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McMillan Proven Right Career Magnet Academy Enrollment Doubles

By Focus Staff

Mike McMillan, East Knoxville's member of the board of education, led the fight to keep the Career Magnet Academy open. McMillan vehemently resisted efforts by the school administration to close the doors of the CMA, accusing the school system of "never having properly nurtured or promoted the Career Magnet

Academy." McMillan noted the school system had not even erected a sign of any kind outside the structure. It was Mike McMillan who argued it would be foolish to close the CMA before Governor Bill Lee outlined his program for vocational education. Lee had made expanding and improving vocational education in Tennessee a priority during his campaign. Eventually, all of McMillan's colleagues

voted to keep the Career Magnet Academy open, except for Board Chair Terry Hill. Later, the Lee administration expressed an interest in schools with a dual component, meaning those schools that offer high school and college courses. Mike McMillan, joined by State Representative Dave Wright, immediately contacted Governor Lee to point out the Career Magnet Academy was, to

their knowledge, the only school in East Tennessee with a dual component. McMillan invited the governor to visit the CMA and was on hand when Lee toured South-Doyle High School.

When questioned about the Career Magnet Academy, McMillan grinned and said, "Apparently all the conversation about it, the outpouring of letters

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Knox County Board of Education member Mike McMillan greets Governor Bill Lee during the governor's visit to South-Doyle High School last month.

Commission may rename Norwood Library to honor Lynn Redmon

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Commission meets in a work session next Monday and one of the items that may be discussed is renaming the Norwood Library in honor of Lynn Redmon. Redmon passed away last year and was the leader of the Norwood neighborhood

and a well-liked political consultant.

Commissioner Randy Smith is sponsoring the resolution honoring Redmon.

Items to be discussed are picked by the chairman and commissioners and most will be passed on to the commission's regular meeting on March 25.

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Gov. Lee makes good on campaign promise, reaches out to Knox supporters

By Ken Lay

In an effort to make good on a campaign promise, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee gave the State Address Tuesday night at the University of Tennessee's Clarence Brown Theatre.

Lee, who was elected in November, pledged to be more inclusive of East and West Tennessee while on the campaign trail and his Knoxville appearance came one night after he made his first State of the State Address to the Volunteer State's lawmakers on Monday, March 4.

The speech covered very little new ground and was basically a rehash of his words the previous night. There, his remarks took more than an hour.

Tuesday's speech



Governor Bill Lee visited Knoxville last week.

was much more concise because he knew that many of his supporters are also Tennessee basketball fans and had tickets to that night's final home game of the 2018-19 season.

"Last night's speech was long," Lee, a UT graduate, said in his opening remarks Tuesday. "I know some of you have a basketball game to go to so I'll wrap this up quickly so you can

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PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Morning Pointe Knoxville resident Vincenta Cooper and CEO Greg A. Vital cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening at West Knoxville's newest assisted living facility. Joining them at Thursday's ceremony are city and county officials and staff members at Morning Pointe.

Morning Pointe celebrates grand opening of new Knoxville facility

By Ken Lay

Knoxville's newest assisted living community celebrated its grand opening late last week.

Morning Pointe Knoxville had a dinner, open house and ribbon-cutting Thursday night. Its located at 9649 Westland Drive, adjacent to Shoreline Church in the Hardin Valley Community.

Morning Pointe also has east Tennessee locations in Powell, Lenoir City, Clinton, Athens, Greeneville, Collegedale, Hixson, East Hamilton and Chattanooga. The assisted living community also has locations in Middle Tennessee and in five states.

The new location strives to keep its residents vibrant and help them live full lives.

"This is not a place you come to get old, it's a place that you come to live," said Aaron Webb, chief

operating officer of Independent Healthcare Properties, LLC. "This is our fifth campus in East Tennessee and this is a place where you come to live and live vibrantly.

"It's safe and secure. We are a Christian-based community and we are a patriotic community."

The Morning Pointe Knoxville facilities offer a variety of care services for seniors with Alzheimer's disease and other memory care needs in a safe and secure environment.

Morning Pointe Knoxville has a partnership with Shoreline Church and the company believes that its residents flourish when they remain active in the community.

For President, Co-founder and CEO Greg A. Vital, senior care is the family business and a labor of love. "I am proud to say that I am not ashamed of my country and I am not ashamed of my God," he said. "My dad was a nursing home

administrator and he spent the last part of his life in a Morning Pointe Community and when I came to visit, he would tell me things that I can do to run it better. He was bedridden, so I don't know how he knew what was going on in the halls. He had plenty of spies in that facility."

The Morning Pointe Knoxville campus is decorated with patriotic murals and Vital is on the board of directors of the East Tennessee Historical Society.

"Other than caring for seniors, history is my passion," Vital said. "I urge you to look at our murals here and then go down to our museum downtown."

He also announced a future addition to the new assisted living facility, The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence. It will be a freestanding building located on the same property.

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