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South-Doyle Middle School hurt by BMX cancellation

By Mike Steely
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Whitney Reynolds told the Knox County Commission she was not appearing before them to oppose the decision by Mayor Glenn Jacobs to stop the BMX track project, but to speak to the promises made as part of the original agreement that affects South-Doyle Middle School.

Reynolds told the commissioners last week that two years of planning for the track with the Knox County Board of Education, Department of Parks and

Recreation, Legacy Parks, Knoxville BMX and Commissioner Carson Dailey led to promises of improvements at the school. She said the original agreement promised the school an overhaul of the soccer field, running track, bleachers, concession stands, fencing, ADA bathrooms and sidewalks.

"What is left is an unusable track and stadium and an eyesore," she said, adding that the school's sports program is suffering, teams must travel across town to practice or practice in

the parking lot. Reynolds eighth grade child is a member of the track team at the school.

"It's caused a marked decline in sports students," she said.

Reynolds said that putting off the rebidding of the BMX proposal is delaying what was promised the school. She also wondered about completing the project and future maintenance, conflicts between the BMX track use and after-school events, and safety there.

"Regardless of any decision

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Whitney Reynolds, a South-Doyle Middle School parent, told the Knox County Commission to live up to promises made to the school in the original BMX Track agreement, whether the bike track is completed or not. Photo by Mike Steely

Corryton Senior Center Welcomes Mayor Glenn Jacobs

By Amy Box Fellhoelter

Upon entering the 13-year-old Corryton Senior Center, you not only step onto their walking track, but also into a place of warm, welcoming smiles from staff and community members. This was especially true at the Open House for Mayor Glenn Jacobs held last Thursday except the air was additionally filled with the smell of turkey and dressing and music played by the Corryton Jam members. The center opened its doors to more than 50 seniors with a potluck lunch and a cake for the mayor, alongside a staff excited to show off its growth and amenities.

Kathy Romines, a regular senior at the center, said, "It's great to have the mayor make this visit. When you come here, you see those, even older than me, enjoying life. I'm so glad we have this. This center is a lot like a church. It's so good for seniors to get out and to have this. And another thing, it's free! If you can get here, then there is something for everyone."

From a card-making class to gardening to yoga to service projects to travel, opportunities abound for those citizens 50 years old and older. In March, the center's House



PHOTO BY AMY BOX FELLHOELTER.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs visits with Corryton seniors to listen to their concerns during last Thursday's open house at the senior center there.

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Stray Cats, \$50 million in bonds, and county budget discussed at commission

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Commission voted 10-1 last week to approve a change in the animal control ordinance to authorize a trap, neuter and return policy for stray cats. Approved by the Knoxville City Council recently the city's policy would be extended to county if passed on final reading.

The policy change, from trapping and euthanizing unadoptable cats, is being promoted by Young-Williams Animal Shelter as a way to reduce the number of strays. The new policy proposal is controversial in nature because it would permit neutered animals to be returned to where they were caught and then released back into the cat population.

Tanner Jessel, resident of Olive Street in Knoxville, spoke against the ordinance change and urged the commission to keep the current trap, neuter and contain policy.

"It is not known to reduce cat population," he said, asking the commission to "please pause this effort."

Janet Testerman, CEO of the animal shelter, and Lauren Bluestone, manager of Metro-Nashville Animal Control, spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Bluestone told the commission the policy of trapping, neutering and

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Tribe of Judah Event Center offers services to residents

By Ken Lay

The Tribe of Judah Event Center has opened its doors in East Knoxville.

The center, located at 4101 Holston Drive, is a business incubator for non-profit industries and inner city ministries. It hosted a lunch and learn seminar Wednesday where it announced its mission.

"We're a business incubator growing to Kingdom Potential," said Tribe of Judah Event Center Executive Director Sherri Williams. "We have seven businesses

that are ministries or non-profits.

"We are here to serve our community and our youth."

The incubator now houses tenants including Young Women Echo, The Wife Behind the Veil Ministries, Drew Family Ministries, Omni Hub Business Consulting, World United Ministries, Sols Write House and Free Indeed Ministries.

It provides those businesses with a venue. The center is also an event center, which will host community events such as plays and banquets and galas.

It will also host lunch and learn seminars on every third Wednesday of the month. It has already booked several events including this week's Dream Louder, which will be held Friday from 6-8 p.m.

Dream Louder is a network and mingle event that will provide area businesses the opportunity to promote their products and services for a minimal fee.

"A business card and \$5 will get you in the door," said Denise Richardson, co-founder of Omni Hub and executive director of Drew

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Tribe of Judah Event Center Executive Director Sherri Williams speaks at the center's Lunch and Learn seminar Wednesday. The event center houses ministries and non-profit organizations in East Knoxville. Photo by Ken Lay.

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