



Can Hurley and Blake Shelton take time for a photo after performing at the grand opening of Ole Red Gatlinburg last week. "Gatlinburg has always been a place where I've had a good time, and it's just awesome for me to get to be a part of this community through Ole Red," said Blake Shelton before the event. "I can't wait to get my hand down there to play - it's going to be an amazing night!"

By Lisa DeMarzio

Knoxville native and country icon Don Hurley and his family performed at the Grand Opening of the Blake Shelton-inspired Ole Red Gatlinburg bar, restaurant, and music venue Wednesday night.

Blake said, "Don is one of my all-time favorite artists and he happens to be from this area." Hurley and family went on to perform three songs during the middle of Blake's set.

During the press conference, earlier in the day, Shelton said he had visited Gatlinburg during New Year's and stayed three days. He and his girlfriend, Gwen Stefani, fell in love with the area. Shelton also told the crowd that Ole Red Gatlinburg was his favorite of the three venues he has opened.



Pictured left to right are Can Hurley, his brother-in-law Bart Alvers, Blake Shelton, sister Ruthie Alvers, and brother Kasey Hurley. Shelton called Hurley one of his "all-time favorite artists" and recalled growing up listening to his music.

Longdale Elementary gas leaks trigger debate at BOE meeting

By Amy Box Felthouser

The presence of Knox County Commissioner Evelyn Gill and three Knoxville Boy Scout Troop 258 members endeavoring to fulfill their citizenship badge requirements were recognized to commence the mid-March regular session Board of Education meeting. Next, an announcement declared that several board members will be attending the National School Board Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia from March 30 to April 1, 2008 in place of meeting with other school board members on a national level regarding educational matters.

Special to the meeting was highlighting three teachers who received the outstanding

recognition of Teachers of the Year. As they approached Knox County Superintendent Bob Thomas to receive their awards in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building, those in attendance applauded loudly. The recipients were: Brickley-McCloud Elementary School teacher Crystal Douglas, Kame Middle School teacher Janet Smith, and Powell High School teacher Alice Carson.

One week prior to the regular session meeting on March 13, board members congregated to review board policies at a work session. Action carried for every voted board policy with no discussion. They voted to approve the second

Cont. on page 8