



# The Knoxville FOCUS

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October 29, 2018

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## Central High adding four to Wall of Fame

By Mike Steely  
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Four new members will be added to Central High School's "Wall of Honor" when the alumni and guests assemble at Gresham Middle School Thursday, November 8th. The four join a host of other former Central students as the former students and staff hold the 17th Annual Wall of Fame Dinner which begins at 6 p.m.

Why Gresham? The historic middle school has been the home of Central High School. It was called Central because

it was in the heart of Fountain City, once the largest unincorporated community in Tennessee. Knoxville annexed the community in the 1960s. The high school was moved over to its current location at 5321 Jacksboro Pike in 1971. Some of the best known Central students include Roy Acuff, Kelsea Ballerini, Ashley Capps, Red Graves, Frankie Housley, Bill Snyder, Eddie Marnis, Con Hunley and Tommy Shumpert.

Tickets are \$25 and available at the Central High School office or by



Sandra Martin

calling R. Larry Smith at (865) 922-5433 or Jean Payne at (865) 688-4165. The Wall of Fame dinner and honors are sponsored by the Central High School



Suzanne Matheny

Alumni and Alumni Association. Being honored this year are Suzanne Matheny, Stuart R. Worden, Jack Lee Thurman and Sandra



Jack Lee Thurman

T. Martin. Matheny is a member of the Class of 1961 and a noted church and symphony vocalist, accomplished university director,



Stuart R. Worden

key person in community activities and Fountain City's Woman of the Year for 2017.

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## 'Pumpkins for Piggies' called for by Hooves & Feathers

By Mike Steely  
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What are you going to do with those leftover pumpkins from Halloween?

Rather than trashing them why not donate them to Hooves & Feathers Farm Animals Humane Society? The new non-profit organization is collecting for their pigs and these pigs love to eat pumpkins which are a good source of vitamins and minerals for them.

Unpainted pumpkins can be taken to the Hooves & Feathers farm at 2551 Cunningham Road through November 16 or you can drop off the pumpkins at Central Filling Station at 900 North Central Street on November 3 at 11 a.m. or November 4 at 6 p.m.

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Pigs love pumpkins and would love you to donate leftover Halloween pumpkins, squash and hay to "Pumpkins for Piggies" at Hooves & Feathers, a new non-profit rescue organization. You can take them to the group's Cunningham Road location or the Central Filling Station after Halloween. See story for dates.

## Commission deals with contract for video jail visitation

By Pete Gawda

At their meeting on Monday, Oct. 25 the Knox County Commission dealt with video visitation at the jail and considered discussing the proposed pension board settlement.

During the public forum four people spoke favor of either eliminating or reducing the use of jail video visitation and allowing in person visitation of prisoners. The commission took no action on their requests. However, in a related matter, the commission approved amending the contract with Securix Technologies, the company which provides the facilities for video visitation. The amendment includes a one time additional development payment of \$250,000 to the county, provides for commission percentage changes and deals with uninstalling software.

An effort to have the proposed pension board settlement placed on the evening's agenda was unsuccessful. During the public forum time attorney Herbert Moncier, on behalf of the 636 people who would be affected by the settlement, urged that the matter be placed on the evening's agenda. "This litigation has to stop," Moncier asserted. He said the court needs

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## Can the mayor and commission 'direct' the law director?

By Mike Steely  
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In a special called session of the Knox County Commission a majority of members voted to direct the Knox County Law Director and his staff and designates to dismiss the lawsuit against the Retirement and Pension Board.

In three paragraphs of a resolution supporting Mayor Glenn Jacobs in his attempt to end the long-running legal battle seven of the commissioners voted to support a "settlement" drafted by the pension board.

The problem is that there's a disagreement as to who's in charge. The mayor and

commission seem to think the law director works for them. The law director, an elected Constitutional official, actually works for the people of the county. Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong's position is that he is the sole legal representative and neither the mayor nor the commission have the power to decide legal disputes.

The mayor failed to get a 2/3 vote during a work session this month as Commissioners Carson Dailey, John Schoonmaker, Dave Wright and Charles Busler voted against having the settlement proposal placed on commission agenda. Mayor

Jacobs then called a special session for Thursday afternoon, the same day that many of the commissioners had made reservations to attend a Tennessee Counties Service Association meeting in Chattanooga. Several cancelled reservations so they could attend the called session and others attended but left in time to make the special meeting.

Dailey's wife was injured in a fall on the trip and so Dailey was out for the special session. Schoonmaker stayed at the TCCA meeting.

Busler read a statement at the beginning of the special session Thursday. He said that while he values

the service of the sheriff's uniformed officers that only Judge John Weaver is empowered to resolve the legal dispute.

"Why can't we wait for the judgement?" Busler asked.

Busler said that he is not convinced that the pension board had the authority to alter the Uniformed Officers Pension Plan and added that if the unused vacation time is added to the monthly pension along with an annual three percent raise, the 75% pension could expand to between \$40 and \$60 million.

He added that if he voted

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## Judge Weaver asked to dismiss commission action

The Knoxville Focus learned Friday morning that the Knox County Law Director has filed a motion with Judge John Weaver to dismiss action by the commission in special session Thursday.

Weaver will hear the motion this morning at 9:30 a.m. Law Director Bud Armstrong's motion contends that the commission and the county mayor lack the power to direct his office to drop the lawsuit.

Judge Weaver now has, according to Armstrong, all the information needed and a ruling on the entire case may be issued prior to November 12th.



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