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Wreaths Across America seeking sponsors

By Chris Albrecht

Wreaths Across America is a grass-roots program that traces its beginning to 1992 when the Worcester Wreath Co. found itself with an excess of Christmas wreaths necessary to fill their orders. Owner Morrill Worcester shipped the excess wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery asking that they be placed on the headstones in an older, rarely visited part of the cemetery.

This gesture of appreciation and respect for America's Veterans was noticed, and today, veteran cemeteries across the country observe the 3rd Saturday of December as National Wreaths Across America Day. That falls on December 15th this year. At noon on this day, wreaths will be ceremoniously placed on veteran headstones in the Knox County area's three veterans cemeteries by hundreds of

volunteers. The mission of Wreaths Across America is simple and much more than just decorating for Christmas: REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH.

Knoxville's National Cemetery on Tyson St., next to the Old Gray Cemetery has 9,246 graves.

The East Tennessee State Veteran's Cemetery on Lyon's View Pike has approximately 5,000 graves. The East Tennessee

State Veteran's Cemetery in East Knox County on Gov. John Sevier Highway has about 2,500 graves, a number that is constantly increasing, as it is the currently active cemetery. Last year, only about 1/3 of the headstones in the three cemeteries were bedecked with a Christmas wreath. As already mentioned, this is a grassroots effort; there is no state or federal funding.

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Dave Wright Honored



The gavel Commissioner Wright used while chairman of the Knox County Commission was presented to him by the commission members. Wright was appointed to the commission in 2008 and served ten years representing the 8th District.

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Dave Wright, elected as state House District 19's representative, resigned from the Knox County Commission after twice serving as chairman. His ten years came to mind as he spoke to the commission last week.

"I still want to say it this way, 'My fellow commissioners,'" Representative-elect Wright said as he began to address the body.

"Tonight is really important to me. I

arrived at county commission during a time of controversy and turmoil," he said, adding, "and I am leaving Knox County Commission in a time of turmoil."

"But in the middle of all this in the Eighth District there's been library expansion, the senior citizens worked on and built the Senior Citizens Center, convenience centers built, updated traffic lights," he listed. "There have been hundreds of things that have worked out in the Eighth District.

"It's through organizations in the

Eighth District like churches, civic groups and regular old groups of people like the Republican Clubs that allowed the representation to come out of the Eighth District."

He recognized the efforts of various people in building Carter Elementary and Gibbs Middle Schools including Phil Ballard, Mike McMillan, Richard "Bud" Armstrong, Jack Huddleston and Steve Hunley.

"It's not been just me, it's taken all the

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Senior housing project gets city funding

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The City of Knoxville is finalizing steps to create 53 affordable housing units for low-income senior citizens. Tuesday's council meeting saw a series of actions toward that project beginning with the closure of a series of alleys.

Those authorizations to close the alleys led to the transfer of the property located at Clifton Road, Sanderson Road and Chillicothe to Knoxville's Housing Development Corporation at no charge.

The three-steps ended with the city council authorizing the award of \$1.2 million in Affordable Rental Development Funds to the Housing Development Corporation at the request of the Development Corporation.

The senior dwelling project will cost almost \$6 million with additional funding coming from state and federal sources. Senior residents who qualify as low-income recipients would pay 30% of their gross income and some would qualify for rent vouchers.

Planned for the area south of Western Avenue and east of I-640 in West Lonsdale, the project is "a no brainer" according to Knoxville's Community Development Corporation Director Ben Bentley. He added that thousands of senior citizens are on a waiting list for affordable housing.

The council also authorized spending \$500,000 for an art project for the little park at Summit Hill Road and South Gay Street. Requested by the office of redevelopment, the huge sculpture was selected from various submissions.

Liza Zenni, executive director of the Arts and Cultural Alliance, told the council that THEVERYMANY, LLC submission was selected because it will create a gathering place and is designed to "draw people in." She said the art sculpture will have places to sit, places for musicians to play and will transform the little are that has been called the "Country Music Park."

Councilman George Wallace asked if city engineers would approve of the structural integrity of the large sculpture and Chief Operating Officer David Brace said, "We're prepared to do that."

"We'll make sure it is safe," Brace said.

Zenni called the small park one of Knoxville's "forgotten places" and Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie said the design is

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Pension suit faces chancellor hearing Wednesday

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Retirement and Pension Board met Monday, November 19, and adopted a policy for retirees allowing up to 43 days of unused vacation time to be and permitted within their retirement compensation.

In the midst of a court suit against the board and several recent retiring uniformed officers the board moved on as if the entire matter had been resolved. After swearing in Commissioner Randy Smith to replace Commissioner

John Schoonmaker the board voted to amend their policy to include the vacation days.

Uniformed officers will apparently continue to receive, upon full retirement, 75% of their pay, a three-percent increase each year, and the "cash out" payment of their unused vacation days over their final two years will be tacked onto their monthly retirement checks.

Law Director Richard "Bud" Armstrong had sued the pension board which had been adding

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Commissioner Randy Smith takes the oath for the Knox County Retirement and Pension from Attorney John Owings. Smith replaces Commissioner John Schoonmaker, who resigned from the board.

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Do step-parents have visitation rights?

Step-parents sit in unique situations. They are in a relationship with someone who has a child who is not their own, and by being in a relationship with this person, they have become a step-parent to this child who is not their own, and may never be their own.



By **Jedidiah McKeenan**
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

party is a step-parent to a minor child born to the other party, such stepparent may be granted reasonable visitation rights to such child during the child's minority by the court of competent jurisdiction upon a finding that such

visitation rights would be in the best interests of the minor child and that such stepparent is actually providing or contributing towards the support of such child."

So, if someone really wants to exercise visitation with their step-child, they will have to show that the visitation award is in the child's best interest, and that the step-parent has been contributing to the support of the minor child (this means monetarily providing for the child's needs).

So, if you are wondering if you get divorced whether you can get awarded visitation rights to your step-child, the answer is that it is possible, but not very likely.

Jedidiah McKeenan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including criminal, divorce, custody, personal injury, landlord-tenant, civil litigation and estate planning. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

Let's run through a hypothetical situation. Say a couple has a child together, gets divorced and they have 50/50 visitation with that child. Say the father of that child then remarries and the new wife develops a positive and strong bond with that child from the previous marriage. This all seems very believable, right? Well, what if father and new wife get divorced. Does the new wife have any rights to ever see that child again? The one who is not their own, but with they have developed a strong bond with?

Generally, the answer is no. Sorry, this child is not your own, and any relationship you would have going forward with the child would be at the discretion of the child's natural parents until that child turns 18 and can make their own decisions about who they want to spend time with.

There is one exception to this though. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 36-6-303 states, "In a suit for annulment, divorce or separate maintenance where one (1)

Registration open for Tennessee Veterans Business Association 2019 expo and job fair

The Tennessee Veterans Business Association's Business Expo and Veteran Job Fair will return to Knoxville in January 2019, and booth space is available now for purchase.

The expo and job fair, part of a two-day event by the Tennessee Veterans Business Association, will be held Jan. 28-29, 2019, at the Knoxville Convention Center. Interested businesses can purchase an expo booth for \$400. Registration is available now online at <https://gotvba.com/>.

The 2019 speaker will be Lt. Col. Oliver North, a combat-decorated retired U.S. Marine. In addition, special entertainment will be provided by country music icon Lee Greenwood, who will perform "God Bless the USA."

The reception and dinner will be held Monday, Jan. 28, 2019, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Event sponsors will have the opportunity for a

meet-and-greet with North and Greenwood at an exclusive VIP reception.

On Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019, the Business Expo and Veteran Job Fair will be open from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The event provides exhibitors an opportunity to network and share information about products, services and veteran support programs. Employers also can meet potential candidates with the chance to complete the initial job interview through face-to-face contact. Veterans will be invited to attend and learn about career and educational opportunities and business startup assistance.

For additional information about vendor opportunities, email TVBA at info@gotvba.com or call 865-414-2000. Keynote dinner tickets will be available for \$125 or \$1,250 for a table of 10.

For membership information, visit gotvba.com/.

Wreaths Across America seeking sponsors

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All wreaths are sponsored by individuals and organizations.

The Capt. Bill Robinson Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America in Knoxville has taken the leadership role to raise the necessary funds in an effort to see a wreath on each of the nearly 17,000 headstones. They want to see that no hero is ever forgotten. It's been said that "A person dies twice: once when they take their last breath, and again later... when their name is no longer spoken". That is why after placing the wreath at a 45° angle at the foot of the headstone, volunteers take a step back and read that person's name out loud. REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH.

The TEACH component is especially important to help our children understand our history and its significance. Many of those volunteering to place wreaths are parents with their kids.

Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops also get involved. It provides a wonderful



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Volunteers unload boxes of wreaths from the tractor trailer truck at the National Cemetery for last year's Wreaths Across America.

opportunity to show them how to HONOR our veterans.

National Wreaths Across America Day is truly special for many reasons, but it can't happen without the sponsorship of wreaths. Knoxville and the surrounding areas are very veteran-centric, so having enough wreaths shouldn't be difficult. The price to

sponsor a wreath is \$15.

It's really just a matter of awareness and knowing how to donate. We are asking individuals, families and businesses to consider sponsorship. It's easy to do. Simply go online to vva1078.org, choose which cemetery you would like to send your wreath(s), and how many you wish to sponsor. If

you would rather send a check, make it out to VVA 1078, and mail it to P.O. Box 50054, Knoxville, TN 37950-0054.

Seeing row after row of marble headstones decorated with an evergreen wreath during the Christmas holiday season is breathtaking.

Please help make it happen!

Senior housing project gets city funding

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Executive Park Drive to beautiful and then encouraged the arts group to look at doing something in the Danny Mayfield Park in Mechanicsville.

Council member Seema Singh-Perez differed with the other members and noted that the proposed large art structure is only three blocks from the homeless on Broadway.

"It feels like an insult," she said, adding that there are other things that the funds could be used for. Zenni replied that the sculpture "has no doors" and the homeless will be welcomed there.

Singh-Perez was the sole "No" vote on the project.

Mayor Madeline Rogero said she was very impressed by the artist and choice the committee made. She called the art sculpture an "iconic artistic piece" that links the Old City with downtown.

In other action the council approved of allowing a proposed hotel on

Executive Park Drive to exceed the height limit there and extend to 70 feet. Developer Paul Williams said the topography of the one-acre site was a feature that required the extra height and lowered his request from 81 feet to 70 feet.

Councilman Andrew Roberto quizzed Williams about the project but Councilman George Wallace sited the location's topography as a hardship. The matter passed with Roberto voting "No."

Pond Gap residents lost their appeal of approval of a large apartment complex being planned along Hollywood Road. Neighborhood President David Williams and resident Roberta Potter spoke for the homeowners there and asked the council to repeal the approval of the Metropolitan Planning Committee's Use on Review.

The speakers described the additional traffic, safety issues and and the



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Pond Gap resident Roberta Potter speaks to the city council in the neighborhood's appeal of approval of a large apartment complex proposed for Hollywood Road.

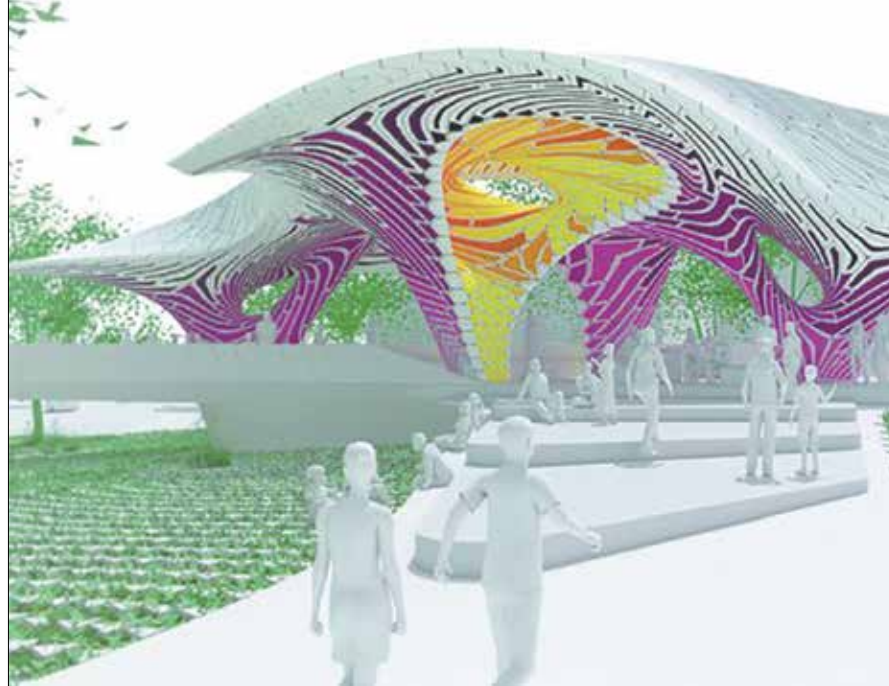
problems fire and emergency vehicles would have entering and exiting a proposed road there.

Developer John Shepard assured the

neighbors that the turn into the proposed complex might actually slow speeders on Hollywood. MPC Director Gerald Green told the council that a traffic study along the route indicated that a turn lane was not needed but Councilman Roberto said there's lots of concern about traffic and safety.

There was also a concern about a retaining wall along the street and Brace promised to look into it. The vote to deny Pond Gap's appeal was unanimous.

A new piece of art has been authorized that would "create a gathering space" at the corner of Summit Hill and South Gay Street. The city council authorized \$500,000 Tuesday for the project.



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

Managing Editor Rose King, rking@knoxfocus.com
Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com
Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
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Dave Wright Honored

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work of those people and I thank the Knox County Commission especially for Carter Elementary and Gibbs Middle School," he said.

Wright mentioned having lunch with the Knox County state delegation and Congressman-elect Tim Burchett. "It's only through the collaborative effort of the commission and the mayor that the things I have spoken about have been accomplished."

In closing, Representative-elect Wright, a veteran of the U.S. Army, asked the commissioners to donate from their discretionary funds to Honor Air to support a veteran to visit Washington, D.C. He then asked the commissioners to "come out here with me to have a class picture."

Resumes to replace Wright as District 8's commission representative are being sought and must be submitted by noon on December 3 by mail, fax, email or hand delivery to the Knox County Commission Office, Suite 603, City-County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville,



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Representative-elect Dave Wright, right, talks with Deputy Law Director David Buuck prior to the Knox County Commission meeting last week. Wright was honored for his 10 years of service on the commission, twice serving as chairman.

TN 37902. The phone number is (865) 215-2534 and the fax number is (865) 215-2038. The email address is commission@knoxcounty.org.

The commissioners

voted to set Wednesday, December 5 as the date to appoint a replacement for Wright. The public meeting will start at 2 p.m. and Chairman Hugh Nystrom said there are several

qualified people who have voiced an interest in filling Wright's district seat. At 2:30 the commission will vote to choose the new District 8 commissioner.



morning and my hearing aid was in two pieces. I don't know how that happened. I place it under my pillow while I'm sleeping. Another mystery.

In October my sister in Florida passed way. Another dear friend of mine had a stroke. I'm sure by now, you know what my thorns in life were during those Autumn months.

I am not complaining. God has helped me during those trying times. I have much to be thankful for. I read in God's Word a letter from Paul to Timothy regarding the thorn in his side:

"To keep me from getting puffed up, I was given a thorn, given a thorn in

my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from getting proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time He said, 'my gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weaknesses.'"

Many have speculated as to the nature of Paul's thorn; it could have been a chronic physical ailment or perhaps a psychological problem His focus was not on what his thorn was, but rather on why God allowed it. He was able to boast about his weaknesses because

he recognized that his condition provided a showcase for God's divine power to be

displayed through his life.

If there are thorns in your life, don't worry, they are there for a purpose. They are there to show you that God will take care of you no matter how many thorns there are. Trust Him!

It is wonderful to have a day of thanksgiving once a year, but even more wonderful to be thankful every day of the year, even with our thorns.

Thought for the day: God knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold. (Job 23:10)

Send comments to: rosemerrie@att.net or call 865-748-4717. Thank you.

2019 election cycle revving up already

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

"This one has been put to bed, thank goodness," said Cliff Rodgers, director of the Knox County Election Commission, of the general election earlier this month. He said the huge turnout in voting went surprisingly well and noted that the election will be officially certified today, Monday, November 26.

The holiday season is upon us but many potential city candidates are already picking up petitions and naming their campaign treasurers. City voters, progressively going "Blue" and touting that the city is becoming a Democratic stronghold in a deeply "Red" Republican county, will be seeing a disputed primary and general election starting this coming spring.

Naming treasurers is the first step for those who want to replace Mayor Madeline Rogero or be elected to city council. There's no reason to name an affiliation with a political party in the process of running for office because the city elections are non-partisan. However, most voters know the party that most the candidates belong to and some are actually naming their party in the petitions.

Already naming their treasurers in the run for mayor are Eddie Mannis, who noted he is a Republican, named Jennifer Holder as his treasurer.

John Bevil, noting he is a Libertarian, named himself as treasurer.

Another Libertarian, F. Fletcher Burkhardt, entered the race recently and named Panaqiotis Tzerefos as his treasurer.

Not indicating a political

party are Indya Kincannon, who named Kelly Johnson as treasurer; Michael Chase, who named Gary Underwood as treasurer; and Marshall Stair, who named John Lynch Sanders as his treasurer.

Stair is term limited as councilman at-large, Seat B. Janet Testerman is seeking that position and has named Eric Butts as her treasurer.

Lynn Fugate has named Karen Williams for the expiring Seat A at-large, hoping to replace term-limited Councilman George Wallace.

David Williams has named Harry Boss as his treasurer but hadn't indicated which at-large seat he is seeking although it's probably the Seat C, currently held by Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders.

Mark Campen, the current District 5 council member, is also term limited but no one has filed a treasurer report for that seat.

The city will also elect a municipal judge.

The official "pick up date" for nominating petitions is Monday, March 18 and candidates have until May 16 to qualify. Early voting starts in August with the primary election set for August 27. The top two candidates then face each other in the November 5 election.

That may seem almost a year away but obviously the candidates have been preparing, some of them more than a year ahead.

The fields for mayor and council will probably get a lot more crowded and several new names have been mentioned that may file and run.

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CORRECTION:
Last week's story "School board honors Reward Schools" by Anne Primm should have included Sequoyah Elementary School, represented by Principal Alisha Hinton, as being one of the winning Reward Schools. The Knoxville Focus apologizes for our oversight.

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Knox Heritage new owner of Airplane Filling Station

The Airplane Filling Station Preservation Association (AFSPA) has gifted the iconic airplane-shaped building on Clinton Highway to Knox Heritage, the nonprofit historic preservation organization for Knox County and East Tennessee. "We are honored to have been selected by the AFSPA to assume ownership of this amazing restoration project", said Todd Morgan, Executive Director of Knox Heritage.

The AFSPA, an all-volunteer organization, established itself as a nonprofit and spent several years restoring the structure to its former glory. With that goal successfully accomplished, the Association wanted to ensure that all their hard work would be protected

into the future before transferring ownership to a new entity. Knox Heritage had an established relationship with AFSPA and had previously been consulted about preparing a preservation easement for long-term protection. Knox Heritage has almost two decades of experience restoring historic properties and holds preservation easements on several historically significant properties in East Tennessee. The organization offered the AFSPA the assurance it needed that the property would be well cared for under their management.

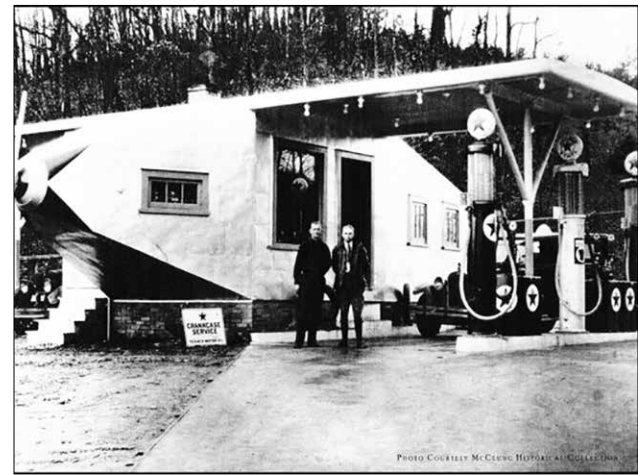
Originally constructed in 1931 as a gas station by the Nickle brothers, the design was intended to persuade passing automobile

traffic to stop there instead of traditional stations. The marketing-savvy brothers based the design on Charles Lindberg's Spirit of St. Louis. The gasoline had stopped pumping by around 1970 and after that, the structure was used for other businesses, such as a liquor store, a produce stand, a bait-and-tackle shop, and eventually a used car lot. However, by 2002, the structure was covered in kudzu and years of neglect had rusted away much of the metal cladding. A leaky roof had caused the wood interior to rot. Powell native Tom Milligan, a founding member of AFSPA, convinced the owners to sell the property to him.

The AFSPA was created

in 2003 as a 501c (3) nonprofit organization specifically to restore the old plane to its former glory. The preservation effort involved Dr. Tim Ezzell from the University of Tennessee who assigned some of his graduate students to nominate the building for the National Register of Historic Places. AFSPA replaced the exterior cladding, made major structural repairs, renovated the interior, recreated the propeller, and updated the mechanical systems.

Today the former filling station is home to John's Barber Shop and is filled with before and after photos of the restoration. This authentic piece of roadside Americana has been featured on the



Elmer and Henry Nickle pose in front of their one-of-a-kind creation.

Heartland Series, The Tennessee Traveler, and a Mercedes-Benz commercial, and many national publications.

Knox Heritage preserves, restores, and transforms historic places. Established

in 1974 as a non-profit historic preservation organization, Knox Heritage is chartered by the state of Tennessee and governed by a board of directors. For more information, please visit www.knoxheritage.org.

Pension suit faces chancellor hearing Wednesday

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vacation pay-outs to retirees although the public vote on a referendum in 2007 did not specifically add those days. The county mayor and the commission voted to settle the suit and removed the law department from continuing the case.

Pension Director Kim Bennett said she would begin notifying department heads of the change in the vacation day allowance. Future changes to the plan will require two readings at the Pension Board and a vote by the Knox County Commission.

The board's actuary, Bob Cross, said that the 43 days allowed will "have

little adverse impact" on the plan.

Attorney John Owings said that all the charges in the lawsuit have been dismissed except for the requested \$190,000 for three attorneys that represented the deputies in the class action suit. Chancellor John Weaver will preside over a hearing on the payment from this lawsuit on Wednesday.

In related action the Knox County Commission voted last week to hire an outside attorney to represent the county in Wednesday's payment hearing.

Armstrong had told the commission they would have two options on legal counsel at the hearing: the county law department

or an outside agency. Although Armstrong said he can legally represent them the commissioners moved on to hiring an outside group but directed the new attorneys to consult with Armstrong prior to the hearing. The idea is to have a negotiated settlement or at least someone to represent the commission in the hearing.

The commission voted to hire Arnett, Draper and Hagood, who will consult with Armstrong prior to the hearing. The vote passed with Commissioner Charles Busler declining to vote, as he has on related matters in prior meetings.

Some disagreement as to who will actually pay a settlement is emerging as

Commissioner Justin Biggs spoke up during the commission discussion.

"Knox County didn't bring this suit. Who brought the suit should pay," Biggs said, indicating the law department.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker noted that the original request for payments to the retired deputies was capped at \$50,000 adding, "Now it's four times that amount."

The main question in the lawsuit has yet to be answered: Did the pension board violate the charter by including vacation days in the monthly compensation to the uniformed sheriff department employees? That may not be answered unless someone outside

the county government brings suit.

The Wednesday court ruling may be the final word on the payment of the lawyers but doesn't resolve the original suit, but Rob Frost, one of the attorneys hired by the commission who also serves as Knoxville City Council attorney, told The Focus Tuesday evening that

he doesn't expect a ruling from Weaver Wednesday. He said the court hearing is more to consider and negotiate how much will actually be paid. He said that Moncier and the other two attorneys had not submitted their paperwork to the judge that day.

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Getting to know Inskip Good Neighbor **BETTY JO MAHAN**

Over the past several weeks The Knoxville Focus has been having chats with community leaders, elected officials, neighborhood organization leaders, and really interesting people. Betty Jo Mahan recently retired as the administrative assistant to the Metropolitan Planning Commission director and has had more than 20 years in service to the local government. She lost her husband, Steve, this year and is raising her grandson, Braiden.

Betty Jo's efforts on behalf of her neighborhood association, such as getting the Inskip area rezoned to stop the influx of apartments and including Spanish in neighborhood information, was recognized in 2014 when the City of Knoxville named her "Good Neighbor of the Year."

You've been retired for a couple of months, how's that working for you?

It's been good. I've used the last couple of months catching up. I've been working in the yard, figuring out how to operate some of the vehicles and the lawn equipment. I have the same amount of hours each day and it depends on what you do with it. Now I'm able to spend more quality time with Braiden in the evening. I've gone on a senior trip with the church, which has been my real support.

What's your hope for the city and county to cooperate more together on functions?

Seems to me it would simplify things. I was thinking about that this morning. The school (Inskip



Knoxville Focus Reporter Mike Steely chats with Betty Jo Mahan, who recently retired from the Metropolitan Planning Commission staff.

Elementary) was trying to work with the city about putting a sidewalk over there along Coster, but because it was only going to be a partial sidewalk the city isn't going to do it. I don't think it is the people holding up the process but the politicians. People in the county move there because they don't want to pay for city services and then they complain they have to take their own garbage off.

It would be a big compromise and that seems that's what people in politics are not willing to do. Can't you all work together, you're out there doing

it anyway.

What are your main interests outside the Inskip Neighborhood Association and your former work?

Well, I garden and clean house and I work with the community, school and my church. I like to help people do things. I'm not as much a leader as a doer. We've been doing the Thanksgiving food buckets for about five years now at Inskip School. Jonathan Allen, the social worker, decides which families get those.

Continue on page 2

Dr. Rocio Huet to lead Books Sandwiched In discussion

Knox County Public Library invites the public to join Dr. Rocio Huet for a discussion of "Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer" by Barbara Ehrenreich, at noon on Wednesday, November 28, in the East Tennessee History Center auditorium, 601 South Gay Street.

In "Natural Causes," Barbara Ehrenreich, the celebrated author of "Nickel and Dimed," explores how we are killing ourselves to live longer, not better. Drawing on varied sources, from personal experience and sociological trends to pop culture and current scientific literature, "Natural Causes" examines the ways in which we obsess over death, our bodies, and our health. Both funny and caustic, Ehrenreich tackles the seemingly unsolvable problem of how we might better prepare ourselves for the end—while still reveling in the lives that remain to us.

Huet is a Knoxville

internist affiliated with University of Tennessee Medical Center. She received her medical degree from University of Michigan Medical School and has been in practice for more than 20 years. As a practicing physician in the healthcare community, Huet is a member of the American College of Physicians, Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine, Academy of Medical Acupuncture, and Physicians for Social Responsibility. She is a graduate of the Leadership Plenty class of 2007 and serves on the boards of The Beloved Community Outreach Foundation and the Public Building Authority.

Bring your favorite sandwich or pick up something from a downtown restaurant. Drinks will be available for fifty cents. Books Sandwiched In is generously sponsored by the Friends of Knox County Public Library.

Books Sandwiched In will take December off and resume in January 2019.

Continue on page 2

KCDC presents service awards to longtime employees

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) recognized employees achieving milestone anniversaries with the agency at its annual Thanksgiving gathering Nov. 15.

The employees received pins commemorating their years of service. Those recognized included:

- Five years: Debby Clowers and Shana Love.
- 10 years: Rosetta Brown, Tammy Kitts, Lisa Taylor and Tiara Webb.
- 15 years: Myron McMullen, Candy Miles, Bob Rhinehart, Tommy Schultz and Venus Styles.
- 20 years: David Cook, Kara Davis, Michael Hodges, Teresa Lawson, Eugene Littlejohn, Denise Roper and Kristie Toby.
- 25 years: Bryan Coffey, Jeff Ferrell

and Adronicus Thomas.

- 30 years: Gordon Monroe and Rex Wolfenbarger.
- 35 years: Kim Clark.

"We are fortunate for the institutional knowledge and commitment to our mission that these individuals bring in service to our residents each day," KCDC Executive Director and CEO Ben Bentley said. "I appreciate that these and all of our team members have chosen to invest their careers making lives better for people in our community."

Since 1936, KCDC has been dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Knoxville and Knox County. For more information, call 865-403-1100 or visit www.kcdc.org.

Friends of the Library's membership campaign underway

Library Lovers Invited To Come Together for Common Cause

"If the Knox County Public Library (KCPL) is the 'giving tree' for our community, the Friends of the Knox County Public Library are the gardeners who nurture KCPL," says Friends President Rusha Sams.

Responding to the Friends' invitation to join an organization that supports the library will grow a unique and valuable resource in Knox County.

For over 40 years, the Friends have worked to foster a love of libraries, books, and reading in the Knox County area through:

- Community outreach through book sales, book distribution to underserved populations, and author events.
- Advocacy that informs and educates the community about the library's services and programs and about how it is funded.
- Support of the Knox County Public Library and its staff through grants

and mini-grants for programs such as Imagination Library, the Children's Festival of Reading, Summer Library Club, and book discussion groups for diverse audiences.

Says KCPL Director Myretta Black, "We value the support of the Friends of the Library and the impact that this support has on the success of the library and the programs that we offer."

To learn more about Friends or to join online, visit the organization's website at knoxfriends.org.

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Trees Knoxville giving away trees

Trees Knoxville's 2018 Tree Give-Away is Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m. to noon or until the trees are gone. The Knoxville Botanical Garden is hosting this give away (2649 Boyd's Bridge Pike.) Use the Boyd's Bridge Pike entrance to the Knoxville Botanical Garden. The giveaway is open to residents and businesses of Knoxville and Knox County, who may obtain up to two free trees (different species)

to plant on their private property. A variety of native trees species are available: black gum, redbud, red maple, bald cypress, swamp white oak, and tulip poplar. The trees will be comparable in size to those sold at retail stores. Those who get trees will also receive instruction on how to plant and care for their trees. While Knoxville and Knox County have a greater tree

canopy than many other urban areas, parts of the city and county need more trees, especially within the inner-city neighborhoods of the city and in newly developed areas. Trees Knoxville aims to increase the tree canopy of Knoxville and Knox County by encouraging property owners to plant and care for trees. Trees have great value to cities and property owners. Besides their many water and air quality

benefits, trees also increase the value of homes: comparable homes with trees sell for nearly 20% higher than a home without trees. "Fall is the best time to plant trees in our region," said Tom Welborn, chair of Trees Knoxville. These trees planted in the fall will have more time to develop their root systems, and with proper planting and care, they will have a higher survival

rate than those planted in the spring." The opportunity for Trees Knoxville to give away trees is made possible through the support of Pattison Sign Group. Trees Knoxville also thanks the Knoxville Botanical Garden for sharing its grounds for this event. For more information, contact Trees Knoxville at treesknoxville@gmail.com.

Home for Thanksgiving

We named them Caesar and Cleo. The playful pups would often take a running



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



Picture of Cleo, by **Ralphine Major**

leap and jump into the pond. While they had the markings of a black Doberman pinscher, they were not registered. Caesar was given to a friend who lost his Doberman. Cleo stayed with us. It mattered not that she could not have pups or that she was not full Doberman. She was our beloved pet.

It was on a Sunday night while we were at church that someone opened the barn door to the stall Cleo shared with Bonnie, our older beagle, and stole her. We posted fliers, ran ads, and made phone calls. Social media did not exist then. We followed up lead after lead, but none of them proved to be our dog. On a Saturday evening in the fall, a friend handed us his matchbook. Written on it was a phone number that he had heard on the radio. We called the number and got directions to go see this dog. The setting was a farm

much like ours, but it was in northwest Knox County. The couple's little girl had been feeding her daily. When we arrived, we could see her standing up by the fence and knew immediately it was Cleo! Forty-one days had passed since she was stolen, but we knew our dog. And she knew us. Those 41 days suddenly evaporated into the fall air as Cleo hunched down--like she so often did--and started running toward my brother. He took off his belt and used it as a makeshift leash. We gave the couple a reward, put Cleo in the back seat of the car, and headed for home. As we turned up our driveway, Cleo raised her head. She knew she was finally home. The vet came to see her the following day. He

looked at her paws and determined she had traveled a long way. The tissue on her nose was much thinner where she had been digging. While we were searching desperately for her, she was trying to find her way back to us. We were extra thankful that year that our prayers had been answered, and Cleo was found. Our mother had been our most diligent prayer warrior. Cleo was seven years old when she was stolen, and she lived out her life for seven more years on our farm. She died in our father's arms. He held her gently and said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." Today, we still call it a miracle that Cleo was found. And, I still have the matchbook.

Rare historic cookbook from southern Appalachia republished by Mabry-Hazen House, Storyhaus Media

Mabry-Hazen House and Storyhaus Media are reprinting a rare piece of regional culinary history, "The Tennessee and Virginia Cookbook." Originally published in 1911 by the women of First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tennessee and Central Presbyterian Church of Bristol, Virginia, "The Tennessee and Virginia Cookbook" is filled with over a thousand recipes and documents detailing the cooking styles, culinary techniques, and favorite dishes of more than two hundred women from southern Appalachia. With recipes dating back to the mid-nineteenth century and earlier, the cookbook recalls the dishes of their mothers and grandmothers as new technologies, beliefs, and tastes transformed the American diet in the twentieth century.

Extant copies of "The Tennessee and Virginia Cookbook" are a scarce resource with only handful known throughout the United States. The Hazen family were members of First Presbyterian Church and Alice Mabry Hazen contributed nearly a dozen recipes to the cookbook. They purchased it during its original publication in 1911. For the next century, Mrs. Hazen's copy remained within the family until their 1858 home and all their possessions were converted into the Mabry-Hazen House museum in 1992. This heritage cookbook was rediscovered during conservation efforts at Mabry-Hazen House following a fire in the museum's collection room two years ago. "With Knoxville's burgeoning culinary reputation, it was incredible to find another link the city's food history," said Patrick Hollis, executive director

and curator of Mabry-Hazen House. "We are thrilled to bring back this mostly forgotten piece of Knoxville and southern Appalachian history," Hollis said. Published by Storyhaus Media, this limited-edition reprint commemorates the 160th anniversary of Mabry-Hazen House and the women who shared their good tastes. Pre-orders are available for hardback with dust cover versions for \$49 at www.mabryhazen.com/cookbooks. Proceeds from the sale of this book support the mission of the Hazen Historical Museum Foundation as well as the original author church congregations.

The Mabry-Hazen House Museum, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located atop Mabry's Hill in Knoxville, Tennessee. Built in 1858, three generations of the same family resided in the Italianate-style home overlooking downtown Knoxville, Tennessee River, and Great Smoky Mountains. The museum showcases one of the largest original family collection in America with over 2,000 original artifacts on display. Furnished and decorated in the style of several decades, Mabry-Hazen gives a rare view into 130 years of Knoxville history. Learn about the origins of Knoxville's iconic Market Square, the bitter divisions of the Civil War, the infamous 1882 Gunfight on Gay Street, a mountain city in the New South, the scandalous 1934 breach of promise and seduction trial, and much more through the rich, colorful lives of the Mabry and Hazen families.

BETTY JO MAHAN

Cont. from page 1

We put together 106 this year. The parents come by and pick them up when they are dropping off kids or picking them up.

How is the Inskip Neighborhood Association doing?

We've had a few new people come in. But we lost so many (members) when people moved out of town.

What's the main accomplishment you see in your life so far?

I think it would be my work. I've worked for either the federal or local government in service for forty-five years. I'm proud of my service to the public, helping them to find ways to work with the system. The system changes but if you stay there long enough you change with it.

When people meet you for the first time how do you think they see you?

I think people see me as a grandmother at this point in time. It's harder

and harder to look back, I work more on looking forward. I'm used to going in, looking at my calendar and deciding on what I need to do. I keep a bulletin board for Braiden's school so I can keep up with that.

If you had one thing to do over in your life what would that be?

I think I would make more friends than I have now. I'm working on that now, that's why I'm so involved. I keep to myself too much.

When you were at MPC what did you like the most about being there?

I really enjoyed the people there, there was such a diversity of people there. And programs like the bicycle program, the transportation program, the smart trips, and the historic aspects.

What's your favorite meal or place to eat?

Definitely Mexican. I like Monterey's and El Chico's, especially El Chico's fresh guacamole.

Dr. Rocio Huet to lead Books Sandwiched In

Cont. from page 1

Upcoming Books-Sandwiched-In Schedule:

January 23: Zach McKenny, UTK Department of Sociology, discussing "Janesville: An American Story" by Amy Goldstein
February 27: Clarence Vaughn, Executive Director, Police Advisory and Review Committee, discussing "The Black and the Blue: A Cop Reveals the Crimes, Racism, and

Injustice in America's Law Enforcement" by Matthew Horace

March 27: Kelsey Ellis, UT Department of Geography, discussing "Cure for Catastrophe: How We Can Stop Manufacturing Natural Disasters" by Robert Muir-Wood

April 24: Maria Campa, UT Bredesen Center, discussing "Saudi America: The Truth about Fracking and How It's Changing the World" by Bethany McLean

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Part Nine

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

James Beriah Frazier had been elected governor of Tennessee in 1902. A tall, stately man with an elegant appearance, James B. Frazier certainly looked the part of a governor. Despite his aristocratic appearance, James B. Frazier had worked his way through law school. The future governor taught school for two years and read the law in his spare time. Frazier was admitted to the Bar in 1880 and began the practice of law in Chattanooga. Both of Frazier's grandfathers had fought in the Revolutionary War. One of his grandfathers, Abner Frazier was "so young at the time that he received both praise for his courage and a whipping for running away from home to join the army."

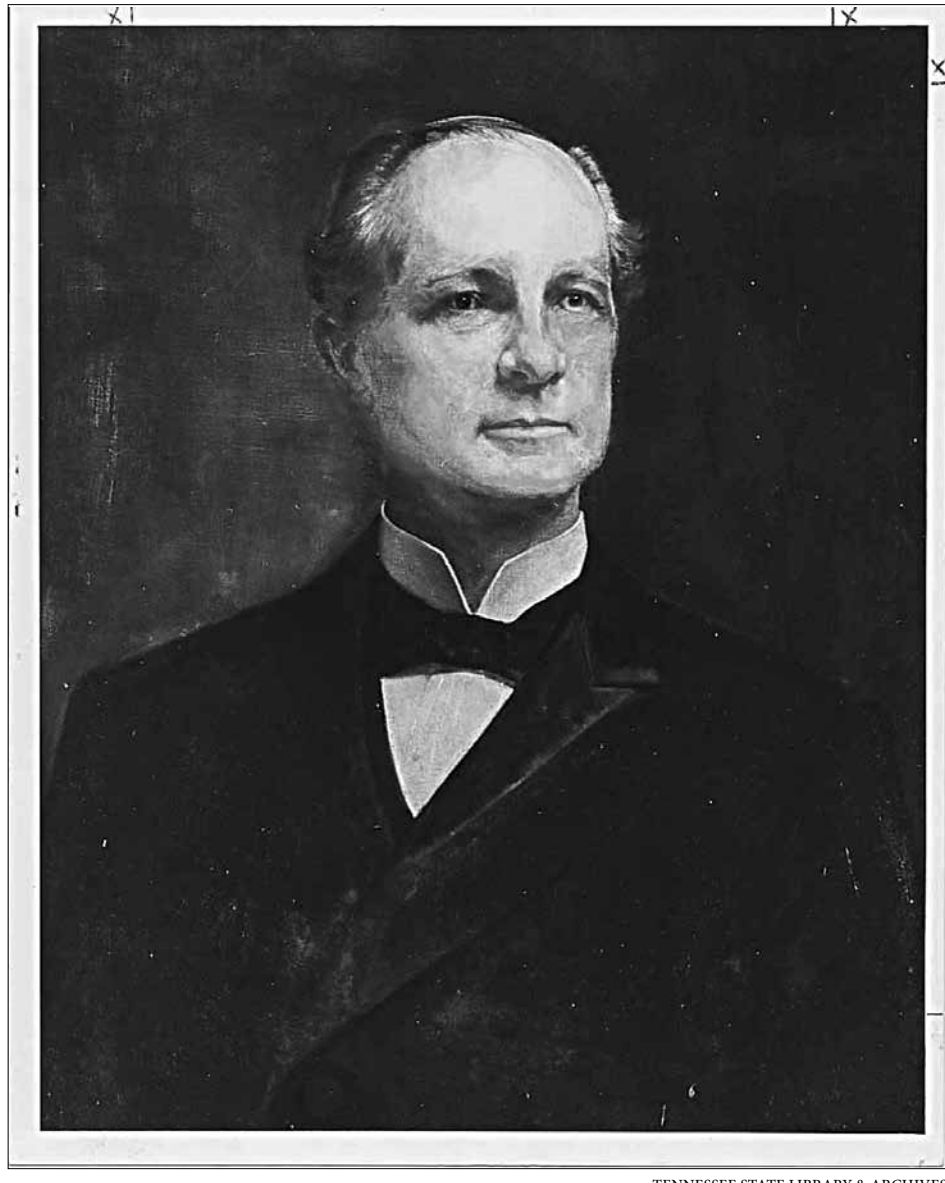
Politics had not always been James B. Frazier's natural calling; indeed, his first statewide campaign was when he ran as a presidential elector for William Jennings Bryan in 1900. Frazier, as was true with many lawyers of the time, proved to be quite an orator. Along with his ability to sway juries, his appearance certainly didn't hurt. Two years later, Frazier emerged from the Democratic state convention as the Democratic Party's nominee for governor. James B. Frazier proved to be a popular choice and for once, Tennessee Democrats seemed perfectly united as the general election approached. As Frazier campaigned across the state, reporters filing their dispatches noted the "magnetism" of the candidate. John Leiper, a correspondent for the Nashville Tennessean covering the Frazier campaign, noted an appearance by the candidate in Obion County. Leiper wrote Frazier "completely won his audience" in the course of his speech. Interestingly, Leiper also commented, "Wheat sowing prevented many farmers from being present at the speaking."

A similar report filed by Leiper from a campaign stop in Dresden, Tennessee where both Frazier and his Republican opponent, Judge Henry Tyler Campbell, faced off before a large audience. Campbell was thought to be a powerful orator, but the Tennessean correspondent gleefully noted Frazier won cheers from the audience as he "hurled the most withering replies to many vulnerable points in Judge Campbell's argument." Following the mini-debate, Frazier was thronged by much of the audience, who congratulated him.

John Leiper did not fail to observe the frosty reception Frazier received from partisan Republicans, but was quick to point out the GOP members of the audience "showed the appearance of a badly beaten crowd long before Mr. Frazier had concluded" his speech. Although the Tennessean was an unapologetic Democratic paper, John Leiper may well not have exaggerated James B. Frazier's appeal to the people of Tennessee. Frazier won the governorship by the largest margin ever accorded a candidate until that time.

Governor Frazier sought a second two-year term in 1904 and once again was nominated unanimously by the Democratic State Convention. Tennessee Democrats also adopted a party platform, which included denouncing the "appalling increase in the expenditures of the Federal government under the Republican party" which "demonstrates the necessity of a return of the Democratic party to power as the only means of bringing a wise economy in administering the affairs of the government." The Tennessee Democratic State Convention also condemned President Theodore Roosevelt who "by his official action, has wantonly precipitated the race issue in a manner involving as a logical and necessary sequence social equality between the white and colored people of this country, and deserves, in consequence thereof, the condemnation of all right-thinking-people."

The governor had not lost his touch with Tennesseans, as he made a stop in Clarksville, Tennessee as the general election came to a close. Arriving from Nashville on a train, Governor Frazier went to the Arlington Hotel where he remained until going to the courthouse. Frazier spoke to an overflow crowd in the Circuit Courtroom. A reporter wrote, "His speech was one of the best delivered here in years." In Springfield, Tennessee hundreds of people turned out in mid-day to greet the governor at the Commercial Hotel and the entire town was bedecked with bunting and flags. Frazier did not disappoint his audience. Speaking at the Tabernacle to a crowd of one thousand people, Governor Frazier "spoke in a most forceful, earnest and convincing manner, delivering one of the most masterful efforts ever heard here." A Tennessean reporter wrote the governor was frequently interrupted by applause "throughout and in parts of his speech his audience alternated with



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Governor and U. S. Senator James B. Frazier of Tennessee.

laughter and tears." When presented with a bouquet of beautiful flowers, the governor told a tale on himself. Frazier said while campaigning in a small East Tennessee town, he had been gifted with another bouquet and although quite beautiful, the flowers paled in comparison with the lovely young creature who presented them to him. Overcome, the governor confessed he had bestowed an "old fashioned Democratic kiss" on the young lady. Evidently, Mrs. Frazier was none too pleased and he said he was taking the bouquet given to him on this occasion home as a peace offering. Once again, James B. Frazier won a thumping victory in the general election, defeating Jesse M. Littleton. Frazier won the greatest majority ever given a Democratic candidate for governor in a presidential election year.

Governor Frazier was just a couple of months into his second term when U. S. Senator William B. Bate died unexpectedly in Washington, D. C. A former governor and Confederate general, Bate had caught a chill at the inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt, which developed into pneumonia. The seventy-eight year old senator had just been reelected to a fourth six-year term. The legislature would elect a new senator to serve what was essentially a full term. Two former Tennessee governors, Robert Love Taylor and Benton McMillin, had long harbored ambitions to serve in the United States Senate. Both immediately began to marshal campaigns, but Governor Frazier was interested in going to the Senate. Speaker of the State Senate, John I. Cox, would succeed Frazier as governor in the event the chief executive was elevated to the U. S. Senate. Although both Taylor and McMillin were enormously popular with their fellow Democrats,

it was readily apparent Governor J. B. Frazier was the likely choice of the legislators. Indeed, Frazier appeared so strong that some friends and long-time supporters of McMillin and Taylor advised them to withdraw from the Senate contest. The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle ran a story stating "personal and political friends of former Gov. McMillin openly stated on Thursday night that they would advise him to keep out of the race."

The Democratic Caucus in the General Assembly quickly settled on James B. Frazier as its nominee. When Representative Gordon placed Governor Frazier's name in nomination, he bellowed, "I will place in nomination before this caucus that tall Tecumseh of the Tennessee, the Democratic rock of Chickamauga, that splendid orator, Governor and statesman, James B. Frazier..." One supporter of Robert L. Taylor, Senator McLaurine, claimed Representative Gordon had "laid the dagger to the heart" of the former governor. McLaurine withdrew Taylor's name from consideration by the Democratic Caucus. "If you propose to close your eyes to the voice of the people and if you propose to be a hostile court and judge him now he will make no defense," McLaurine cried, "but we will sit quietly by and see this conspiracy through." Senator McLaurine then thundered a warning to his colleagues: "But I tell you there is another day coming. I tell you there are men in this Assembly who had joined in this conspiracy who, when they go home and face their people, will feel like going to the place where the worm dieth not."

James B. Frazier was easily elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator William B. Bate. Frazier was the last governor of Tennessee to be elected to the United States

Senate by the General Assembly. Speaking before the legislature, Frazier was careful to say, "If I did not believe that my mantle would fall upon worthy shoulders and that I would be succeeded in the office of Governor by a man who will do his whole duty, I would refuse this nomination. In proper time my mantle will fall upon a man who is worthy of it, therefore I accept the honor at your hands."

In five short years, James B. Frazier had gone from practicing attorney to governor and United States senator. Still, despite Frazier's high personal popularity, his election to the Senate had generated some bitterness, especially with the legislature having ignored two of the most prominent Democrats in the state. The Jackson Sun wistfully commented its only objection was "that a good Governor was spoiled in making a Senator."

The way James B. Frazier was elected to the United States Senate, elbowing both former governors Robert L. Taylor and Benton McMillin out of the way, was noted in Tennessee's newspapers. The Bristol Courier snapped, "The Tennessee Legislature resolves that United States Senators should be elected by the people, also that they are the people." The Cookeville Press crowed Tennessee would be well represented in the U. S. Senate by having two "young giants" such as Edward W. Carmack and James B. Frazier in the upper house of Congress. The Tullahoma Guardian huffed, "The indecent haste of the Democrats of the 'machine' in the Legislature, in nominating a successor to the lamented Bate, is a matter which is calculated to bring the blush to the cheeks of every man and woman in Tennessee." The Giles County Record agreed. "When these men (who voted for an early caucus) face an angered and an outraged constituency

for re-election two years hence, they will find that the people can make and unmake 'statesmen', and there will be many empty cradles and many missing darlings when the roll call of the next Legislature comes." The Newport Times thought Frazier's election to the Senate was a wonderful thing. "Too much praise cannot be given James B. Frazier. Like the heights of Pisgah, he towers above them all. In the Senate of the United States, we predict he will leave his impress and stand with the highest. His rapid rise in politics is without an equal."

The seed of discord had been sown by the method of James B. Frazier's election and it would continue to fester for the remainder of his term of office. Many believed Senator E. W. Carmack had preferred Frazier as a colleague over either Robert L. Taylor or Benton McMillin. The legislators were sorely stung and the General Assembly agreed to be bound by the results of a special primary election in 1908. Senator Carmack had to defend his seat against former governor Robert L. Taylor and lost. When James B. Frazier's term expired in 1911, he was quickly eliminated as a possibility for reelection, largely because of the "snap" caucus six years previously. Regular Democrats that year were unable to elect Benton McMillin to the U. S. Senate. McMillin faced the opposition of a combination of Republicans and Independent Democrats who elected thirty-year old Luke Lea to replace James B. Frazier in the Senate.

Frazier returned to his law practice and flirted with the idea of running for governor once again from time to time, but remained content to take his place as an elder statesman. James B. Frazier remained a highly sought-after and popular dinner speaker in Tennessee almost to the day of his death. Eventually, Frazier formed a law partnership with his son and namesake, James B. Frazier, Jr. The former governor lived to see his son become U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee under President Franklin Roosevelt. In 1937, James B. Frazier, eighty years old, was beginning to ail. He was sitting in the study of his home when he was felled by a heart attack.

To the very end, James B. Frazier remained a gracious and charming man, a gifted speaker and a true gentleman.

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Subbing surprises

Variety is the spice of life. I've discovered the truth of that statement again during the days of substituting. Some days I know in what subject I'll be substituting, but many days are filled with surprises.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

On many days, I enter the school knowing what the day will be like. Maybe it's because I've done a good job or because teachers are familiar with me, but for whatever reason, I walk into rooms and students automatically groan or shake their heads. They know that I am friendly but demand that they do the work left

from them, even if we all know the assignments are nothing more than busy work. Sometimes I allow students to listen to music on their phones; however, some teachers instruct me to have students keep their phones in book bags or pockets.

Young people have much smaller bladders than folks in my generation. Otherwise, why would so many ask to go to the restroom sometime during class? I learned the first day of subbing that refusal to let a child go was frowned upon by school

offices. What I do insist is that each person who leaves lays his or her phone on my desk before exiting. That causes some arguments as students want to know why I insist they leave them. I answer that if I have their phones, I know they are coming back. Enough said.

On other days, I arrive at a school without having any idea what subject I'll cover. Upon picking up the sub folder, I sometimes laugh and sometimes groan with the news of what my job for the day is. Underclass courses are sometimes painful to endure. I'm not much into immature behavior, and those classes often have students who try to be funny or to challenge a sub.

I'm not usually amused with their humor, and I don't plan on allowing any student to take over a class.

It's ironic that some of my jobs are in math classes. People who know me realize I am a weak student in that discipline. On one occasion, a class was taking a test, and one student came up and asked me to help him. I declined, he asked again, and I declined. On the third request, I told him that I couldn't help him even if I wanted to because I had no clue what he was doing.

I've also subbed in biology and chemistry classes, two other areas in which I am deficient. The students worked on their assignments, but at some point,

they all mentally wandered away from them. Who can blame them? I remember how confusing biology was in high school and college. I didn't bother with enrolling in a chemistry course; I figured that learning symbols and working labs would end in a failing grade.

Just the other day, I sat in for a teacher's human studies classes. Old folks, that's what we once knew as home economics. The new name goes along with the educational jargon that systems now use. The students worked in groups. Some of them completed information on nutrition, food borne illnesses, and parenting. The other groups were in the kitchens. They whipped up batches of

zucchini bread during the period. I spent my time supervising as they cooked and offered suggestions, such as to be careful using a grater so that they didn't bleed into the recipe. Some of my time was spent folding wash clothes and towels and washing and drying pans and utensils. I fit right in.

Not every day is a winner in the subbing business. However, some are fun or bearable enough to make the job worth doing. I like walking into something different each day, as long as the students aren't behavior problems. Even after all the years away from the classroom, I still enjoy the company of teachers and the vitality of students.

'Holidays on Ice' open for the season

Outdoor ice skating has returned to downtown Knoxville as Holidays on Ice, presented by Home Federal Bank, opened for the season last Friday, Nov. 23.

Downtown's centerpiece of holiday merriment received a slight makeover this year, reports the City's Director of Special Events Judith Foltz. The Central Business Improvement District (CBID) commissioned artist Lauren Lazarus to paint a new ornament-themed mural on the ice rink's chiller wall. Located on the north end of the rink near the Market Square pavilion, the mural is the ideal spot for selfies and group photos during Christmas in the City events.

"In previous years we've featured our mascot Peppermint Panda in the mural, but we thought it was time to freshen things up," Foltz said. "We're excited to see Lauren's work on the square and as the backdrop for visitors' holiday pictures."

In addition to the new mural, the artificial Christmas trees that have adorned the north end of the ice rink will be replaced by wooden trees and a snow globe painted by staff members at the Knoxville Fine Arts and Crafts Center. Materials for the trees were donated by The Home Depot.

Holidays on Ice special guests and theme nights are:

Mondays: Skate with hockey players from the Knoxville Ice Bears and their mascot Chilly Bear. Skaters receive \$2 off admission with an Ice Bears ticket stub.
Tuesdays: Peppermint Panda

Skaters who wear red & white/peppermint attire get \$1 off admission

Wednesdays: Christmas Sweater Night

Skaters wearing Christmas sweaters and sweatshirts receive \$1 off admission, and the most festive skater will win a prize!

Thursdays: College Night
Skaters get \$2 off admission with a college ID

Fridays and Saturdays: Get down and boogie on the ice with disco lights and retro tunes spun by Knox Vegas DJ.

Sundays: Family Fun Day

Regular hours Nov. 23 - Dec. 16*

Monday through Thursday: 4 to 9 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday: 1 to 9 p.m.

*On Saturday, Dec. 15, the Cool Sports Mites and Mini Mites youth ice hockey leagues will hold their Winter Classic Tournament on the ice rink, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The rink will reopen for public skating 1:30-10 p.m.

Extended hours Dec. 17 - 30, and Jan. 2 - 6, 2019

Monday through Thursday, plus Sunday: 1 to 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Special holiday hours

Christmas Eve: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Christmas Day: Closed
December 26: 1 to 9 p.m.

New Year's Eve: 1 to 10 p.m.
New Year's Day: 1 to 9 p.m.

The rink will be open through Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, closed only on

Christmas Day and during inclement weather as it occurs. Admission (which includes skate rental and unlimited skating time) is \$11 adults, \$8 children 12 and under. Season passes are \$50 adults, \$35 children 12 and under. All tickets and passes are sold at the rink entrance; season passes are available online at KnoxvilleTN.gov/cybersale.

Visit KnoxvilleTN.gov/icerink or Facebook.com/KnoxvilleHolidaysonIce for closure announcements and additional information, as well as a downloadable skater liability form.

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Keep Knoxville Beautiful to host Cleanup with Hexagon Brewing Company

Keep Knoxville Beautiful will be hosting its December Community of the Year Cleanup on December 8 from 3-5 p.m. The event will kick off at Hexagon Brewing Company, 1002 Dutch Valley Dr.

After the cleanup, volunteers are invited back to Hexagon Brewing Company for hot food, live music, and a pint night! Hexagon Brewing will be donating \$1 of every beer sold from 5-7 p.m. back to Keep Knoxville Beautiful. Participants can sign up at

<http://www.keepknoxville-beautiful.org/upcoming/>.

North Knoxville is Keep Knoxville Beautiful's Community of the Year through June 2019. Keep Knoxville Beautiful will be focusing a majority of their litter prevention, waste reduction, and beautification efforts in North Knoxville during his time. Please come join us in making North Knoxville a cleaner, greener, more beautiful place to live, work, and play.

The Seymour Area Chamber of Commerce presents the

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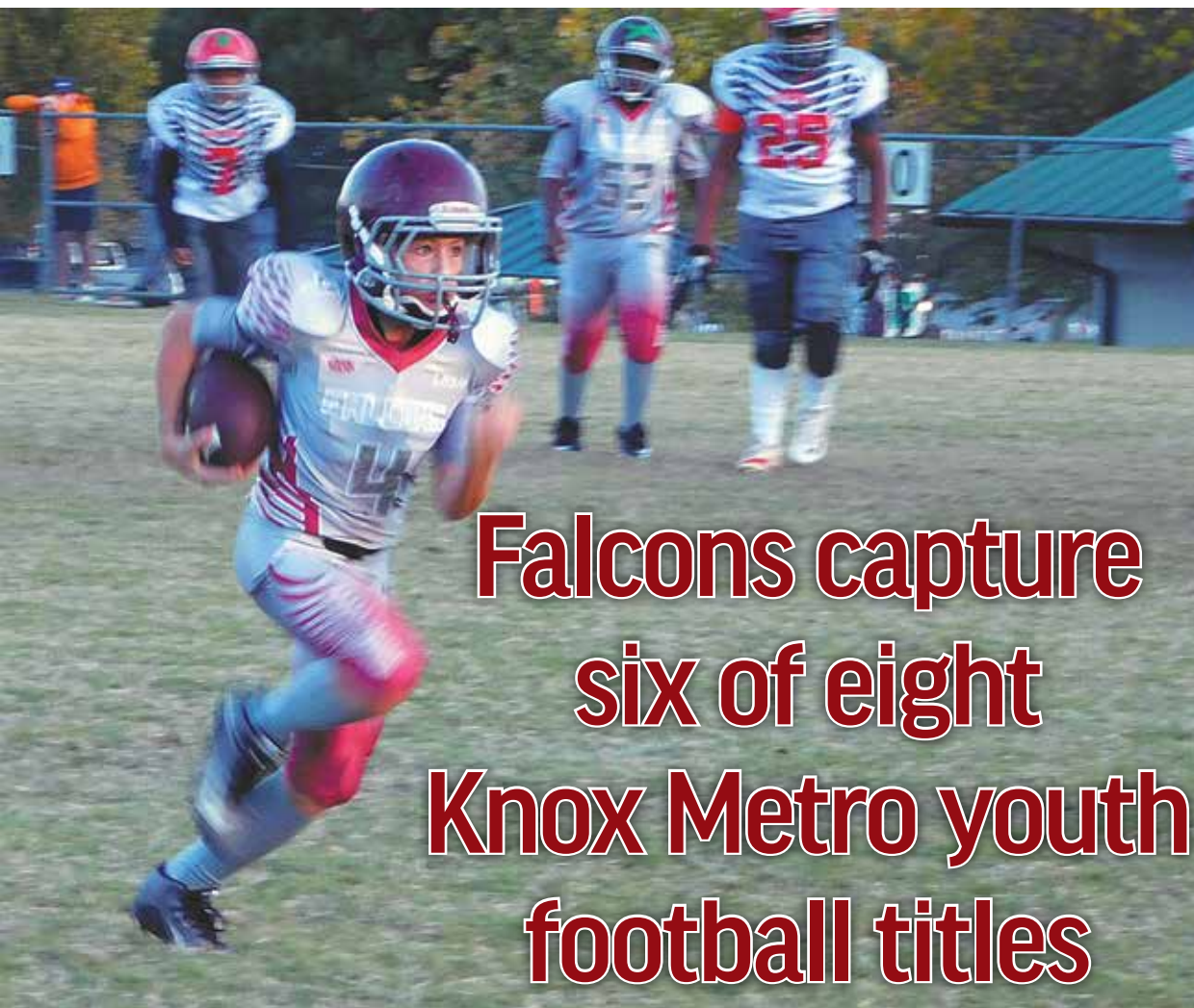
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Colonial Loan Association
Computer Depot
My Dream Boutique
Network Technologies
Sevier County Bank
Seymour VFD
Re/Max

2018 Parade Grand Marshalls
Paul & Marty Hamilton

December 8th
Parade starts at 3:00 p.m.
Route: Valley Grove to Kroger

Parade Entry Fee: \$25 After December 6: \$30
Proceeds are donated to bless local families in need

Questions? Contact Autumn
parade@seymourtn.org 865-661-8557



Falcons capture six of eight Knox Metro youth football titles

PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

A Knoxville Falcon running back has his eyes on paydirt in the 10U title game against EKAA. The exciting game went into overtime.

By Steve Williams

The beat goes on for the Knoxville Falcons' youth football program.

The Falcons have been big winners in the Knox Metro Youth Football League in recent years and had another banner season this fall, capturing championships in six of the eight age groups.

The program, which is based in the Christenberry area of North Knoxville, not far from Fulton High School, took top honors in the 6-year-old and under flag league and the 7U, 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U divisions which all play "tackle" football.

First Baptist Academy's 9U team

and Central's 11U team finished on top in their divisions to prevent a sweep.

"We've got a lot of dedicated and knowledgeable coaches of the sport," said Larry Cox, who has been the Falcons' commissioner for 30-plus years.

Cox said his coaches like to play the toughest competition they can find, even if it means losing sometimes. They go out of state to play in tournaments and also compete against out-of-state teams in the annual Kickoff Class and Battle of Rocky Top, which are held in Knoxville.

"Playing better competition, helps

us meet local competition much better," added Cox. "And I think we get a lot of good skill athletes."

Cox praised the coaching demeanor of two of his head coaches, Ricky Jones and Tony Kyle, who worked with the 8U and 14U squads respectively this season.

"Those two coaches have been around a long time and they have real good discipline on their ball players," said Cox. "They keep the parents at bay where they're coaching the team.

"I've always said they are the type of coaches who can discipline a kid and pat him on the back at the same

Continued on page 3

Central stops Catholic 24-19 to reach Class 5A state finals

By Steve Williams

Paybacks are fun, particularly when one comes with a trip to the Blue Cross Bowl and TSSAA state finals.

Central's football team experienced the feeling Friday night, handing Knoxville Catholic a 24-19 loss in the Class 5A semifinals at Blaine Stadium in Cedar Bluff.

Last year, the Irishmen came to Fountain City and blasted the Bobcats 42-7 en route to the state championship.

"This means a lot, considering that last year we were in the same position and couldn't pull it out against this team," said Central senior defensive back Xavier Washington. "It just feels so good to pay some revenge to them."

The win was Central's 12th in a row after starting the season with two losses. Catholic, which will move into Division II next season, finished 9-4 after winning seven straight.

The Bobcats (12-2) will play the Henry County Patriots (13-1) for the state crown Saturday night at 7 (CST) at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville. Henry County, which advanced to the

Continued on page 4



TSSAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS AT A GLANCE

SEMIFINALS
CLASS 6A
Oakland 38, Maryville 0

CLASS 5A
Central 24, Catholic 19

CLASS 3A
Alcoa 27, Upperman 14

CLASS 1A
Whitwell 24, Greenback 21

FINALS
AT COOKEVILLE SATURDAY
CLASS 5A at 7 (CST)
Central (12-2) vs. Henry County (13-1)

CLASS 3A at 3 (CST)
Alcoa (14-0) vs. Covington (14-0)

Remembering Schiano Sunday

By Alex Norman

It is a day that will go down in the annals of the history of the University of Tennessee.

Not just UT's athletics history, but the entire University.

Sunday, November 26, 2017. The date that Tennessee athletics director John Currie expected to introduce Ohio State defensive coordinator Greg Schiano as the 26th head coach in the history of the Tennessee Volunteers football team.

Instead, it was the day that Tennessee fans said, "enough is enough."

Ever since Phillip Fulmer was fired near the end of the 2008 football season, the Volunteers football program had been mediocre at best. No SEC East titles. Only four wins in 27 games against their biggest rivals (Georgia, Florida, Alabama). And yet the fans still packed Neyland Stadium time and time again, paying high prices for tickets when they could just sit in front of their televisions at home.

Off the field the UT athletics department was a place of upheaval, controversy and sadness. From the firing of Bruce

Pearl, to the ill-advised Lady Vols name change, to the dismissal of long time AD stalwarts like Bud Ford and Debby Jennings, the UT athletics program didn't look very much like it had in the past.

The botched hiring of Donnie Tyndall, the tragic death of Pat Summitt, the insane all-coaches press conference, the Title IX lawsuit... the hits just kept on coming.

The day after Tennessee finished the 2017 season with a 4-8 record (the most losses in program history), word leaked that Currie was dotting the i's on a

contract with Schiano.

The outrage in Big Orange Country was nearly universal. Schiano had a loose and unproven connection to the Sandusky scandal at Penn State. It mattered not that Schiano had never even been questioned by the authorities. Many Vols fans were outraged that on the heels of a Title IX lawsuit, Tennessee would pick someone whose reputation was not pristine.

Other fans knew about his issues with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, where he failed miserably and lost the locker room.

Some fans pointed to his temper and the way he treated visiting NFL scouts. And while his record at Rutgers was impressive (because it was Rutgers), it came at a time when the Big East was kitten soft.

For all of those reasons and many others, the selection of Greg Schiano was a terrible choice. Plus, he was seemingly one of Currie's top picks, despite no other school making inquiries for Schiano during that coaching cycle.

For years, Vols fans had shown

Continued on page 2

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Central's Montgomery signs with Virginia Tech

By Ken Lay

One of Knoxville's top high school golfers finalized her college plans recently.

Central High School senior Alyssa Montgomery signed her National Letter of Intent to continue her education and playing career at Virginia Tech on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at Central's library.

She had announced her intentions to play for the Lady Hokies several months ago. She recently won her fourth consecutive Region 2 Large Schools Championship and she'll leave Central as one of the school's most decorated athletes.

Montgomery is looking forward to her time in Blacksburg.

"I really liked the coaches there," said Montgomery, who was a four-time all-state performer with the Lady Bobcats. "They've really built the program there and they've only had it a short time.

"I think those coaches have had the program for about three years."

Montgomery said that she is leaning toward pursuing a degree in environmental engineering.

While at Virginia Tech, she'll be relatively close to her home in East Tennessee but she said that wasn't really a factor in her decision.

"I'm going to like being there because it's close



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Central High School senior golfer Alyssa Montgomery recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play golf at Virginia Tech. Montgomery was a four-time region champion during her career with the Lady Bobcats.

enough for me to come home on the weekends," Montgomery said. "But it's also far enough away so that I can be a little independent and have my own space.

"But that really didn't matter to me. We looked at schools all over the place. We looked at schools close to home but we also looked at schools as far as nine hours away."

Several area coaches were in attendance at the Lady Bobcats senior's signing ceremony, including Three Ridges Pro George Hall, who formerly coached

golf and softball at Halls High School.

Central coach Tony Patterson, who announced his retirement from coaching after Montgomery played her final high school round at the TSSAA Large Schools State Championships earlier this fall, was obviously on hand Wednesday.

Montgomery said that both men have provided her with plenty of support over the years.

"I've worked with a lot of coaches over the years," she said. "I've been with Patty now for over four years and I worked with

George a lot when I was a kid.

"They've both given me support. I'm grateful for all the support that they've given me."

Patterson said that Montgomery would be missed at Central but noted that he's excited about her future prospects in golf and life.

"She's the ultimate student-athlete and she'll be missed here," Patterson said. "But I'm excited for her. I'm not only excited for what has happened for her. I'm also excited about what's going to happen."

Veteran Fulton coach not pleased regardless of opening win

By Ken Lay

Despite seeing his team win its 2018-19 season opener, longtime Fulton High School boys basketball coach Jody Wright was far from pleased.

"I think we set basketball back five or six years," Wright said after the Falcons won their season debut over Central 68-59 in the first round of the Farragut Thanksgiving Tournament on Monday, Nov. 19 at the Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. "[It was a] typical first game, sloppy, a lot of fouls, standing around and a lot of breakdowns.

"But we made a few plays defensively and we shot it well and we were able to turn them over and stretch the lead in the third quarter and we were able to hold them off at the end."

First games always have the element of the unknown

but the Falcons (1-0) had five players recently join the basketball team after football season and perhaps that accounted for a roller coaster ride of the first game.

"Several of these guys have got to get in basketball shape," Wright said. "They just got gassed out there in the first half.

"We played with a lot of energy in the third quarter and they got a second win but we lost in again in the fourth quarter. We got up by 17 but Central really manhandled us in the paint late."

The early stages of the contest were packed with peaks and valleys for both Fulton and the Bobcats (1-1). The Falcons held a slim 12-11 advantage after the first quarter. They pushed the lead to 29-27 by halftime.

Fulton held a 56-39 lead heading into the final quarter thanks to a pair of third-quarter 3-point shots by Tommy Sweat, a transfer from Karns High School and one of the football players to join the basketball team late.

Central, which gave a valiant effort trimmed its deficit to nine points four times over the final eight minutes but Fulton, thanks to some key defensive stops and some late clutch shots, was able to leave the floor with the win.

The Falcons, who won 25 games last year and reached the Class AA Championship Game last season, got 16 points from Trey Davis and 13 from Dominic Holland. Sweat and Edward Lacy finished with nine points apiece while Deshawn Page had eight. Trey West finished

seven.

Central's Tevon Summers led all scorers with 17 points. Irakoze Frank had 15 and Sean Oglesby scored 11 for the Bobcats, who were without Demetrien Johnson and Devone Moss, who were still out for football.

Central coach Andy Hill was disappointed with the loss but couldn't complain about his squad's effort.

"I thought we really competed," he said. "I challenged our kids to come over here and play together and just fight, regardless of the score.

"We did a good job keeping our poise against the press. Fulton actually came out of the press and guarded us some in the half-court man and we did a good job executing and taking care of the ball, which we had to do."

Remembering Schiano Sunday

Cont. from page 1

overwhelming support, whether it was Lane Kiffin or Derek Dooley or Butch Jones. But Greg Schiano was the last straw.

That Sunday afternoon, while a press conference was being scheduled for that evening at Neyland Stadium, Tennessee fans took to social media to express their displeasure. Currie's cell phone number was posted on the internet, and fans flooded it with angry

calls and texts. Others in the Tennessee athletic department and administration had to deal with the same responses. Fans emailed. They took to the Tony Basilio and Fox Sports Knoxville airwaves. Hundreds protested in front of the UT football complex. State politicians expressed their concerns.

This was a wild scene. It was something that had never taken place before in collegiate athletics. There was a time when you wouldn't even know

the coach hired until they walked to the podium. Tennessee fans were trying to stop the podium from even being operational.

Finally, Currie realized it wasn't going to calm down. He pulled the job offer. Vols fans had stood as one and stopped the hire. In the days to come most national media members ripped Tennessee fans for their actions that day, but those Vols supporters didn't back down. They took pride in standing tall at that moment in the

history of their program.

Later that week, Currie would be fired, Fulmer would be hired to take his place, and the following week Fulmer would hire Jeremy Pruitt to become Tennessee's football coach.

It's been one year since that memorable day. Pruitt has coached through a regular season and Fulmer has calmed the UTAD waters.

We'll never see the likes of something like Schiano Sunday again.

Lady Falcons overcome slow start to Thanksgiving Tourney

By Ken Lay

Tyler Howell saw his Fulton High School girls team notch a comfortable win early last week.

But the second-year Lady Falcons coach wasn't all that pleased as his squad's lackluster start left him concerned.

"We had a talk this morning and we talked about our first game that we lost against Pigeon Forge and I told them that anytime you lose, it's not as bad as you think it is. I also told them that anytime you win, it's not as good as you think it is," Howell said after Fulton

overcame a sluggish start to rout North Knoxville rival Fulton 51-32 on Monday, Nov. 18 in the opening round of the Farragut Thanksgiving Tournament at the Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. "I talked to the girls about getting off to a better start out of the gate.

"I wasn't happy with our energy in the first quarter. We need to focus and we need to come out of the gate with a better energy."

The Lady Falcons (1-1) did enough to jump out to an 11-6 lead by the end of the first quarter.

They would awaken from their slumber eventually and they were able to press and trap as Central's players appeared to have trouble seeing the game unfold.

Fulton's relentless pressure rattled the Lady Bobcats (0-2) and forced them into multiple miscues that the Lady Falcons converted into easy transition layups.

Fulton would methodically dismantle the Lady Bobcats. The Lady Falcons extended their advantage to 31-16 by halftime and used a 13-4 third-quarter run to put the game away.

Central finally showed signs of life in the final eight minutes of the contest but it was too little, too late.

"We can't dig ourselves those kind of holes and expect to come back and win a game," Central coach Ben Collins said. "Fulton did exactly what we knew they would do.

"They pressed us and they trapped us like they always like to do against everybody and they did a good job. They came out with good intensity and we just didn't match that intensity.

Kyeisha Dalton scored 14 points to lead the Lady Falcons. Jamaia Simmons added 12 on the strength of four 3-point shots.

Ranaisha Gates finished with nine and Tilia Tinsley scored eight.

Aanniyah Johnson led Central 12 points while Morgan Webb scored 11 and Mackenzie Babb added 11.

Webb School of Knoxville's boys basketball team is off to a 3-1 start this season and the Spartans won their game against Jefferson County early last week.

But coach Ricky Norris wasn't happy after Webb downed the Patriots 67-59 in the first round of the Farragut Thanksgiving Tournament at the Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium on Monday, Nov. 19.

"Our lack of consistency tonight was reason for concern," said Norris, who guided the Spartans to an appearance in the Division II-A State Championship, where they lost to area and district rival Grace Christian Academy. "We didn't play good defense and we didn't rebound.

"I didn't think we were very good at all."

Defense and rebounding might've been lacking for Webb against the struggling Patriots (1-2), but the Spartans didn't have trouble scoring against Jefferson County.

Webb, which led 16-13 early, blew things open in the second quarter as it got hot from beyond the 3-point arc. The Spartans connected on three long-range jumpers and that enabled them to dominate inside despite being at a height disadvantage.

Webb had a balanced attack in the second

Webb boys down Jefferson County despite mediocre outing

By Ken Lay

stanza as Emory Lanier scored eight of his 17 points in the frame. Uriah Powers had five of his nine points in the stanza. Tariq Daughton scored five of his team-high 19 points in the quarter and Owen Feld had his only bucket of the game.

"You have to give Jefferson County credit. We really had them reeling a couple of times but they kept fighting back," Norris said. "They fought hard."

The Patriots used a modest 21-17 run in the third quarter to pull to within 53-43 heading into the final eight minutes.

And Jefferson County would hang around, After Lanier made an old-fashioned three-point play, the Spartans had a 61-49 lead with 4 minutes, 36 seconds left in the game.

But that wasn't quite enough to put the scrappy Jefferson County team away. The Pats pulled up to make it 61-54 with 2:36 to play as Braxton Chaney made a 3-pointer and a pair of free throws to help the Patriots make their final run Webb finally put things away when Powers and Lanier made field goals and Daughton made a pair of free throws down the stretch to make it 67-56.

Chaney knocked down a long-range jumper to close the game. He and Darius Allen scored 15 points each to lead Jefferson County.



KNOX METRO YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2018 CHAMPIONS

6U Flag
Falcons Gray 19, New Breed 12

7U Jr. Hoppers
Falcons 26, EKAA 14

8U Grasshoppers
Falcons 14, Hardin Valley Blue 0

9U Grasscutters
FBA 20, Falcons 0

10U Minor Pee Wees
Falcons 19, EKAA 13 (OT)

11U Pee Wees
Central 8, Farragut 0

12U Jr. Varsity
Falcons 20, West 14

14U Varsity
Falcons 38, Grace 6



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

A ball carrier for New Breed tries to get past a defender for the Falcons Gray team in the Knox Metro Youth Football League 6U flag football championship game Nov. 3 at John Tarleton Park.

2018 KNOX METRO YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



The Falcons Gray team celebrates its 6U flag football championship at John Tarleton Field on Nov. 3.



The Knoxville Falcons' 7U Jr. Hopper champions



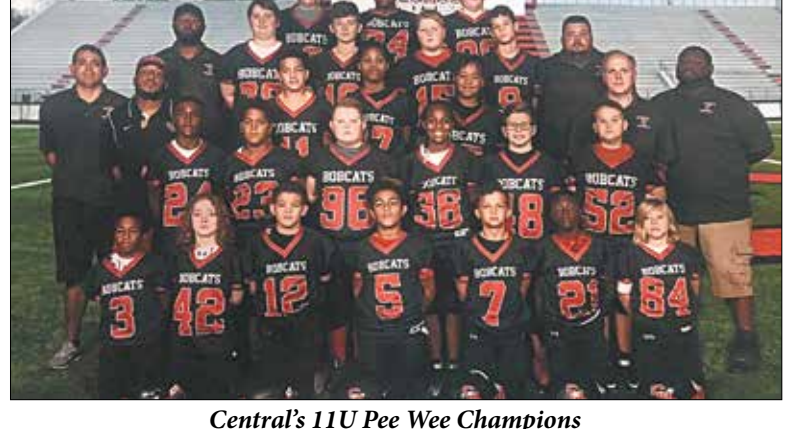
The Knoxville Falcons' 8U Grasshopper Champions



FBA's 9U Grasscutter champions



The Knoxville Falcons' 10U Minor Pee Wee champions



Central's 11U Pee Wee Champions



The Knoxville Falcons' 12U Jr. Varsity Champions



Knoxville Falcons' 14U Varsity Champions

Falcons capture six of eight Knox Metro youth football titles

Cont. from page 1

time and make the kid feel good about their self. That's the heart of a kids' coach."

A lot of the Falcon players eventually feed into the Fulton High program and Cox estimated that 15 of the FHS team's 24 seniors this season came up through the Falcons' youth program.

Cox said there were 165 to 170 players on the Falcons' youth tackle teams this year and another 30 in flag football. He said this season's total "was down maybe 25 kids" overall from last year.

FBA went 9-0 during the season. Six of the Eagles' nine wins got to the "mercy rule" said Head Coach Danny Stewart. "They outscored their opponents 183-6. The defense only gave up one touchdown in 9 games.

"We are very proud of how far these boys have progressed over the years. They've been runner-up the past two seasons and were determined to break through this year and bring home the championship. They have put FBA football on the map and are going to be tough to beat in the years to come."



Players from Hardin Valley Blue and the Knoxville Falcons 8U teams display good sportsmanship as they shake hands after their championship game. Knoxville Falcons cheerleaders get fans into the game during halftime of the 10U Minor Pee Wee championship game against East Knoxville Athletic Association. Photos by Steve Williams.

Knox Metro League working to make youth football safer

Sport's future may be based on risk vs. reward

By Steve Williams

With more and more knowledge about concussions becoming available, some youth football programs across the country are changing to flag football for their participants ages 13 and under and not offering tackle football until age 14.

Here locally that hasn't been the case in the Knox Metro Youth Football League, which has flag football for 6-and-under youngsters and tackle football for age groups 7U through 14U.

"We plan to continue our partnership with USA Football," said Aaron Browning, Deputy Director of the City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation. "Each season, coaches complete online training related to youth football, from heat illnesses to concussions.

"The game has evolved since many of the coaches and parents played and more and more research is available, so connecting them with access to the latest research and recommendations by USA Football educates the coaches on how to provide a safe program for the children participating."

Football may be the most popular sport in the United States, from the youth level to the NFL. But some parents are now weighing the risk and reward of the sport.

Browning was asked if he had heard any comments from parents of flag football



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

A Knoxville Falcons player comes in with his head up to tackle a Hardin Valley Blue player in the 8U Grasshopper finals. That's the correct technique for tackling that is being taught now at all levels of the sport.

age players or any other young age group about not allowing their children to continue to play "tackle" youth football.

"I have not personally discussed adding flag to additional age groups," he replied. "We actually have parents with kids 6 and younger wanting to play tackle."

Team participation was down some in the Knox Metro Youth Football League this season compared to the 2017 season, according to Browning's figures.

"We had 127 total teams this year," noted Browning. "Last year, we had 139. All

age groups were down one team, except 9U and 11U were down two teams and 6U was down three teams - 12 teams down total."

Browning said he didn't have information on the number of individual players that participated in the league this season.

In past years, the KMYFL has had athletic trainers on duty during league play.

"This year, we could not find a local company with athletic trainers, so paramedics with Knoxville Fire Department were at the fields," said Browning.

"Their role was different than trainers. They were there to inform kids/

coaches/parents that they felt the kid should go to the hospital for more treatment, similar to an accident, and would have assisted in serious emergency situations. Their training and protocols did not allow them to tape an ankle, for example."

Browning also said he didn't have any data regarding concussions occurring in league play.

"When a head injury was suspected, kids were advised to go to a doctor either immediately or if pain continues," he said. "I heard of a few broken bones and they were advised to go to the

hospital or transported there by ambulance."

Larry Cox, longtime commissioner for the Falcons youth football program, said "we try to keep our kids safe" and especially have no head-to-head contact. He said that's the goal throughout all levels of football now.

What about reports from doctors stating at younger ages the brain is not fully developed and children could be susceptible to having problems later on in life?

"I think that's something we definitely have to look at," said Cox.

When asked if he had

heard anything about parents not allowing their kids to continue in tackle football, he said, "They might ask my opinion."

Cox pointed out youngsters could suffer head injuries in many sports.

"Let's face it. Soccer is played without even a helmet on," he said. "There's risk there. There's risk everywhere."

"They definitely can get hit by a pitch in baseball. They can catch an elbow in the head in basketball. They can have their head contacted in football some time. But also, if they're riding a bicycle, some of them have a headgear on and some haven't."

On the flip side, Cox said sometimes when a youngster is on the field with an adult instructing them, they may be safer than riding a bicycle down the street in the neighborhood.

"I love the game of football," added Cox. "I played it when I was a kid. I played through high school and I enjoyed it. I still like to see kids play football. It might change. If it does, I got to change with it."

"I'm going to do my best on what I can for our kids and their safety."

Even in flag football, where players are not wearing a helmet, a collision could occur.

"It's sort of like soccer then," said Cox.

In the end, many observers believe parents have to weigh the risk with the reward of the game of football, and then make their own personal decisions for what's best for their children.

FIFTY SEASONS OF TSSAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

First Class AAA state title game was played in Knoxville

Knoxville has had its share of special TSSAA playoff games and moments over the years, and not all of them have to do with winning a championship or coming up just a point short.

When the classification system was adopted in 1969 and the first three state title games (Class AAA, AA and A) were played, Knoxville did not have a finalist, but our city was host to the first Class AAA finals: Morristown East vs. Memphis South Side. Evans-Collins Field was the site on Nov. 28, 1969.

That piece of ground is now where part of the Caswell Park softball complex now lies between Winona Avenue and Magnolia just east of downtown.

Morristown East battled from behind to win 15-12. Attendance was reported to be 2,000.

Running instead of punting after a low snap, the Scrappers from West Tennessee, leading by five, were stopped short of a first down at their 24-yard line with 5:27 to go. That was just the break the Morristown team needed.

A clutch fourth down pass from Carter Davis to Marshall Mills put the ball at the 10-yard line. Fullback Ken "The Wrecker" Rucker, a unanimous All-Stater, scored with a determined run from the 4 and added a 2-point run on a sweep for the winning margin.

Morristown East's head coach, Rex Dockery, became an assistant coach at UT under Bill Battle the following season. He coached offensive guard Phillip Fulmer and was responsible for recruiting Vol great Condredge Holloway.

Dockery later became head coach at Texas Tech and Memphis State, but was killed in a plane crash in 1983.

Dec 6, 1974: Fulton was the first Knoxville team to play in a state championship game. It was a time when public and private schools competed against each other in the playoffs.

Father Ryan nipped Fulton 29-28 for the Class AAA state crown as Joey Wood's interception at the 8-yard line ended a threat by the Falcons with less than a minute to play at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville.

Approximately 5,500 fans watched the two unbeaten powers battle on a cold and windy night. The lead changed hands five times.

"We didn't win, but we didn't lose," said a proud Fulton Head Coach Jim McClain after the game. "I know that doesn't make any sense, but that's the way I feel. I really think we are better than they are."

The contest matched two of the state's top quarterbacks: Father Ryan's heralded Mike Wright and the Falcons' unsung Steve Brewer. Wright, the state's Class AAA Player of the Year, had a hand in three touchdowns, sneaking across from the 1 and firing scoring passes of 15 yards to Wood and 60 yards to Mike Coleman. Wood also returned a fumble 24 yards for a TD.

Brewer too had a hand in three touchdowns. He plunged in from the 1 and had scoring strikes of seven yards to Tommy Dyer and 27 yards to Danny Beeler. Joe Brown returned a Ryan fumble 33 yards for the Falcons' other score.

The quick Nashville team jumped out to an 8-0 lead in the first quarter and was on top 15-12 at halftime. Fulton led 28-22 after three quarters.

"Our kids have a lot of character," added Coach McClain. "It's the best group I've ever coached. This will be a great memory. I'll just pretend we won."

Brewer went on to become head coach at his alma mater (1981 to 1991) before taking over the reins at Sevier County, where he led the Smoky Bears to a Class 5A state title in 1999. He retired from coaching in 2014 after 22 seasons at Sevier County.

Dec. 4, 1981: Webb School became the first Knoxville team to win a state championship. The fact that it was the 13th season of the playoffs would prove to be a good omen for Ron Gratz, the Spartans' head coach.

Webb edged previously unbeaten Memphis Prep 7-6 for the Class A title. The game was played at Bearden High and 3,500 spectators were on hand on a cold and windy night.

Mark Clark, junior quarterback, scored on a 41-yard run in the third quarter and Ned Babb added the go-ahead PAT kick. The Spartans had several defensive standouts, led by Raymond Jacobs, Scott Davis and Mark Schmadtke.

After the game, Coach Gratz talked about how special it felt to be the Knoxville Football League's first state champion.

"Even though we went into the playoffs as a small private school, we were representing Knoxville," he said. "We talked about it quite a bit. Knoxville has outstanding football. It feels good for us to be able to win it for the hometown. It's the start of many more for Knoxville."

Shortly after the game, Gratz revealed the number 13 had been lucky for him as a player at Morristown High and coach. He had experienced several wins on a Friday the 13th, his Webb championship team had 13 seniors and of course the total points in the Spartans' title game added up to 13.

Central stops Catholic 24-19 to reach Class 5A state finals

Continued from page 1

finals with a 13-7 win over Beech, won state titles in 2011 and 2013.

Central has been runner-up in its two previous appearances in the state finals (1999 and 2016) since the TSSAA playoffs started in 1969.

"We're looking to make history," said Washington, who led the defense with seven solo tackles, three assists, two sacks, an interception, one caused fumble and one blocked PAT.

Central jumped out to a 7-0 lead on its second play from scrimmage when Jason Merritts scored on a 41-yard run. Catholic answered with a scoring drive capped by Jack Jancek's 1-yard pass to Xavier Story.

Demetrien Johnson intercepted a pass - the first of four Irish turnovers in the opening half - and received a 23-yard pass from Dakota Fawver to put the Bobcats ahead 14-7.

Jarred Swislosky's 26-yard field goal on the final play of the first half made it 17-7 and Devone Moss' 5-yard run late in third quarter extended Central's advantage to 24-7.

A fumble recovery by Story sparked a fourth quarter rally by Catholic. Jancek threw a 17-yard TD pass to Stiles Moore, but Washington blocked the PAT.

Jancek's 20-yard slant pass to Taylor Shannon cut the Central lead to five with 5:40 left, but Washington ran Jancek out of bounds to foil the 2-point try.

The Bobcats made three straight first downs to run out the clock.

"The four turnovers in the first half were tough to overcome," said Catholic Coach Steve Matthews. "We played a lot better in the second half, but credit to Central. They deserved to win and hopefully they will go on and represent East Tennessee well in the state finals."



The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Every week my stories are made possible by the staff of The Knoxville Focus and my wife, Becky, who serves double duty as my editress. I appreciate strong and thoughtful women, so this week welcome the other half of our team: essayist Becky!

Closed Borders ... Open Doors

By Becky Ferguson

I support LEGAL immigration. I am resentful of political correctness which stifles debate on this and other issues and I am angered by the biased and dishonest reporting of the news media. Just about everyone has access to Google or Facebook and, in mere seconds, can produce "facts" to support or denigrate the topic d'jour. I don't possess degrees in statistics, history or political science; but I have "street creds" with one of the hottest topics of late - immigration. You would not be human if your heart didn't break when hearing or seeing the suffering in this world. The flip side of the wondrous

things technology gives us is a front row seat to the tragedies of the world. And often we feel impotent to make a difference; it's so overwhelming. We have been led to believe that only Big Government can solve such Big Problems. But I challenge that thought regarding immigration. Saying we must open our borders to all those who suffer is NOT the answer. Saying that we can legislate the actions required to successfully bring millions of refugees to our country and provide them "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is the most empty of political promises. But people tend to buy into that promise because it makes them "feel" like they are finally doing something

about this global tragedy. We are coerced to take a bold action and open our borders to all these people ... but will you open YOUR door and take them in??? BIG government can help by truly vetting refugees and controlling who immigrates. This is the only way to approach and solve the crisis. And the legal process does not need to be re-invented, laws just need to be enforced.

In June 2007, our church family, through the organization Bridge International, LEGALLY brought to Knoxville a family of nine refugees from the war torn area of Burundi, Africa. None of the children of Joseph and Maria had ever seen their parents' homeland. Instead, they were born and raised in multiple refugee camps in Rwanda and Tanzania. (To get a taste of their environment watch the movie, Hotel Rwanda.) Before boarding the plane for the United States and Knoxville, the Joseph family had never experienced running water, electricity or even a bed. The parents had survived multiple threats to their lives. It was a courageous and desperate step for the family to come; it was a bold and courageous step for our church to receive them; and we have ALL been blessed. But had they arrived en

masse with thousands of similar refugees through a virtually open border, their plight would have been dramatically different. Who would be their advocate, their mentor, their "hand-holder" on this new "planet" called Knoxville Tennessee? Our church community stepped up and helped this family assimilate and learn our American way of life.

I found myself particularly drawn to this family; I'm not sure how I became so deeply involved. But I soon found myself not pretending to "walk a mile in their shoes," but instead promising to walk beside them. And here are just a few of our shared experiences, triumphs and joys:

- Teaching the kids to swim
- Discovering you can flip a switch and have heat in the apartment during the cold winter months, but only after making it through their first winter without heat because no one thought to tell them of this modern convenience
- Earning a regular paycheck
- Passing a driver's test and buying a car after months of saving and walking/riding the bus to work
- Sharing with me the prized cut of the goat they bought and butchered
- Working through the fear

of stepping onto a Down Escalator for the first time

Calling me at 9:00 pm, asking if I would bake lasagna for a high school class the NEXT day (truly an American school student request!)

Learning American hygiene in a gentle, loving way, only to have our dog sneeze non-stop the entire way home from school when the young man overdid it with the men's cologne - and then LAUGH about it

Asking me about the "man in the moon" while sharing the parallel African folklore of the "rabbit in the moon"

Sitting around the kitchen table reviewing the US Citizenship test questions

Attending ALL of their US Citizenship swearing in ceremonies

Helping with homework and proudly watching an "adopted" son receive an American high school diploma

Attending trade school while working two part time jobs to keep food on the table and rent paid and then FINISHING the certification and getting a REAL job with a future

And two of my favorites: Calling me out of the blue just to "check on me"

Naming their first American-born child after me I don't know of ANY

government that can legislate or mandate the above. Was it work? Sacrifice? An imposition? Uncomfortable? Frustrating? YES, YES, YES to it all. But as any parent would say about their own child, it was ALL worth it.

Yet political voices are accusing us of cruelty for not opening our country to the masses invading our Southern border. If people were shouting, protesting and beating on your front door, would you open it and welcome them in? We cannot have open borders. Open borders result in an unvetted onslaught of people which then lead to the destruction of all.

I believe the solution is Build the Wall, but include doors. Open, not our borders, but our hearts, minds, lives and American way of life to those who come to us LEGALLY. It was once called immigration with assimilation. And it's not something that Big Brother or Big Government can accomplish successfully. It's a gift and a responsibility of every American. Don't talk the talk unless you are prepared to walk the walk. Build the Wall, then open the door.

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

Ray Smith awarded for historic preservation by Emory Road DAR

State Regent Charlotte Reynolds attended the Emory Road Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution's November chapter meeting at the Powell Library to present Ray Smith the Historic Preservation Certificate and Medal. The Emory Road Chapter nominated him for this prestigious award. The nomination is submitted to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Upon review and evaluation, the award is granted.

The Historic Preservation Medal recognizes and honors a person who has done extraordinary work over a long period of time in establishing a historic district, preserving a



State Regent Charlotte Reynolds presents Ray Smith with the Historic Preservation Certificate and Medal.

local landmark, restoring or preserving objects of historic significance, or establishing or participating in oral history projects, youth

leadership and education, as it pertains to historic preservation, at the regional, state, and/or national level.

Ray Smith is a widely known local historian who has developed an extensive understanding and appreciation of the heritage of Oak Ridge's history. He has produced episodes for television and completed the compilation of twelve documentary short films

Ray has received the Vice President's Hammer Award and numerous DOE Awards of Excellence and personal performance recognition awards. Shown here is State Regent Charlotte Reynolds making the presentation to Ray Smith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church

The Smokyland Sound Chorus and the Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church of Karns are pleased to announce a Barbershop Style Christmas concert at the church on Saturday evening the 1st of December.

The headliner quartet for the concert will be the Rocky Toppers of the Knoxville metro area. They were "runners up" for championship quartet at the Dixie District competition this fall in Alabama.

The concert will also feature the local chapter chorus as well as several of its internal quartets, including the crowd pleasing Three Nice Guys quartet, a new group called Old Fashioned, and the guys called Fourtuitous.

The event will start at 7:00 p.m. in the worship center of the church at 7753 Oak Ridge Hwy. A "love offering" will be taken during the concert to support the sponsors.

Constituent meeting with Commissioner Dailey

Commissioner Carson Dailey will be meeting with the citizens of the 9th District at Love that BBQ, 1901 Maryville Pike, on November 27 from 5-6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to meet with the commissioner on community issues.

EarthFest looks for neighborhood involvement

EarthFest, Knoxville's annual Earth Day celebration, is looking for neighborhoods' involvement in its 2019

Continue on page 3

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cont. from page 3
 constituent meetings to give citizens the opportunity to meet one-on-one and speak individually with him about issues that are important to them.

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Powell Branch Library, 330 W. Emory Road.

These meetings are open to the public.

Merry Memories at Marble Springs

Embrace Christmas past and make memories to last on December 9 from 2-5:00 p.m. at Marble Springs. The historic site is offering an afternoon of music and holiday festivities reminiscent of our pioneer past. The trading post will be open for everyone to shop for gifts. Admission is \$3 for ages 12 and up; \$1 for children 11 and under.

For more information visit www.marblesprings.net, email info@marblesprings.net, or call (865)573-5508/(865)712-9076.

Upcoming events at the Historic Ramsey House

Annual Wreath Making Workshop, Saturday, Dec. 8 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Historic Ramsey House, 2614 Thorngrove Pike, Knoxville. Celebrate Christmas in an old-fashioned way at this wonderful annual workshop. Our very special Wreath Maker, Julia, and her wreath helpers provide all the fixings as well as holiday treats. All supplies are included along with the instruction. Enjoy holiday treats, good times

and go home with a newly learned skill and a beautiful natural wreath for your front door. All you need is a pair of garden gloves, small garden clippers and friends or family. It is a great way to start a holiday tradition. Class fee \$35 Reservations required. Purchase tickets at www.ramseyhouse.org or call (865) 546-0745.

Holiday Candlelight Tour, Sunday, Dec. 9 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Historic Ramsey House. A beautiful candlelit 1797 home with natural decorations, holiday music, holiday treats and Santa for the kids. There is laughter, joy and a great holiday spirit. This is a free event open to the public. A chance to see a wonderful historic treasure dressed in its finest.

A Gift for Mom and Dad, Saturday, Dec. 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Historic Ramsey House. Do you need some time to get that last minute shopping done without the kids? And what about the kids? Do they need a gift for Mom and Dad? Bring them to Historic Ramsey House on Dec. 15th to spend 3 hours making hand-crafted gifts, playing vintage games and other fun activities. Each child will need to bring a bagged lunch. Ramsey House will provide juice or water and a cookie for snack. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions ahead of time. All supplies are included along with gift wrapping. Ages 6-12 years. Class fee \$15 Purchase tickets at www.ramseyhouse.org or call (865) 546-0745.



Art by Renee Suich

Arts & Culture Alliance Presents the 2018 Members Show, December 7-21

The Arts & Culture Alliance proudly presents its 2018 Members Show, the largest annual exhibition of local artists in the Greater Knoxville area. The fresh mix of two- and three-dimensional works created within the last two years encompasses a wide variety of media such as oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, mixed media, photography, fine craft, sculpture, ceramics, fiber, and more from regional artists who are all individual members of the Arts & Culture Alliance, which serves and supports a diverse community of artists, arts organizations, and cultural institutions. Membership is open to all, and information may be found at www.knoxalliance.com/join-renew. Most of the works in the 2018 Members Show are for sale and may be purchased through the close of the exhibition. An opening reception will

take place as part of First Friday activities on December 7 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. with complimentary cookies and sweets. The First Friday reception features dances presented by Circle Modern Dance, BreedArts School of Art and Dance, and Sandsation Dance & Yoga. The WIVK Santa Claus Parade starts at 7:00 p.m. along Gay Street and passes in front of the Emporium.

"The annual Members Show is a perfect way to round out a year of diverse programming at the Emporium," says Liza Zenni, Executive Director for the Arts & Culture Alliance. "We're excited to see what so many local artists have been working on throughout the year."

Individual members of the Alliance participate locally and regionally in gallery exhibitions, art festivals, sculpture trails, weekend shows, studio

tours, and public murals. Some of the members are full-time artists, while others have day jobs and create on evenings and weekends. Some Alliance members include art professors with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Carson-Newman University, Maryville College, Pellissippi State, Roane State, and Walters State. Others are teachers within Knox and surrounding county's elementary, middle and high schools. Some Alliance members teach classes privately or through community classes with the Appalachian Arts Craft Center Fountain City Art Center, Knoxville Arts & Fine Crafts Center, Knoxville Museum of Art, and Oak Ridge Art Center. Many of the artists have working studios in their own homes, while some are part of studio collectives such as The Emporium Center, The Vacuum

Shop, 17th Street Studios, Mighty Mud, Studio 2515, and Broadway Studios & Gallery.

The 2018 Members Show will be on display throughout the Emporium Center, 100 S. Gay Street, in downtown Knoxville from December 7-21, 2018. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please note, the Emporium will be closed December 24 - January 1 for the holidays. For more information, please contact the Arts & Culture Alliance at (865) 523-7543 or visit www.knoxalliance.com.

The gift of peace

Cont. from page 2

away. Paul then writes about prayers of supplication or petition. We petition God, asking God for help. David does this in Psalms. David talks about all the things that are wrong in his life: his enemies, his sin, his guilt. But then he shifts and stops telling God about his anxiety and begins to tell his anxiety about his God. He talks about God's faithfulness, about confidence in God's plan, about God's salvation.

Paul later writes: "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). We learn to turn to God and then he responds. God may open doors to professional help. This may include medication, but first turn to God before anything else. Paul continues, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever

is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8). If you are struggling with anxiety, then filter your thoughts through this list. Your thinking often determines your feelings and subsequent actions. Put into practice what Paul and Jesus taught.

If we say we believe in a God who is in control and cares, we need to align our lives to this belief. What do I believe? How do I then align my life with what I say about my belief? I pray you will experience God's peace and joy despite your circumstances. It is a peace that passes all understanding.

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