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City holding 9/11 memorial events

On the 17th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, two memorial ceremonies will take place in downtown Knoxville.

City of Knoxville and Knox County officials will host a short ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial located on the lawn of the City County Building. The bells of First Baptist Church will toll at 8:46 a.m. to mark the time hijackers crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Retired KPD officer and current KPD Chaplain Gerald King will lead a prayer, followed by another tolling of the bells at 9:03 a.m., the time hijackers crashed United Airlines Flight 175 into the South Tower.

Ceremony participants will include relatives of Knoxville residents who died in the attacks. A wreath of white flowers will be laid at the base of the memorial, a black granite obelisk made by Randy Vaden and installed in 2003.

At the same time, the 5th annual Knoxville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb will be held at the Sunrider on the World's Fair Park. After an 8:30 a.m. ceremony including remarks from Mayor Madeline Rogers, and an 8:46 a.m. moment of silence, 343 first responders (firefighters, EMS, police, military and others trained as first responders) from Knoxville and surrounding counties will climb the equivalent of 110 stories in remembrance of the 343 New York City firefighters who died at the Twin Towers.

Many climbers will wear full gear and carry equipment to replicate the experience of firefighters on that day. Each climber receives a badge bearing the name and photograph of one of those fallen FDNY firefighters. Proceeds from the climb go to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The public is welcome to attend and may bring chairs and blankets to observe the climb and encourage participants.

For further information on the climb, visit <http://www.knoxvillestairclimb.com/>.

Tennessee Valley Fair now open



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

TBI Director David Rausch, Knoxville's recent Chief Of Police, was the keynote speaker at the opening luncheon of the TYA Fair Friday. Rausch got a large applause from some 400 citizens and elected officials at the event. He spoke of his early days with the department and being assigned to the fair to direct traffic and later to provide security at the fair. The Tennessee Valley Fair runs through September 16 and has culinary arts and crafts, livestock shows, sports, special events, homegrown goodies and concerts with performances by Rick Springfield, Joe Diffie, Scotty McCreery and more.

Pension Board ruling may go on to Nov. 12

By Mike Steely
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A multi-hour hearing before Chancery Judge John W. Weaver Friday morning saw arguments on both sides with the judge asking if the pension board will agree to have a hearing on one of the specific retired employees on November 12th.

The pension board attorneys said that the law director's office didn't have the authority to bring an action against it or the retiring sheriff's department employees. Because of a conflict of interest, the law director could not handle the case and hired Egerton, McAfee, Armistead, and Davis to represent the county.

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New members welcomed to Knox County School Board

By Anne Primm

On Wednesday afternoon at a special called meeting, three newly elected board members were welcomed to the Knox County School Board. Evette Satterfield is the new 1st District representative, Virginia Babbs now represents the 4th District and Kristi Krysty represents the 9th District.

All six of the other school board members were present. No elected officials attended the Wednesday afternoon meeting. Chairman Pats Bounds asked for a motion to approve the meeting's agenda and Representative Susan Horn proposed that motion which was seconded by Representative Tony Norman. The motion carried.

Next, there was a motion proposed by 3rd District Representative Norman to suspend Board Policy 8-110. This would allow Chairman Bounds to be in charge of the September 5, 2018 meeting instead of making the newly elected Board Chair take over immediately with no preparation. This motion was seconded by 2nd District Representative Jennifer

Owen and the motion carried.

Reorganization of the board was the next item on the agenda. Sixth District Representative Terry Hill was nominated for the new board chair by 5th District Representative Horn which was seconded by Babbs. Bounds was nominated for board chair by Norman which was seconded by Owen. The vote

was 6/3 in favor of Hill as chairwoman.

Chairwoman Horn was vice chairperson of the board. The nomination was seconded by 8th District Representative Mike McMillan. Owen proposed a motion that Horn be accepted as vice chairperson by acclamation and the motion carried.

Nystrom becomes commission chairman in split vote

By Mike Steely
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Fourth District Commissioner Hugh Nystrom has been selected as the new Knox County Commissioner Chairman. Nystrom was chosen over 5th District Commissioner John Schoonmaker following a split vote. The split vote, 6-4, saw 1st District Commissioner Evelyn Gil passing.

Voting for Nystrom were Randy Smith, Nystrom, Brad Anders, Michele Carringer, Larsen Jay and Justin Biggs. Voting for Schoonmaker were Charles Busler, Dave Wright, Carson Daly and Schoonmaker.

"Split votes are great votes. Vigorous debate is welcome and civility is

appropriate as we work together and with the school board, city council and staff," Nystrom said after taking his seat.

The vote for vice chairman was between 2nd District Commissioner Carringer and 9th District Commissioner Daley with Gil again passing. The 5-5 vote saw Carringer receiving votes from Carringer, Biggs, Anders, Nystrom and Smith. Voting for Daley were Larsen Jay, Wright, Busler, Schoonmaker and Daley. Gil's passing could have resolved the tie vote but again she passed.

In a second vote Jay joined the Carringer supporters and she was selected in a 6-4-1 with Gil again passing. The new chairman then

led the meeting in selecting various committees and committee chairs. The selection of committee members was basically on a voluntarily basis by commission members and then the committees selected their chair persons.

The Rules Committee members are Daley, Busler, Anders, Smith and Jay with Smith as chairman.

The Court Subcommittee includes Biggs, Anders, Carringer, Busler and Nystrom with Gil as chairman.

The Insolvency Board includes Biggs, Gil, Carringer, and Daley with Carringer as chair.

The new Legislative Affairs Committee



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Knox County's newest At-Large Commissioners, Larsen Jay and Justin Biggs, pose for photos for The Focus following the reorganization meeting Tuesday.

includes Anders, Daley, Carringer, Gil and Schoonmaker with Schoonmaker as chair.

The Cable TV Committee

has Busler as chair and Jay as vice chair.

The Finance Committee has Schoonmaker as chair.

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