Tennessee Governor Bill Lee speaks at the Knox County Republican Party's Lincoln Day Dinner at West Knox Elk Lodge on Thursday, Feb. 23. Lee, who's been criticized for his stance on gun control, was met with mostly cheers at the event. Pictured with Lee are Knox County Republican Party Chairwoman Amelia Ford, Representative Jason Zachary and Senator Becky Duncan Massey. Photo by Saul Young

Gov. Bill Lee speaks at GOP dinner

By Steve Gray

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee was the keynote speaker at the Knox County GOP's Lincoln Day Dinner at West Knox Elk Lodge on Saturday night.

Lee, Tennessee's 50th governor, spoke briefly at the annual dinner on "the farm-to-table" portion of the event. He was introduced by Rep. Jason Zachary, who represents Knox County and parts of Anderson County in the state House of Representatives.

Zachary, who spent time in the state Senate before his election to the House, said Lee has been a friend and adviser to him and his family for many years.

"I have a personal love for a person who I was going to be to work with the legislature on because we know that I've gotten to work with them. I can come to a consensus," Lee said to the crowd.

Lee, who spent time in Knoxville and has continued to vote to invest dollars in the state's major projects here, is currently the only Republican governor in the state with whom Knox County has a close relationship.

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WANDERING NO MORE

Theater Knoxville Downtown Finds Long-Term Location

By Bill Kincaid

After a long and wandering journey, one of Knoxville's most iconic theaters has a new home. And this time, it should be permanent.

On Friday, April 15, "One Night Only" sponsored at Theater Knoxville Downtown's new home location, 600 S. Central St., the first new Knox Downtown live theater had existed at 604 S. Gay St., and at that time called the Regal Restaurant.

"We're really excited to finally be in a space that we're going to be staying home," said Bonnie Pendleton, TK's Board President. "We've been looking for a space for a long time, and we've been looking for a space that we could make our own, that we could upgrade from our shows as much time to what's what we needed for space and so time."

TK's first iteration – in Knoxville's famous Regal Theater – in 1979 by interested volunteers, but didn't initially have a home. Since then, the longtime TK's Board's member Nicole Wilson put the home location plans on a search for cash, including the Bijou Theater, Historic Fort Sanders, Knoxville Museum of Art, and the Bijou Box Theater in Downtown.

The current Theater Knoxville space is on the Historic Center in Knoxville's scenic, but accessible neighborhood, and the new