australia and New Zealand, I've seen many beautiful and exotic places like Tasmania, Iceland and Andora. However, America's vistas are second to none and Becky's crême brûlée is superior to anything in Paris.

Perhaps the reason my

wanderlust has dissipated is the view from my porch is unparalleled. Watching my grandkids come up our driveway for a Southern "visit" with JD (JimDad) and BeBe assures me my journey has brought me to where I'm supposed to be.

Edna St. Vincent Millay perhaps best expresses my travel perspective in her poem:

"How shall I know, unless I go

To Cairo and Cathay,
 Whether or not this blessed spot

Is blest in every way?
 Now it may be, the flower for me

Is beneath my nose;
 How shall I tell, unless I smell

The Carthaginian rose?"

I've seen the ruins of ancient Carthage where Hannibal once stood. And though Tunisia is exotic and romanticized by Millay, nothing compares with childlike laughter coming up my driveway.

Traveling exposes you to the risk of foodborne illnesses, such as "tourista" in Mexico. Interestingly, travelers from south of the border can develop similar gastrointestinal (GI) illness in America when they are exposed to our indigenous bacterial flora. Be careful what you eat, especially when traveling. I learned

that lesson after a misadventure with Antiguan sausage in Guatemala.

Especially problematic are cruise ship GI infections. Infectious entities like the norovirus can wreak havoc on a ship where thousands of people are gathered in close contact. If you take a cruise, my advice is, never pass a hand sanitizer without using it.

The French have a saying you are what you eat. I say, you need to be careful whatever and wherever you eat. My wife Becky is a fan of steak tartare, a dish made with raw ground beef mixed with onions and spices. If you were assured the dish was made from ground tenderloin instead of more superficial cuts as used in hamburger, the risk might be less. However, since I can't be sure, this dish is off limits to my wife.

Becky also loves oysters on the half shell. After I encountered a bad oyster in a prominent Knoxville restaurant, I'm very wary of such delicacies, but occasionally I will roll the dice for special occasions, taking some reassurance from my previous hepatitis A vaccination. Ordinarily, I eschew raw seafood, adhering to the Tom Sellack sushi philosophy as depicted in the movie *Mr. Baseball*. He proclaimed

to his Japanese friends, "I don't eat bait!"

It is probably safer to eat at home because you prepare your own food. The recurrent food illnesses associated with Chipotle come to mind. However, if you follow the advice of charlatans and drink raw unpasteurized milk at home, you go in harm's way as well. It's tragic that parents recently ignored hundreds of years of science and gave raw milk to their children with terrible consequences.

As a class, bacteria are perhaps the oldest life forms on earth. Humans are of more recent design. We share the world with microorganisms and, in fact, have a symbiotic relationship with the bacteria which live in our guts. The observation that destroying these bacteria causes ill health led to the recognition that the biome of our gastrointestinal tract promotes health and a vigorous immune system.

I've recently written about generic medications, mentioning the standards of the FDA (Food and Drug Administration). This federal agency began as the Food Administration during Teddy Roosevelt's administration. Though TR considered the socialist Upton Sinclair "dishonest" and a "crackpot," Sinclair's 1906

novel *The Jungle*, describing the terrible conditions of Chicago's slaughterhouses, led to investigations and ultimately the establishment of the Food Administration which later became the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).

With brand name and generic drugs I have to trust the FDA. I also trust the police to protect me locally and the military to protect the country. I am far more skeptical of the upper echelons of the FBI, the CIA, the IRS and the Justice Department. And my trust of politicians and Congress is just barely greater than that of the media which has lost virtually all credibility.

I do trust my Master and my wife with my life. And like expanding concentric circles from a pebble cast in a pond, I trust family, friends, fellow parishioners and neighbors. Jesus was once asked for his definition of a neighbor and he responded with the parable of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

Perhaps if I were a better man or a better disciple, my view of the world would be less skeptical. I'm working on it, just like the Master continues to work on my heart and mind and soul in this journey called life.

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

Are Grain-Free Diets Right for Your Dog?

Recently the U. S. Food and Drug Administration issued an alert about reports of canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs eating certain pet food containing peas, lentils, and other legume seeds, or potatoes as the main ingredients. These reports are unusual because DCM is occurring in breeds not typically genetically prone to disease. These reports should not cause panic but, Hobo the Wonder Dog and I advise caution and encourage you to discuss your pet's diet with your veterinarian. Obviously, as with Hobo's side kick



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

Grace who has a few food allergies requires a grain-free diet—we make the best food choices we can with consultation of our veterinarian.

Choosing the right food for your dog can be overwhelming and confusing and now with the alert to "grain-free" diets it is becoming more complex. Seemingly, we have a never ending list of products and foods to choose from. Often, we are inundated with clever and conflicting advertising campaigns that make choosing the best food for our dogs even more challenging. If you are like me, I struggle

with every scoop of food I serve Hobo and wonder whether I am feeding him the best food possible.

Raw, freeze dried, "grain-free," canned, vegetarian, or all organic? These are only a few choices to consider when choosing the right food for your dog.

- First decide on a budget for dog food and use this as your starting point. Knowing your budget will help narrow your search.
- Search companies who provide products grown and manufactured in the United States.
- High-quality protein should be the first ingredient. Avoid products containing corn, wheat, and soy.
- Cross-reference products you are

considering with the FDA's recalls and withdrawals list by visiting their website: www.fda.gov/animalveterinary/safetyhealth/recalls-withdrawals this will give you an idea of the companies safety record.

Customer service and knowledgeable staff. Call the company's customer service department and ask questions about their products.

Cost is an important consideration so you are comparing products within your budget. I am not advocating price alone as the deciding factor. Use a budget as a tool to help weed through some of the confusion. You can now sort products made in the United States with quality ingredients grown and

Continue on page 3



Hobo the Wonder Dog finishing a high quality meal formulated for his size, breed, and nutritional needs.

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HOMETOWN HEROES HONORED



The Strawberry Plains Chapter of Modern Woodmen of America recently honored E. Luke and Josephine Green as local hometown heroes for their roles in renovating Parrott-Wood Memorial Library. Mr. and Mrs. Green have given back to the community for many years. MWA's Hometown Hero Award provides local community members an opportunity to honor individuals for their outstanding service to the community. They were presented with a certificate by local MWA representative Richard Hall. The certificate states "You believe in volunteer service, and so do we! As a fraternal financial services organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for families and communities, we recognize your accomplishments and appreciate your contribution to your community. You're truly a hometown hero!" In their honor, MWA will donate \$100 to a charity of their choice. They have chosen the Friends of Parrott-Wood Memorial Library to receive this donation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

6th Thunder Road Author Rally to be held September 8
Maynardville Public Library is hosting their 6th author event, the Thunder Road Author Rally, on Saturday, September 8, 2018 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The library's address is 296 Main St, Maynardville, TN, 37807 and the phone number is 865-992-7106.

This is a chance for East Tennessee authors to get out and promote their books and meet their readers. The library does not charge the author to

take part as this is a free event for both the authors and the readers. Authors are encouraged to bring books to sell to the public.

For more information and a list of the participating authors, please visit www.maynardvillepubliclibrary.org/our-authors.

Commissioner Night Out

On August 28, 2018 from 5-7 p.m., Commissioner Carson Dailey will be meeting with the citizens of the 9th district

at Smoky Mountain Deli, 6409 Chapman Highway. Everyone is welcome to meet with your Commissioner.

Pastor Appreciation Day

The 2nd Annual Pastor Appreciation Day will be held Thursday, September 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the LOVE ALL Centre, 3508 Maryville Pike, Knoxville. There will be onsite smoked BBQ pork, beans, tea and lemonade. Visit www.LoveAllorg.com for information about Love All.

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Faith for the Journey

I like to know where I am going and prefer the shortest



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

or most direct route to get there. But when it comes to God's calling in our lives, the timing, and how we get there is not always in a nice and tidy package; the direction is less clear. We need to pay careful attention at each step of the journey and look for signs along the way. We will notice this over and over in Paul's journeys. Paul trusted the Holy Spirit to lead him and we need to do the same.

We find the Holy Spirit speaking to the believers in worship to commission Paul and Barnabas to take the gospel to the world (Acts 13:2-3). It was now more than a decade since Paul first got his calling from God on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:15). But Paul had to listen and wait for God's actual commission to go. When I preach, I hope and pray God speaks through me to those listening. I think it would always be good to have pen and paper in hand whenever you worship so you could write down something that pierces your heart, thoughts that are placed in your mind, or some way you should live differently. The Spirit works through our thoughts as we worship. It is often in listening to the sermons of others that I continue to hear God's call on my life.

Today, there are many who no longer worship. They think they can get what they need in private study, in individual

spiritual disciplines, or in conversations with others outside of a worship setting. Some say they are not inspired by the preaching, or the singing is not what they like. This was not the approach the early church took.

How awesome do you think the music ministry of the Antioch church was? There was no stage, no microphones, no instruments, no four-part harmony, no PowerPoint, no song books, no praise band or praise team with powerful worship leaders. They didn't even always have great preaching. Listen to what others said about Paul's preaching: "His letters are severe and powerful, but in person he is weak and his speech is worth nothing" (2 Cor. 10:10). Despite Paul's unimpressive preaching and the simple singing of "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19), God's Spirit spoke when they gathered for worship. The Spirit of God is able to show up in a large gathering of inspiring worship, or in a small gathering "where two or three are gathered" in Christ's name (Matthew 18:20). So, whenever we worship, we want to engage both the mind and heart and prepare ourselves to hear the Spirit speak despite how good the singing or preaching might be.

Not only was the church in Antioch worshipping, they were also fasting. And they were not just fasting individually, they were also fasting together. It was through worship and fasting that the Holy Spirit prompted the church to send out Paul to preach the gospel to the Gentile world, and he was ready to go.

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