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PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS.

The Spangler team didn't win, but they had a good time playing as a family in the Tom Spangler Golf Classic, a fundraising tournament for the Knox County Sheriff. From left, brothers Bobby, Bruce and Tom and nephew Brady.

Council to talk community improvement

Budget amendments, low-barrier shelter and urgent care funding on city agenda

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In addition to voting on approval of the amendment of the Fiscal Year budget and transferring surplus funds into the upcoming year, the Knoxville City Council will consider several community improvement projects when it meets Tuesday.

The council may vote to approve Mayor Madeline Rogero to sign an agreement with Volunteer Ministry Center to allot \$245,000 for improvements to the former Salvation Army building beneath the Broadway Bridge. Creating a "Low-Barrier Shelter" for homeless people there will involve retrofitting the building with restroom facilities for use during daytime hours.

The Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center may get \$560,000 in city funds in an amendment of a tri-party service contract with Knox County and Helen Ross McNabb Center. The resolution calls for services to be provided at other locations on an as-needed basis and conduct individual assessments at the Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility.

An agreement with Bell & Associates Construction will also be considered for \$6.4 million for the Jackson Avenue Ramp Construction Project.

Three separate grant applications may get approval with the federal and state governments for funding portions of Knox Area Transit. That includes \$3.3 million request to the state to fund the system in 2020.

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Spangler Golf Classic 'blessed' by friends, family, weather and turnout

By Steve Williams

The second Tom Spangler Golf Classic "doubled" in size and the weather Friday at Three Ridges Golf Course to benefit first-year Knox County Sheriff Spangler couldn't have been better.

Spangler's first tournament was in October of 2017 at Gettysvne Country Club and had one afternoon shotgun start. That was prior to his election as Knox County Sheriff.

Last week's tournament had two shotgun starts - one in the morning with 18 four-player teams and one in the afternoon with 17 teams.

"It is a fund raiser," said Sheriff Spangler in between the two flights.

"We've got some campaign debts to fulfill and we want to just get things ready.

"Obviously, I plan on wanting to run again with things that are going on, and this way we are able to get those finances in hand early."

Sheriff Spangler said what made his fundraising tournament special was the turnout.

"The support that people come out, that they have that much faith in me to do the job that we are doing," he said. "And it's a team effort, it's not just me. It's all the people and the men and women in that Sheriff's office.

"I've been elected to lead that agency and I'm very honored and blessed to be

able to do that. But I have a lot of good people that make my job a lot easier."

Sheriff Spangler emphasized he was not responsible for the weather.

"No sir," he chuckled. "It's been a glorious day and we are blessed."

He didn't sugarcoat his team's play either in the best-ball event.

"We played. That's all I can say. We had a good time. I was with my family."

Brothers Bobby and Bruce and nephew Brady joined Tom to make up the Spangler foursome.

Sheriff Spangler was asked if he had any memorable shots in the morning round.

"I couldn't say that I have, so unfortunately no.

But what I will say, I was blessed to be able to spend time with my family. I'm a hacker. I'm not a golfer, but we had a good time."

BEST OF THE BUNCH: Morning Flight: First Place Team (Score 56 on the Par 72 course) - Josh Brummerstedt, Conner Froning, Brandon Workman, Scott Tidwell. Second Place Team (Score 58) - Tyler Wyatt, Dave Thomas, Luke Whitworth, Wes Covington. Afternoon Flight: First Place Team (Score 54) - Jeremy Cox, Joe Hovater, Barry Collins, Will Collins. Second place Team (Score 55) - Matt Lawson, Richard Van Kirk, Dustin Dunagan, Jerry Glenn.

Recode dominates planning commission meeting

By Bill Howard

At the Knoxville-Knox Co. Planning Commission's monthly meeting June 13, one issue took center stage: the comprehensive update of the City of Knoxville Zoning Ordinance. The plan is popularly known as Recode and is, unsurprisingly, controversial.

Originated some three years ago, the plan seeks to upgrade - some say overhaul - how property is zoned, and therefore used. Two obvious

points of contention are how it will affect development, and whether it will raise property taxes.

The commission's debate was whether to approve the plan in its current form, or send it back to the city council for further revisions. Mixed opinions abounded.

Commissioner Tim Hill was ready to approve the plan and send it on; Commissioner Jeffrey Roth disagreed.

"I think this thing needs a

lot of work before I'm comfortable sending it back to city council," Roth said. "I've received a lot of phone calls from people who were concerned about how their property would be rezoned. We worked on the hilltop overlay (concerning development on hillsides, depending on their slope) for a couple of years and couldn't come up with an agreement."

Among those in opposition was Danny Kirby, a property

manager at 1st Commercial Real Estate. Kirby spoke against the very existence of Recode.

"I never thought this ordinance was necessary to begin with," Kirby said. "The zoning ordinance is made to live and breathe with the city. It's done this for 50 years and has produced a great city."

Kirby further thought the public wasn't adequately notified of the plan or the

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Knox County's sex education curriculum under scrutiny

By Anne Primm

The June 12, 2019 Knox County School Board meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Susan Horn at 5:04 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon. Chair Terry Hill was out-of-town. All the other eight school board members were present.

Vice Chair Horn recognized Boy Scout Troop 757 for attending the meeting.

Next, Superintendent Bob Thomas and the other board of education members acknowledged and thanked Dr. Clifford Davis, Melissa Drinnon and Cheryl Hickman for their tenures with Knox County Schools as they retire.

As was discussed at the June 5, 2019 meeting, the school board voted to approve increasing the proposed 3.5% raise to 4% for both certified and classified personnel.

The Knox County School Board also approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Knox Area Urban League for

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Do cops have to say that they are cops if you ask them?



By Jedidiah McKeehan
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

This question seems to come up quite a bit on TV. Someone is about to sell drugs to an undercover cop and the drug dealer says to the cop, "If I ask you if you are a cop, you have to tell me, right?"

No, no, no! I have no idea where this came from, but there is no law

stating this. If you ask a cop whether they are a cop, they are absolutely allowed to lie to you.

Let's think about why this does not make any sense. So, essentially what someone is thinking is that the cops are not allowed to lie to them. Well, we know that cops are fully

allowed to lie or otherwise we would not have undercover cops who have made up identities. Beyond that, even when cops are questioning individuals in interrogation rooms, they may say things that are not necessarily the truth in order to get a suspect to confess to having

committed a crime. Practically, if somehow, some way, you have gotten yourself in to some insane predicament where the thought is running through your head, "this is going to be really bad for me if this person is a cop." If you are in that position, do yourself a favor

and assume that they actually ARE a cop, and separate yourself from whatever you are doing and wherever you are immediately.

Please, please, do not say to them, "Are you a cop? If I ask you, and you are, you have to tell me!"

Jedidiah McKeehan is

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

Knox County's sex education curriculum under scrutiny

Cont. from page 1

involved in a family life education class in Knox County schools both at the middle and high school level that was quite disturbing. Some of the information taught was said to be anatomically inaccurate and used inappropriate gender stereotypes. The instructor of these classes also was reported to have used numerous homophobic and degrading jokes in the class when referring to the LGBTQIA community.

There were several other participants in Public Forum who conveyed virtually the same sentiments. Vice Chair Susan Horn asked Shannon Jackson, executive director of curriculum and instruction for Knox County Schools, to respond to these comments and Jackson said that the curriculum is open to review. She also reassured parents that there is an "opt out" option should parents decide the curriculum is inappropriate for their child.

On a different note, Public Forum also hosted Rosilyn Tillman, dean of the Magnolia Campus of Pellissippi State Community College and a member of the board of directors of Project Grad. Tillman described in detail the ongoing Summer Institutes taking place at UTK, Pellissippi State Main campus, and TCAT (Tennessee College of Applied Technology.)

Each time the Knox County Joint Education Committee meets, the group learns about the various aspects of the school system. Recently the committee took a look at the system's Human Resources Department.

Scott Bolton, director of human resources, spoke to the committee about diversity, the BEP in salaries, the growing number of students, employee insurance, and tenure of teachers.

Bolton also talked about teachers leaving the system because of higher salaries or better benefits in adjoining counties. He said that Basic Education Program funds from the state are being reduced each year and that makes it difficult for Knox County to hire and keep teachers and principals. Security guards in schools have no funding from the



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Members of the Joint Education Committee listen to a report on the Knox County School Systems Human Resources. Director Scott Bolton spoke about diversity, tenure, and other related topics.

Joint Ed Committee hears from Human Resources

By Mike Steely
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state BEP fund. It was noted that Knox County has no representation on the state BEP board.

While 16% of the students in the county are minorities, only 3.5% of the school system's workforce and 9.5% of administration staff are minorities. In a printed report distributed at the meeting the minority population among teacher shows that 70% are white, 16.5 are African American, 2.8% are Asian, 4% are Native American, 3% are Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and 9.3% are Hispanic.

Bolton said that changes in state board requirements for hiring out-of-state licensed teachers make it more difficult to recruit those teachers. He added that during the last ten years 4,200 new students have been added to the system, the equivalent of two high schools.

He also said that the system is trying to recruit

minority teachers but as the state only has one black teacher college the Knox County School System has started working with the University of Tennessee Knoxville which recently received a grant to increase diversity. It was also noted that although almost 10% of the student population is Hispanic there are no Hispanic teachers.

On tenure rules Bolton said that non-tenured teachers have the right to due process and tenured teachers are granted a rehire each year.

He added that each year 590 teacher positions are vacated including about 125 teachers who retire. He said that the system's joining the state health insurance program is helping somewhat in retaining teachers.

"I'm very pleased that our retirees can continue with their health insurance. We've been

creative and have been pioneers with a health savings plan," Bolton said. He added that changes now include permanent tenures and contingent tenures that require a score of 4 to 5 in evaluation scores.

There was some discussion on reading proficiency and it was noted that only 39% of the county's third graders read at level. That topic is apparently the subject of the Joint Education Committee's next meeting in August.

Members of the Joint Education Committee, appointed by the Knox County Board of Education and County Commission, include Co-Chairs Larsen Jay and Evetty Satterfield, Michele Carringer, Evelyn Gill, Patti Bounds, Virginia Babb, Randy Smith, Susan Horn and Patti Bounds. Carringer and Gill were absent during the recent meeting.

most of her movies, and emulated her as much as possible, all except for the shining curls because my hair was straight as a stick. She was four years older than me, born in California in 1928. She got her start in the movies at the tender age of three, starring in sentimental musicals.

At the height of her popularity, she was often the subject of many myths and rumors. False claims circulated that she wasn't a child but a 30 year old dwarf. The fact that she never seemed to miss any teeth led people to believe that she had all her adult teeth.

Another rumor was about her hair, that she wore wig. On multiple occasions fans yanked her hair to test the rumor. She later said she wished she had a wig. The nightly process she endured in the setting of her curls was tedious and grueling, with weekly vinegar rinses that burned her eyes. Who knows if those rumors are true?

She began her diplomatic career in 1969 when she was named United States Ambassador to Ghana and

Czechoslovakia. She also served as Chief of Protocol of the United States.

Do you remember her movies? Here are few: "Heidi," "Curly Top," "Bright eyes" and "The Little Colonel." I can't remember a popular little girl in the twentieth century like Shirley, except maybe Drew Barrymore, but she didn't sing or dance. Shirley married twice and had three children. She was a wonderful little girl and a marvelous adult. She is sorely missed.

Thought for the day: Peace begins with a smile. Mother Theresa

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



The Little Princess

I grew up with Shirley Temple. I adored her, saw

subject of many myths and rumors. False claims circulated that she wasn't a child but a 30 year old dwarf. The fact that she never seemed to miss any teeth led people to believe that she had all her adult teeth.

Another rumor was about her hair, that she wore wig. On multiple occasions fans yanked her hair to test the rumor. She later said she wished she had a wig. The nightly process she endured in the setting of her curls was tedious and grueling, with weekly vinegar rinses that burned her eyes. Who knows if those rumors are true?

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Publisher's Position Could Recode cost you money?



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

codes insurance rider to the homeowner's policy might be required.

Mr. Stair replied to the caller, "You know, I think that sounds totally inaccurate. I don't think this would affect insurance on your house or home or business property. I mean, I think...so you're taking it from water damage to that Recode not going that your insurance that you purchased and pay premiums on...you know I do insurance law and also sit on city council...and you know if you're paying your premiums you know you've got... you should have your insurance. You know, so I think that is totally misguided."

In parts of the interview with callers interacting with Mr. Stair so there was some cross talk that made the conversation a little more difficult to transcribe. This entire interview can be heard here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-332442237/marshall-stair-on-knoxvilles-morning-news-wetr>

The insurance term for this coverage is "Building Ordinance or Law." This is insurance that covers the cost to rebuild or repair a home that has been destroyed or damaged, as

well as the cost to upgrade a home so that it meets the most up-to-date building codes after a covered loss. Many top tier residential insurance plans cover Building Ordinance or Law. For mid to lower tier homeowner insurance plans there are additional riders available to pay for this coverage. Many homeowner rental policies will require the extra rider to provide full coverage. In some cases it may not be available. Before Recode is passed it is important that residential property owners in Knoxville check with their home owner's insurance agent to see if they are currently covered or need additional coverage to protect them from the building code changes in Recode. You need to inform yourself as this could be a pocket-book issue. Please know that some homeowner's insurance policies have a clause that excludes Building Ordinance or Law payments without a specific rider. You should check on your policy. This is another example of how the unintended or overlooked consequences of Recode could cost you money.

What most people in Knoxville do not know is

that Recode changes more than just zoning. It changes residential and commercial design standards and building codes too. It changes lot sizes and setbacks. If a person loses their home in a fire, flood, or natural disaster will they be able to build it back the way it was? Will they have the insurance coverage to do so? Again, these are potential cost issues that matter.

Mayoral candidate Stair was challenged by a previous caller on the now infamous Knoxville City Ordinance O-187-2018 which was passed unanimously after two readings on December 18, 2018 by city council and signed by Mayor Rogero which changed the law about notification on zoning changes in city of Knoxville. The caller said, "last December you voted twice not to have notification, is that correct?"

Marshall Stair replied, "Yes, I voted in favor of it (the O-187-2018 ordinance) for updates to the zoning code."

The caller pressed on and said most people don't know about Recode because of the poor PR puff piece Recode notice that was sent out after many citizens

demanding proper notice.

Mayoral candidate Stair replied, "I think people are aware of it, that's the point of notification, I think the caller is aware of it, I think all your listeners are aware of it, so this idea that nobody's aware of it seems a little, uh, seems a little weird."

Personally, I believe that today less than five percent of property owners in Knoxville know about Recode.

Prior to this new ordinance O-187-2018 the property owner and property owners adjacent to the property being re-zoned would be notified by mail and there would be small black signs with white ink from the MPC, now called Knoxville-Knox County Planning, which gave a specific number on the rezoning and a brief explanation of the zoning change.

If a practiced insurance attorney and city council member like Marshall Stair is this unsure of the risk to property owners after having supported Recode for months now, there are probably thousands of people in Knoxville that don't know anything about Recode. Another great question would be: are you actually more protected by our current zoning code with the

sixty years of legal case law it has amassed? Recode, more than likely, will throw all that zoning case law out the window. Is this a risk, financial and otherwise, that the citizens of Knoxville are willing to take?

Something as important as a complete overhaul of zoning should be voted on by the citizens of the city of Knoxville. If you agree with this statement, call your city council representative and ask that they put Recode on the November 2019 ballot for the people of Knoxville to vote on. This is too important not to let the whole city to decide. If council will not put Recode on the ballot then ask them to vote Recode down.

Also please be aware that a new citizens group has recently formed called "Citizens for Knoxville Government Transparency" (<https://votenoencode.com>). Should city council decide not to put Recode on the November 2019 ballot or simply vote it down, I believe it is the intention of these citizens to start a petition and ballot initiative so the people of Knoxville can vote on Recode. You can reach your city council representative at 865-215-2000.

Recode dominates planning commission meeting

Cont. from page 1
meetings about it. "There are clearly public notice requirements that were stated in the amendment section of the zoning ordinance in November of last year, and the (planning commission) made a recommendation to approve the amendment. They sent it to city council and basically told them you don't have to send a notice to everybody."

Commissioner Art Clancy was in favor of the plan, but acknowledged its inevitable controversies. "Our zoning and our codes need updating," he said. "The mayor and city council asked our staff to update the city codes. And they are antiquated. We've been amending those codes all along. This is just a way to bring them up to date. I think this will be a big improvement. The citizens of the city of Knoxville will benefit even though some will think the (planning commission) is trying to push something off on them."

"(The plan is needed) because the way the city is growing and the way

development comes into the city. It's a way to help developers come and make it easier to develop. It will help the city of Knoxville grow responsibly and I think this is a good step."

Clancy was asked why the plan ping-ponged back and forth so much between the council and commission.

"We're the planners," he said. "We do all the work, then submit it to city council and they look it over and say 'we like this, we don't like that' and throw it back at us. And this last time we said 'change it, codify it, put it in place'. The hillside protection plan did this over and over and over, for over two years to the tune of almost \$400,000 of our tax dollars. The city adopted it but wouldn't codify it. The city council eventually has to say 'we've beat it to death, let's pass it.'"

One universal point of agreement was that the plan would never please everyone.

By majority the commission voted to approve the plan. Its next meeting is July 11.

Will Recode face a public referendum?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

There's lots of talk from opponents of the City's Recode effort of the putting the zoning restructuring on the ballot. The Focus was curious as to how that could be done.

Chris Davis, assistant administrator of the Knox County Election Commission, said City Code 709 addresses that issue.

"It takes seven percent or 7,000 signatures, whichever is greater, of registered voters," Davis said.

The petition, accompanied with the proposed ordinance, would be submitted to the city council. The council then has some operations. It can pass the ordinance without alteration within 30 days after the attachment is certified by the election commission.

The council could also call a special election, unless a regular election is already scheduled within six month, and the ordinance printed without alteration to the voters.

If the majority of voters favor the referendum question the ordinance would become a binding law and

cannot be repealed or amended except by a vote of the people.

City law says that any number of referendum ordinances can appear on the same ballot but no more than one special election may be held for another six months.

Should the council pass Recode as a "regular

ordinance" a petition of qualified voters following the council action can force a public referendum and a vote of the people.

Notification of an ordinance or proposition that is going to a referendum requires publication in a newspaper of record at least 25 days prior to the public voting.



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Norwood Recode crowd not happy

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the crowd began to be seated at the Expo Center meeting room Tuesday it became obvious that most were Norwood neighborhood residents that are opposed to Recode.

Councilwoman Seema Singh organized the public meeting for her district with the idea of having a question and answer session. Planning Director Gerald Green came with maps of the Knoxville neighborhood showing current zoning and proposed zoning. It seemed, however, that the citizens were more interested in stating their opinions and asking questions.

While Councilwoman Singh fielded some questions, most were directed at the planning director.

One woman asked why the zoning changes were being done "in one fell swoop" and described the effort to change the zoning names as "a big thing." Green responded that in most cases only the name of the zoning designation would be changed, having no effect on the use of the property.

Several elected officials and candidates attended including Commissioner

Randy Smith, Councilman Marshall Stair and city council candidates Charles Lomax and Amelia Parker. Members of the Norwood Neighborhood Association were also present along with other local residents, business owners and rental property owners.

"We can't figure it out looking at maps!" another woman said. She commented that changes in adjoining properties and neighborhoods would affect their property.

Green commented that changes in the code could benefit owners by raising property values. He said the idea is to "lift zoning to modern standards while minimizing the effect on neighborhoods." Green also replied to one question about how Recode started by saying the planning staff was directed by the mayor and council to propose the changes.

"We're not trying to shove multi-family into a neighborhood," Green responded to another question.

When asked whether Recode would increase student enrollment in schools, Green said that the school system has said that current

schools are not overcrowded. He said that Recode hopes to prepare the county for the estimated 10,000 new residents over the next ten years.

"We need to keep it like it is. We have the MPC and city council, where people can object to changes. We're not doing anything with affordable housing," another resident said.

Green, who was involved in a similar effort in Asheville, North Carolina, prior to becoming the Knoxville Director, said that the changes proposed for Knoxville are less dramatic than in Asheville.

He said there are no design changes for single family homes and when the home is sold the designations will not change unless the use of the property changes.

He said that the minimum lot size for residential property is increasing and accessory dwelling on residential lots will be permitted but duplexes would require a special use approval. He also said that citizens will have a voice in the planning commission when changes are proposed.

Green, in reply to another

question, said that non-conforming property will remain "grandfathered" with new owners if the use remains the same.

"There's no reason to do this, it's almost communism," one man remarked.

"New developments must conform," Green replied about ReCode.

"This hasn't happened yet," Singh reminded the audience, adding that the meeting is to get opinions and questions and the decision by council has not been made. The council recently voted to send the many changes to the Recode regulations back to the planning commission for approval.

One resident asked why the county, which is growing faster than the city, isn't considering a Recode-type change. Green replied that Recode was a city request and Commissioner Smith said that the county isn't considering changing zoning.

Green told the audience that the idea is to maintain the character of Knoxville as growth in the city continues. He said that non-conforming uses within the proposed plan are becoming "more liberal."



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Councilwoman Seema Singh speaks with Norwood residents during a public session. She told the audience a decision has not been made yet by City Council on the proposed Recode adoption.

One owner of a custom auto shop complained that his business zoning would move to a new category where his type of business would not be permitted. Green replied the business use can stay the same and a new buyer could continue that use.

As the meeting ended many residents stayed around for more questions and to state their objections. Only one person in the meeting seemed to support the

Recode changing, asking another property owner "If it's a zoning name change only and doesn't affect your property, what's your problem?"

Green said that the change is needed to deal with the long list of variances before the city each month.

"We can't wait to do it piecemeal," Green told the audience.

Candidates questioned: Will Knoxville and Knox County ever merge?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Focus is asking the candidates for At Large Seat C several questions in the weeks leading to the August Primary. While At Large Seats A and B and District 5 each have two candidates whose names will appear on the primary and general election only the top two candidates with the most vote in Seat C will progress to the General Election.

The candidates were asked the following question recently. With the city and county sharing many functions, such as the planning commission, Public Building Authority and Knox County Schools: Should the future include a Metro-Type government with the county?

Hubert Smith: What's the future? 10-15-20 years from now? It would take at least 10 years for the effect of a Unification to take full effect. I prefer Unification, because that was the name used when the last attempt was made, and that's what was on the ballot in 1996. It was soundly defeated, because people that live in the county like

what they have, and I don't believe that has changed. It's no small feat to change a county charter. It's akin to "Recode Knoxville," but so much more. The so-called savings that some project are not as easy as one thinks. In my opinion, for this 2019 City of Knoxville Election, the subject is a non-starter.

Amy Midis: I do believe there are areas within city and county government that provide duplicated services and could be consolidated allowing for greater efficiencies and savings for taxpayers. Movement towards consolidation would require more support at the local level from residents as well as greater discussion and details provided by both city and county mayors.

Bob Thomas: Metro government is often talked about, but it is usually a conversation among a few politicians and members of the media. The combining of the local governments would have to have grassroots support. In other words, it has to come from the people up, not from the elected officials down to the people. To date, I have seen no grassroots support for metro government.

Could we combine a few of the services without combining the government? Absolutely! The city already utilizes the county property assessor for tax assessment. Years ago the city relinquished the operation of schools, jails and libraries to the county. Parks and Recreation could possibly be under one roof and perhaps tax collection. Both of these transfers to the county would save money. So if being more efficient and saving money is the goal of consolidation, then these moves should be beneficial.

One of my most important issues is for government to be more efficient and fiscally responsible with our taxpayer money.

Amelia Parker: Any discussion of moving the city of Knoxville/Knox County to a metro government would require an extensive, multi-year public process to determine the effects a merger would have on both city and county residents. It is a discussion I believe we should begin but I would not be able to predict the outcome because I've found more resistance to the idea

than support. County residents do not want their property taxes to double and city residents want to continue enjoying the amenities that a progressive government brings. Meanwhile, I'm concerned about our poor and indigent residents who continue to fall through the cracks, receiving less than needed in both our city and county budgets often because either entity feels it is the responsibility of the other based on who is being served or the type of service being offered. Until a public process is initiated

to explore the potential of a metro-type government, the city and county must work cooperatively to meet the basic needs of all residents in our area.

David Williams: Metro government has been rejected in the past because there was no significant reduction in duplicated positions of authority. County residents were never convinced their tax bills would be reduced. Metro would weaken power of neighborhoods as government would be too centralized.

Council to talk community improvement

Cont. from page 1

Another resolution may be approved to execute documents needed for the South Knoxville Bridge Greenway through TDOT funding.

One item on the agenda is a placeholder for a contract extension on the purchase and redevelopment of the former State Supreme Court building.

The Office of Sustainability is asking the council, on first reading, to reduce administrative costs and procedures to allow for domestic chicken permits in the city.

In the "consent" category of items to be voted on as a group is a \$400 donation from Community Improvement Funds to go to the

North Knoxville Business and Professional Association to market efforts to brand the area "Uptown North."

Other consent funds on the agenda include funds for: UUNIK Academy toward a Summer Project; The Centro Hispano de East Tennessee for social enterprise effectiveness program; Legacy Parks as an agent for South Woodlawn Neighborhood for announcement banners; West Hills Elementary for a playground project; and to Gresham Middle School PTSO for services provided there.

The council may also confirm nominations for members and officers to the Mayor's Council on Disability Issues.



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Getting to know Rick Emmett

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Focus likes to sit and chat with public officials, private citizens, or just about anyone we find of interest. Rick Emmett is Knoxville's downtown coordinator and has served under four mayors. The Kentucky native relocated here and has a background you might not expect including a past in coal mining and surveying.

Tell us a little about your family.

Well, I'm from Middlesboro, Kentucky. My mom and dad still live up there. My mom has been the administrative assistant for several mayors there. I have a brother and sister who live here in Knoxville and another sister in Lexington, Ky. My grandfather was chief of police



PHOTO BY DAVID BUUCK

Knoxville Focus reporter Mike Steely talks with Rick Emmett about his position as Knoxville's Downtown Coordinator, his family and his background.

in Middlesboro, Kentucky and my great-grandfather was sheriff of Bell County and later served on the executive board of UMWA under John L. Lewis.

My wife, Alta, and I have been married 36 years, together 41. We went to high school together. We have two daughters, Natalie and Hayley.

What is your official position and how is it working for you?

My official position is Special Assistant to the Mayor and my working title is Downtown Coordinator. Special operations is what the job really is and it involves things that other departments don't do, for instance the census. I am the census liaison for the city for Census 2020. We need more workers there, there's a shortage, and the census is a pretty good job.

Is your position affecting your other interests?

No, my family knows I've always been interested in everything we do here at the city. My whole career I've made myself available after hours, social media, etc. With my title as downtown

Continue on page 2

E-911 closer to choosing a director

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management District is closer to picking a new director according to Knoxville Fire Chief Stan Sharp. He heads the personnel committee and said Wednesday that 28 applications have been received.

Mayor Madeline Rogero chaired the meeting and Rob Link filled in for Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs.

Sharp, in addressing the E-911 board, said that his committee would meet the following day to go through the applications and narrow down the list before presenting it to the selection committee. Alan Bull, who has been serving as interim director, was absent from Wednesday's E-911 meeting due to a medical condition. He has agreed to continue to serve until a replacement is found.

John Fugate, who heads the finance committee, reported on a tentative approved budget that will include a 2% pay increase for employees. The \$11,296,579 budget request was approved by the board with some questions about the details. Although comments were requested from the visitors no public statements were given.

The budget has an increase of \$398,000 over the current allotment according to Kim White, administration office manager.

Attorney Don Howe reported there are six legal cases pending in Chattanooga against two companies. He said the suits, involving other counties, will see the E-911's share at \$20,531. He said the fund is used to prepare for the case and to obtain necessary expert witnesses.

The E-911 board voted to support state legislation to return the funding from cell phone charges back to \$1.50 which would bring about \$2 million to the city-county emergency system.

The tech committee reported that some equipment must be updated to work with a system purchased last year. Brad Anders moved to allot the funds not to exceed \$250,000 for the necessary equipment.

The next meeting of the E-911 board is set for October 16.

RAM commemorates the 75th anniversary of D-Day

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

The spirit of the late philanthropist Stan Brock was present as Remote Area Medical honored veterans during the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. The services, held in the hangar at Island Home Air Field, drew hundreds of people to RAM's 16th annual event on Sunday, June 9.

A RAM airplane which flew during World War II provided an impressive backdrop to the ceremony, which was patriotic and emotional.

Master of Ceremonies John Becker of WBIR, spoke briefly and introduced special guests. Chaplain Jeffrey King of the Tennessee National Guard gave the invocation. The Tennessee Wind Symphony played patriotic music and the service songs of all five military services. The Volunteer State Veterans Honor Guard presented the colors and Sgt. Ron Kirby of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1079 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A presentation about prisoners of war and missing in action veterans was presented by Douglas Burt of the VFW Blount County Memorial Post 5154. Knoxville's

James D. "Bud" Mynatt, Jr. was honored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mynatt was an Army Air Corp pilot who flew the first of his 35 combat missions to support the D-Day invasion.

Gold Star Mothers, who lost sons or daughters in combat, were honored with flowers.

The highlight of the event came as Becker was joined by WATE's Tearsa Smith and WVLT's Anne Brock to honor Stan Brock's memory of D-Day and his support of veterans. Brock passed away last year and a recording of his voice, from 5 years ago, was played.

"Stan formed RAM when he was 45, showing all of us that we have many chapters in our life," Becker told the large audience. RAM is a major nonprofit provider of free mobile clinics for those in need.

"On D-Day Stan recalled seeing the thousands of paratroopers flying out from England that fateful day," Becker said.

Smith read the works of Stan Brock who recalled that as a youth he and his mother were only 26 miles away from the war. He recalled watching American soldiers stationed in England



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Holly Matthews and Jane Jolly of the Daughters of American Revolution present the Distinguished Citizen Medal and Proclamation to James D. "Bud" Mynatt Jr. for his service during WWII and his combat flights that included D-Day. The presentation was done at Island Home Air Field during Remote Area Medical's Salute to Veterans earlier this month.

playing baseball and the women who served or supported the war effort.

Anne Brock used Stan Brock's words to describe the WWII

struggle, saying that the allied forces invaded and defeated Germany "not for conquest but for the liberation of nations."



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Rick Emmett

Father's Day Thoughts

Cont. from page 1

coordinator I get a ton of people who contact me or call me and I usually don't mind.

Tell me a bit about your past.

I was a coal miner for 15 years. I'm a licensed surveyor in Kentucky and Tennessee and I surveyed deep mines and surface mines for large coal companies.

What brought you to Knoxville?

After working for almost fourteen years, in the 1980s, the coal seams started playing out. I was offered a transfer to Colorado but I opened a small Surveying office in Middlesboro and then a satellite office in Corbin, Ky. I saw an advertisement in the paper about a position in Knoxville. At the time I didn't know what the position was but it had to do with mapping and computers and required a surveying background. I applied for it and they called me in for an interview. That was under Mayor Victor Ashe.

They told me it was a coat-and-tie job and I'd be in the office all day long writing descriptions and researching property. My usual attire was a hardhat and boots but I went

and bought myself a suit, came in for the interview and there were 20 people in the room. I was intimidated. As I went back to my truck my wife asked me how it went and I told her I was the best-dressed guy there in my brand new suit.

About nine or ten months later they called me and asked if I was still interested in the job. I said "maybe." I ended up getting hired by the city and Victor was good to me. I started getting into all these other areas of interest and slowly got out of my surveying business. I've enjoyed it and I'm now in my 27th year. I could have retired a few years ago but I'd like to stay a few more years. I feel pretty good and I think I am getting something done.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of your position?

I'm a gardener and play guitar. I'm not great at it but it's relaxing and I've been doing it for years.

What do you see as your main accomplishments in your life?

My main accomplishments so far include having a wonderful family and helping Knoxville continue to be a wonderful place to live and do business. I have either written

or been heavily involved in the creation of almost all of the political boundaries in Knox County through my involvement in redistricting locally from city council, county commission and school board districts, and of course the Knoxville city limit.

How do you think other people see you?

I hope other people see me as someone who loves his family and friends and someone they can call on when they need some help

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

That is very hard to say because every decision leads to something else. Probably getting out of the coal business at an earlier age.

What do you think of metro-form government in the future?

I am not a fan of metro government. I don't think it reduces government and it takes away some of the local decision making.

If you had one thing in your position that is very satisfactory what would that be?

Being involved in a wide variety of issues that impacts the daily life of many people combined with getting to meet and become friends with a large group of folks I would not have known if I did not have this job.

What's your favorite meal or place to dine?

A steak on my back deck.

How would you like to be remembered?

As someone who loved his family and his friends and someone who tried to improve the lives of others.

Yesterday was Father's Day. I spent some time with son Dallas and talked on the phone with daughter Lacey and Josh Fritts, a former student whom my family claimed as one of our own when he was a junior in high school, thirty years ago. Most of the day, Amy and I enjoyed being together at home. I never take this special day for granted.

When I was a boy, my dad didn't have much time for Father's Day. His shift work at the mill sometimes caused him to be absent on the Sunday when he was to be celebrated. We attended church when he was home, and I remember the one hymn that we always sang was "This Is My Father's World." We presented Daddy with things we'd made at Sunday School, and Mother always gave him some small gift. That seemed to be fine with the man because he never wanted any special treatment or gifts.

The last Father's Day with my dad was in 1965. He was in the last stages



By Joe Rector
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of lung cancer, and it's possible that he spent the day in the hospital. He passed the last day of August that same year. Jim and I were 13.

For years, the day honoring dads was gloomy at our house. We always remembered Daddy and agonized over his absences. On some days, I felt sorry for myself and whined about not having a dad like most of my friends. My attitude wasn't admirable, but it was honest.

I adopted a dad when I married Amy. Her stepdad, Vaden Netherton, and I became good friends, and I always enjoyed spending time with him. He loved our two children and spoiled them rotten. Vaden was also one of the best persons whom I had ever met. I only heard him speak ill of another individual one time. I enjoyed spending those special days with him and being able to give him presents that for so long I hadn't been able to give to a father figure. The same kind of cancer that

took Daddy stole him from us, and I grieved as much when he died as I did when Daddy died.

One of my biggest blessings in life has been being a dad. I can recall most every moment of the days Lacey and Dallas were born, and the memories of my first looks at both of them still make me smile. My two children have always made my life fuller, and they've been quick to keep me in line when I've roared too loudly or fussed too much. Their mother's guidance led them to being the kind of individuals whom others respect. I have always been proud of "three" children, including Josh, and brag about them to anyone who will listen.

Father's Day is special for us men. Sure, we always appreciate the attention and gifts and meals that come with it. However, we know that it is we who should hold celebrations for the children in our lives and for the women who have brought them to us. Thank you for making my life better than it ever could have been without you, Lacey, Dallas, Josh, and ... Amy. I love you all.

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Picture of Rose of Sharon, by Ralphine Major

Rose of Sharon

It is a fascinating plant to watch. The beautiful white petals with deep-red markings open up wide in the morning as if to greet a new day. A bush with only a single Rose of Sharon flower may be covered with blooms by day's end.



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

But after they make their appearance, the flowers

know just when to close up and rest for the night. It is amazing to see the transformation of the spindly branches of winter with no life, no color, and no beauty turn into nature's work of art.

The Rose of Sharon flowers are much like our lives. We wake up in the morning to meet the day as

we go about our work and activities. Then, we bid the world good night. While trying to get the perfect picture of the amazing Rose of Sharon, I happened by just in time to capture a bee in the middle of the bloom.

As summer approaches, take a moment of each day to look at all the beauty summer brings us from the mighty hands of our Creator. Even if only to observe a single flower, enjoy the beauty it brings. Happy Summer!



HISTORY peeking at YOU

The Merita Bread sign once topped the bakery on Central Street in North Knoxville. The building now houses **Angelic Ministries** but the original sign has been preserved. Preserving old signs on buildings or free-standing billboards adds a sense of history to our area. (Photo by Mike Steely)

All around Knoxville the city's history is winking at you although you may not have noticed. Here and there on some of the older buildings, if you look closely enough, you can see the past appearing as faded or painted-over business names or advertisements on the brick walls.

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Crump Goes To Congress, I

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Edward Hull Crump, master of the machine that ruled Memphis and Shelby County for decades, held a variety of elected offices -- Mayor of Memphis, county Trustee, but most have forgotten he was also elected to Congress. Elective office was not essential to either Crump's rule or ego; in fact, for most of his reign, E. H. Crump ruled his domain from his business office downtown without holding any elected position.

Crump had ousted an antagonistic mayor in 1927 when he fought a bitter battle with Rowlett Paine. That particular election helped to consolidate Crump's power in Memphis and Shelby County; to accomplish that feat, Crump struck an alliance with the black community.

A great many African-Americans in Shelby County steadfastly remained Republicans and some readily made a bargain with Crump to oust Mayor Paine. It proved to be a poor bargain as black voters became part and parcel of the Crump machine and it eroded the strength of African-American Republicans over the years.

With the installation of Crump's new mayor, Watkins Overton, the Memphis Boss began to think about other things. On June 10, 1930 Edward H. Crump filed a petition to run for Congress from Tennessee's Tenth District. Crump's announcement came as a surprise to virtually everyone, not the least of which was Congressman Hubert Fisher.

Fisher had served in the House of Representatives since 1917 when Kenneth D. McKellar had vacated his seat in Congress to run for the U. S. Senate. Prior to being elected to Congress, Hubert Fisher had served as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, an appointment he received largely through the efforts of Congressman McKellar. Only fifty-three years old at the time, Fisher was stunned by Crump's announcement, which drew banner headlines across the state. Crump did not bother to tell Congressman Fisher he was running.

Once the Memphis Boss qualified for Congress, Hubert Fisher sent a wire from Washington stating "if Mr. Crump is a candidate for this office, I am not to be considered as such." There was little Fisher could do save for step aside. Increasingly deaf, Fisher retired from the profession of law and Congress and engaged in the nursery business.

Crump did not merely enter the Congressional race, but arrived with a program, which he immediately announced. The Memphis Boss said he would "vote and work for

educational advancement, education being the basis of all progress." It was Crump's opinion education merited "money, time and real labor" in abundance.

Moreover Crump believed "the United States government should cooperate with every city, county and state in their educational programs."

The Memphis Boss said if he was elected to Congress his "sincere efforts" would be given to "aid industry, agriculture and good roads" all of which was essential to "the progress and prosperity of the country."

Crump promised to help veterans "for they did heroic and patriotic work most unselfishly" as well a labor. Crump did say he was "unalterably opposed to the high tariff being foisted on the people by the Republican party at the behest of big and tremendous money interests."

The election was a mere formality. Crump did have a Republican opponent, one Herbert Harper, in the general election. Crump crushed Harper. Prior to taking the oath of office, Congressman-elect E. H. Crump was more concerned with events taking place in Tennessee.

Crump had endorsed Governor Henry Horton, saying, "I will vote for Governor Horton with the greatest pleasure and I hope every taxpayer and citizen in this community will show his or her appreciation for the assistance he has given us by rolling up a tremendous majority for him in the August primary."

Crump had predicted the governor's opponent would not carry a single precinct in Shelby County. Since Crump's warm endorsement of Henry Horton, the State of Tennessee had lost the bulk of its money, which the governor had placed in the care of Rogers Caldwell. The House of Caldwell failed after the stock market crash and the taxpayers' money evaporated over night.

Naturally, Tennesseans were livid and Crump declared, "This present crisis is a bitter disappointment. Confidence must be restored in the government of Tennessee."

The Shelby County delegation in the Tennessee General Assembly would make every effort to impeach Governor Horton upon the express instructions of E. H. Crump. The alliance with Henry Horton had been temporary in any event.

Horton was under the influence of former U. S. senator Luke Lea, whom Crump cordially hated. It likely did not bother the Memphis Boss in the least to turn his fury on Governor Horton and Crump was disappointed when the effort to impeach Horton failed



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

E. H. Crump (right) and his wife, Bessie, March 1937.

only narrowly.

Crump was present when Scott P. Fitzhugh of Memphis was fighting a close battle with W. K. Selmer of Selmer for the speakership of the State Senate. After a deadlock and numerous ballots, Fitzhugh was finally elected. Congressman-elect Crump was sitting nearby when Fitzhugh made his acceptance speech.

Naturally, Crump's arrival in Nashville did not escape the notice of the news media. Quizzed about why he was at the State Capitol, Crump replied, "I'm interested in the investigation (of Governor Horton) and also anything that might be corrective in the management of the state's affairs. Then I'm through." The Memphis Boss swatted away any notion he would attempt to "dictate" the running of Tennessee's government.

"The state has a governor and a legislature elected by the people," Crump snapped. "It would be poor taste on my part to even presume to try and suggest or dictate how state affairs should be run."

It was not long before Congressman Crump had fallen out with Senate Speaker Scott Fitzhugh. The cause of the break was oddly a relatively minor bill considered by the legislature regarding the showing of movies on Sundays in Memphis.

Crump did not like the bill, which Fitzhugh supported. Fitzhugh, along with Speaker of the House Walter "Pete" Haynes traveled to Memphis to meet with Crump personally in an attempt to resolve the differences between the senator and the Boss.

Evidently, the trip was unsuccessful and rumors continued to swirl around the breach between E. H. Crump and Scott Fitzhugh. Crump's difficulties with Speaker Fitzhugh did nothing to facilitate the investigation of Governor Henry Horton's administration and the loss of most of Tennessee's money.

Crump returned to Nashville and issued a sizzling statement as banks across Tennessee failed. The Memphis Boss flayed Rogers Caldwell and Luke Lea, who was a business partner of the House of Caldwell.

Crump mercilessly berated "derelict officials," which included the governor, State Treasurer

John Nolan, State Bank Commissioner D. D. Robertson, Comptroller Edgar Graham, and Highway Commissioner Robert H. Baker.

"Every individual who has stuck his wicked claws into the state's affairs for personal gain, whether he be Luke Lea, Rogers Caldwell or anyone else, should be dealt with most severely, just as the poor ragged individual is handled in the criminal courts every day and given a free ride on the long chain," Crump cried.

Crump complained, "The governor of our state, Henry H. Horton, sat in his office, supine and docile, an easy prey for designing, selfish interests, gougers in the taxpayers' money, and has permitted possible mismanagement of commonwealth affairs."

Using his typically colorful language, the Memphis Boss thundered, "The result of this colorless and inefficient non-executive's feeble attempt to run the state makes it clear that he was possessed solely with the illuminating and brilliant idea of being governor in name only."

Crump snarled Treasurer John Nolan "by his own admission" was utterly "unfit to handle the taxpayers' money."

Crump described State Comptroller Edgar Graham as "dear, dumb and blind" and noted "says nothing, does nothing, and practically admits he is nothing."

As E. H. Crump was giving his enemies hell, Governor Henry Horton was issuing his own statement, insisting he would never resign his office. "I shall not resign. I will stand, answer and defend until the end," Governor Horton said.

The governor also had a few choice words for Crump, who had just taken the oath of office as the Congressman from Tennessee's Tenth District. "Mr. E. H. Crump, the political purist and loud shouting moral uplifter, has come to Nashville with his usual bodyguard and issued his manifesto, bearing all the earmarks of a Mexican revolutionist, demanding that I be impeached, seeking to direct and coerce the legislature and have himself declared the imperial dictator of Tennessee. He demands and commands that this be done now."

Governor Horton then sounded his note of

defiance. "I will not be impeached and Tennessee will not be humiliated and disgraced by this impudent political boss."

Horton snapped, "I shall not plead guilty to those articles and resign as Mr. Crump did when ouster proceedings were filed against him as mayor of Memphis in 1915 for a violation of his oath of office..."

One causality of the war with Governor Horton and the movie bill was Senate Speaker Scott Fitzhugh who resigned in May of 1931.

By June the Nashville Tennessean proclaimed in headlines "Crump Machine Nears Rocks..." The Tennessean, owned by Crump's political opponent Luke Lea, had a "roving political reporter" who claimed Crump's organization was ready to revolt due to the Memphis Boss's "bad generalship." It was wishful thinking on the part of the Tennessean as Crump remained completely in control in Memphis and Shelby County.

Crump trumpeted his prediction Mayor Watkins Overton would easily be reelected. "The opposition, such as it is, who usually plan without planning, and are loud noise but weak doctrine, could not beat Mayor Overton and other four commissioners if they had every officer at the polls and the state guard to back them up," Crump boasted.

"We have never failed at the polls," Crump reminded a reporter. That statement was not quite true; Clifford Davis, backed by the Ku Klux Klan, was so personally popular, he had managed to win election over Crump's opposition.

The effort to oust Governor Henry Horton failed only narrowly in the state legislature. Luke Lea and Henry Horton used the power of the governor's office ruthlessly to remain in office. Lea's newspaper labored mightily to frighten the people of Tennessee by raising the specter of Ed Crump running the state government should Horton be impeached.

Crump had eased into his new responsibilities as congressman for Tennessee's Tenth District. In late June of 1931, Congressman Crump sent a wire to President Herbert Hoover endorsing the chief executive's war debt proposal.

Crump urged his

colleagues in the House of Representatives to support the President's plan irrespective of political party. Crump stated economic conditions in the world warranted "the rich American government in postponing the payment of all inter-governmental debts for one year."

Crump, a highly successful businessman, likely knew all too well the governments across the globe could not and would not keep up with their payments to the United States for debts incurred during World War I.

Crump was one of many luminaries invited to a barbecue held at the farm owned by labor leader George L. Berry in East Tennessee honoring senior United States senator Kenneth D. McKellar. Crump, like McKellar, was an early supporter of New York governor Franklin D. Roosevelt for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Crump announced his support for Roosevelt on September 26, 1931. The Memphis Boss said a "Roosevelt for president club" was being formed in Shelby County. Mayor Watkins Overton, standing beside Crump, was wearing a lapel pin declaring "America calls for another Roosevelt."

Roosevelt's march toward the Democratic nomination was impeded by 1928 standard-bearer and former New York governor Alfred E. Smith; Crump stated he thought while Smith "would make a fine United States senator from New York" or perhaps a Cabinet officer but added, "I don't believe he can be elected president."

For much of the next year, Ed Crump would make it a personal priority to elect Franklin D. Roosevelt President of the United States.

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AROUND TOWN with Ronnie Collins

Free shows at Market Square

The City of Knoxville and First Century Bank provide free concerts on Market Square every Tuesday and Thursday night all summer long with the Concerts on the Square series.



By Ronnie Collins

Tuesday nights are dedicated to Jazz. Performers vary from the Karns Middle School Jazz Band, the UT Saxophone Ensemble, the Knoxville Jazz Youth Orchestra and the Knoxville

Jazz Orchestra, plus many more Jazz groups. Thursday nights are dedicated to a sampling of a wide variety of local bands such as the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Swing Time Band, Barry Jolly Pirates on the Patio, Mike Snodgrass and the Square on the Square on June 27.

Square on the Square will be a square dancing event. All the

concerts are free. No alcohol or food is sold at the event, but there are many food and beverage opportunities available on Market Square.

The concerts will held through August 27 for the Tuesday Jazz series from 8-10 p.m., and the Variety Thursday concert series runs through June 27 from 7-9 p.m. You should bring your lawn chairs and come out and enjoy a nice night on Market Square with some great music.



PHOTO BY RONNIE COLLINS.

The Michael Snodgrass band performs at Market Square. There's free music each week and you're invited to bring your lawn chairs and be a part of downtown.

Caswell Park was once part of Bill Meyer Stadium

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

With so much local talk now about bringing the Smokies back to town the only remaining reminder of those days is Caswell Park, where the professional ball teams used to play in the days of Bill Meyer Stadium.

I've been playing Senior Softball now and then at Caswell Park and, not being originally from Knoxville, didn't really know the history of that iconic park. The softball fields are located just across the street from the O'Connor Senior Center just off Magnolia Avenue in East Knoxville. Today the area is much different than it was 50 years ago.

I remember, as a youth my Babe Ruth League baseball team from Williamsburg, Ky., visited the Bill Meyers Stadium as a team outing. The pro team, which I suppose was the Smokies, were playing and we were seated in the stands. I was an outfielder and saw a leftfielder chase a fly ball and catch the ball behind his back.

My coach turned to me and said something like, "Did you see that?" He then added "Don't do that."

Those memories flooded back as I took my position in the outfield on one

Senior Softball day recently. I knew I should probably do some research on the fields and the old stadium.

Caswell Park, named for William Caswell who donated the land for a park and a ballfield, was opened in 1916. Caswell was a long-time fan of baseball and took part in what was possibly the first baseball game in the state in 1865. The park today has the Ashley Nicole Dream Playground, one of the city's first accessible playgrounds, located across from the softball fields. The playground is large and has restrooms and a shelter.

Also in the park is the Ridley-Helton Baseball Field, once part of the Bill Meyer Stadium. Todd Helton, a Central High School graduate and a former first baseman for the Colorado Rockies, donated the money for the field's improvements. Ridley was a Knoxville businessman who partnered with John Duncan Sr. to bring professional baseball to Knoxville and owned the team until 1980.

Four softball fields circle the Sam Anderson Pavilion, a tribute to the many years of service by Anderson as the Knoxville Parks and

Recreation Director.

Anderson was the first African American to head the department of operations for the city and retired after 34 years of service, having served also on the school board and as a teacher at Sara Moore Greene Elementary School. As parks and recreation director, Anderson tripled the number of city parks. The Sam Anderson Pavilion was designed to fit in with the architecture of the neighborhood with a wrap-around porch with rocking chairs, a concession stand, restrooms and a press box.

All in all Caswell Park has just over 37 acres, four softball fields, a baseball field, a playground, two concession stands, open space for events, three restroom facilities, access to the First Creek Greenway and parking for 504 vehicles.

Next to the park is the John T. O'Connor Senior Center and the Cansler Family YMCA.

A plaque at the park, placed there in 2008, recalls the history of the ballfields there and the days when Knoxville Smokies, the Knoxville Sox or K-Sox, and the Knoxville Jays played there.

The Knoxville Smokies became the Tennessee Smokies when the team moved from downtown to Kodak. The team owner, now interim UT President Randy Boyd, has made hints of bringing professional minor league baseball back to town. The history of baseball in Knoxville goes way back to 1909. Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero has mentioned the effort and supports it but is leaving any financial contribution up to the next mayor and city council.

Boyd bought 6 acres from Knox Rail Salvage but hadn't announced plans for a stadium although he has been in talks with the city.

One thing caught my eye inside the fields, a water fountain standing between the softball diamonds near the Sam Anderson Pavilion in Caswell Park. It appears to be oddly out of place in the modern softball complex - a tall, single drinking fountain made of iron and with a rich patina that recalls much earlier days. I don't know if the drinking fountain is original to the stadium or was placed there after the stadium was demolished. Photo by Mike Steely.



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LEADING THE WAY! STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

The Knoxville Focus' annual feature recognizing local TSSAA member high schools' female and male Student-Athletes of the Year continues in today's issue with its third week of honorees.

Each high school chooses a girl and boy who stood out in academics and athletics during the school year and athletic directors were requested to send in the information.

In the spotlight this week are honorees from Central, Halls, Karns, Knoxville Catholic and Tennessee School for the Deaf.

The feature will continue through the month of June.



Central's Alyssa Montgomery will continue her award-winning golf career at Virginia Tech.

Karns' male honoree gets head start at Oklahoma State

By Steve Williams

Thomas Harper graduated early from Karns High and got a head start on his collegiate football career at Oklahoma State University. He had already done enough for the Beavers as one of the state's top wide receivers to earn the title of male Student-Athlete of the Year at KHS. "Thomas is a terrific

athlete that had 19 touchdowns and over 1,400 total yards," noted Karns Athletic Director Tucker Jackson. "He also had 92 tackles and an interception returned for a touchdown on defense."

Harper indeed was a special player.

He also excelled in the class room with a 3.4 grade point average, **Cont. on page 3**

From start to finish, Montgomery was one of state's best

By Steve Williams

Alyssa Montgomery was a picture of consistency in golf throughout her high school career at Central and is the female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2018-19.

The Virginia Tech signee capped her highly successful run with a round of 70 and a third place finish in the TSSAA Large Class state tournament, which was shortened to 18 holes at Willowbrook Golf Club in Manchester because of inclement weather.

It was her fourth straight trip to the

state, where she had placed sixth, fifth and seventh in her first three years.

Montgomery made her mark quickly in the Region 2 tournament, posting a record 65 her freshman year, and then went on to become a four-time Region 2 champion – the first time a boy or girl had accomplished such a feat, according to Central Coach Tony Patterson.

Alyssa won the District 3 crown three times, and after not winning as a sophomore, she bounced back

to capture All-State honors for the first time with her fifth place showing at state. The following season, she won the district tourney with a scoring record 68.

In all, she captured 10 individual titles in high school tourneys and improved her distance hitting the ball by 15 to 20 yards by the time she was a senior.

Patterson, who stepped down from his coaching post after 15 years at the end of the season, called

Continued on page 2

Jamboree to kickoff HS football season

By Ken Lay

The 2019 high school is looming and it will unofficially kickoff on Friday, Aug. 16 with the annual Knoxville Orthopaedic Clinic Kickoff Classic at Neyland Stadium.

The event, which raises money to offset insurance costs for high school athletes, will begin at 6 p.m. and 16 teams will participate in eight one-quarter games.

Gibbs and Webb will open action. Other games include:

Austin-East vs. Campbell County; South-Doyle vs. Bearden; Central vs. Karns; Fulton vs. Farragut; West vs. Carter; Powell vs. Hardin Valley Academy and Halls vs. The King's Academy.

Some storylines to watch at the jamboree include a pair of longtime and successful coaches returning to Knox County, Central beginning defense of its 2018 Class 5A State Championship and a new head coach making his debut at Hardin Valley Academy.

Former West High School coach Scott Cummings returns to Knoxville to coach Halls High.

Cummings, who guided the Rebels to a Class 5A State Title in 2014, left his alma mater to coach Cleveland after leading the Rebels to the Promised Land.

He replaced Jeremy Bosken, who spent just one year with the Red Devils. He and Cummings coached together for the Blue Raiders and Bosken is now at Boyd Buchanan in Southeast Tennessee.

Scott Meadows, who formerly coached at Catholic, Pigeon Forge, William Blount and Alcoa, makes his debut at Carter. He's looking to reverse recent fortunes for the Hornets. He replaces interim coach Vic Wharton, who coached Carter on an interim basis in 2018.

Meadows is the Hornets' third coach in as many seasons and inherits a program that has been plagued by turmoil in recent years.

Meanwhile at Central, coach Bryson Rosser and the Bobcats

are coming off a state title and they'll unofficially begin their title defense against coach Brad Taylor's Beavers.

Hardin Valley went 6-5 and made the Class 6A Playoffs last year but the Hawks will have a new head coach.

Mike Potter, HVA's former defensive coordinator, was recently promoted to head coach.

He replaces Wes Jones, who established HVA's program.

Jones is now an assistant coach at Science Hill.

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LEADING THE WAY! STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Bell definitely gets an 'A' as Central's male honoree

By Steve Williams

Academics, art and athletics all figured into the selection of Cian Bell as Central High School's male Student-Athlete of the Year.

Acting was once a part of Cian's life too, but there are so many hours in the day.

Bell was named a National Merit Commended Student and a National AP Scholar with Distinction. He scored a 5 on all six of his AP exams, 34 on the ACT and had a GPA of 4.46.

Not surprisingly, Cian (pronounced Key-in) was president of the National Honor Society at CHS and co-captain of the academic team.

In his senior year, Bell received a first place in oil painting at the 2019 National Art Honor Society Art show, which was held at the Fountain City Art Center.

He also earned first place in drawing at the 2017 and 2018 shows and had his art work put on display at the Knoxville Museum of Art Student Exhibition.

In athletics, Bell was captain of the school's cross country team and also ran the 1600 and 3200-meter distance events in track.

"I got a late start running in high school and began my sophomore year," he said. "I often thought I might have made it to the

podium if I had started earlier."

Cian still has a shot at being a late bloomer in distance running and plans to try out for the cross country team at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., this fall. If he succeeds, he'll continue in the distance events on the track.

In his senior season, Bell didn't make it to state but qualified for the Sectionals in cross country and track. He finished in the Top 50 in the Region 2 Large Schools Cross Country meet at Victor Ashe Park last fall, and this spring was 12th in the KIL 3200 and 20th in Large Section 1 at Hardin Valley Academy with a time of 10:50.46.

Cian performed on stage at the Clarence Brown Theatre a couple of years when he was in middle school at Gresham and played the role of "the villain" in *To Kill A Mockingbird* at the Knoxville Children's Theatre when he was a ninth grader at Central.

After taking up cross country and the time involved in that sport, he had to make a choice and made the decision to focus on visual arts instead of acting.

Bell is currently training for cross country in college. He put in his first 70-mile week last week.



"My goal is to put in 10 miles per day from here on out this summer," he said.

Cian has been in touch with cross country coach Brandon Spalding at Washington and Lee. "Coach said there are no guarantees, but if I work hard this summer, I have a shot."

Bell plans to major in physics.



Cian Bell, Central High's male Student-Athlete of the Year, will continue his education and hopefully cross country and track career too at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Above left, Cian Bell and his winning art work including an oil painting of his "old pair of trainers" and a charcoal drawing of a hand under a waterfall. Above, Central's Cian Bell leads the way in a 4x800 relay event during this spring's outdoor track season.

From start to finish, Montgomery was one of state's best

Cont. from page 1

Montgomery "a cerebral golfer" and praised her consistency.

Alyssa drew national attention the spring of her freshman year when she won the girls' age 14-15 division of the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals, which was played at the historic Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters.

Montgomery's prep

career also saw her win three AJGA titles and have 13 Top 10 finishes plus receive honorable mention on two All-America teams.

In addition to golf, Alyssa earned the Character Star Athlete award as a member of the Lady Bobcats' bowling team and also was on the school's Robotics team.

She hopes to major in environmental engineering.

Renfree tries to break 4-minute mile in final prep race

By Steve Williams

Jake Renfree went into his last high school race with the goal of breaking the four-minute mark in the mile run.

He came up short, but just to be good enough to even think about doing it puts him in rare company.

Renfree, Knoxville Catholic's male Student-Athlete of the Year, ran the high school mile run in 4:05.90 Saturday night, June 1, at the 17th annual Music City Distance Carnival at Vanderbilt University.

Renfree finished third behind Cole Sprout of Highlands Ranch, Colorado (4:04.19) and Cruz Culpepper of Niwot, Colorado (4:04.82).

Only about 10 high school runners have broken the four-minute mark since Jim Ryun became the first to do it with a 3:59.0 in 1964 as a junior at Wichita East High in Kansas. Ryun's time of 3:55.3 in 1965 was a high school record that stood for



Olivia Cunningham was a two-time All-Stater in volleyball for the Lady Irish and will continue her athletic career at ETSU. Catholic athletic director calls Jake Renfree "the most decorated and accomplished student athlete in our school's history."

36 years.

Alan Webb of South Lakes High in Reston, Va., currently holds the prep record in the mile, having run a 3:53.43 at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Ore., on May 27, 2001.

Renfree had mentioned at this spring's KIL meet that he might make things interesting in the mile run at the Music City event, a week after the TSSAA state meet.

Renfree said his time was a personal record and "a pretty good improvement" over his previous PR outdoor time of 4:08.

"I was looking for that four minute mile, but I think that's just not something I'm ready for yet," added the Notre Dame signee. "I thought the race went pretty well and I'm happy with how I did."

"I think it's something I'm definitely going to go

after in college my freshman year.

"The MCDC was the last race of the summer for me and therefore the last race of my high school career."

Jake said he would be training this summer with former teammates who are still running in college until he leaves for South Bend in mid-August.

Renfree won the 1600 and 800-meter events in the TSSAA Large Class state meet in May, giving him nine state titles in his high school career in track and cross country.

His last two years were like a whirlwind of success.

Renfree was the 2018-19 Gatorade Cross Country Runner of the Year and National High School Coaches Association Cross Country Runner of the Year. Jake also was a two-time USA High School All-American Runner.

"This year alone, he has traveled to New York,

Continued on page 4

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Steve Waugh named Powell Middle boys hoops coach

By Ken Lay

When the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference season tips off in October, a new man will be roaming the sideline as coach of the Powell boys basketball team.

But he's no stranger to the school or the basketball programs. He's also a life-long member of the community.

Steve Waugh was recently tapped to replace Darin Courtney, who retired from coaching after legendary 17-year tenure as Powell's boys coach.

"I'm a Powell guy," said Waugh, who served as an assistant to Courtney over the last two seasons and doubled as coach of the

Lady Panthers last season. "It's my alma mater as far as the high school goes.

"And I went to the middle school and to Powell Elementary too. So I'm a Powell guy. I'm blessed to have the opportunity to have this job and I look forward to a great year. We have three guys back from last year's team and I'm going to rely heavily on those guys to be our leaders next season."

Waugh knows he has some huge shoes to fill as Courtney took the Powell basketball program to new heights, but the new coach wouldn't want to be anywhere else. In addition to coaching, he serves as a special education teacher.

"The only place that I would've ever taken the boys job is at Powell," Waugh said. "At Powell, you have the support of a great administration and you have big crowds.

"Our staff comes to all of our games and you have the support of a great community. I'm blessed to have this job and I couldn't have worked for a better head coach than Coach Courtney. "He was a great coach and we have a great friendship."

He's also received some support and encouragement from Ernie Israel, another longtime Powell Middle coach. Powell High coach Gary Barnes is also a big supporter of the middle

school program, which posted a third-place finish in the state tournament in 2019 after winning a sectional title.

"Coach Israel called and congratulated me on getting the job and he told me to let him know if there was anything he could do to help," Waugh said. "Coach Barnes also reached out to me."

All coaches want to make an impact on their new program out of the gate and Waugh is no exception. But Waugh said that many things will be similar to what Powell Middle School fans are accustomed to seeing.

"We'll continue to play Powell basketball," he said.

"We'll work hard and we'll play hard for 24 minutes.

"Part of playing Powell basketball is playing good hard-nosed defense."

Away from the middle school hardwood, Waugh is an avid fan of University of Tennessee athletic, the Boston Red Sox and the Boston Celtics.

Waugh has already enjoyed success as a head coach at Powell. He coached the Lady Panthers to a fourth-place finish in the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament. Powell was a No. 7 seed in the tourney.

With the boys team, Waugh will face some tough competition as he matches

wits with some great coaches. Knox County teams participated in sectional and state tournaments for the first time.

Powell, West Valley and Vine all made it to sectionals. The Panthers and Wolves and Golden Bears all made deep postseason runs. The Panthers beat Vine in the sectional title game.

"This league is really tough and you have talented players and great coaches," Waugh said. "If you make it through the county tournament as one of the top three seeds; and make the sectionals, you've really done something.

"You saw how tough our

Continued on page 4

LEADING THE WAY!

TSD's Phillips is a two-sport All-American

By Steve Williams

MarCreshia Phillips will go down as one of Tennessee School for the Deaf's all-time greats in girls' athletics.

Phillips, the TSD Student-Athlete of the Year, was named a first-team All-American in volleyball and basketball by the National Deaf Interscholastic Athletic Association in the 2018-19 school year.

The NDIAA is the national association recognizing Deaf student-athletes across the United States.

"Her senior year was something to remember," said TSD Athletic Director Luke Benson.

With the 5-9 Phillips leading the way, the Lady Vikings were the NDIAA

Division II Co-National Champions in volleyball last fall, after winning the 31st annual Mason Dixon tournament and two Spike-Out Championships at Kentucky and Alabama.

Phillips, TSD's MVP for the season, also was named the Most Valuable Player in Mason Dixon tournament and to the All-District 2A team.

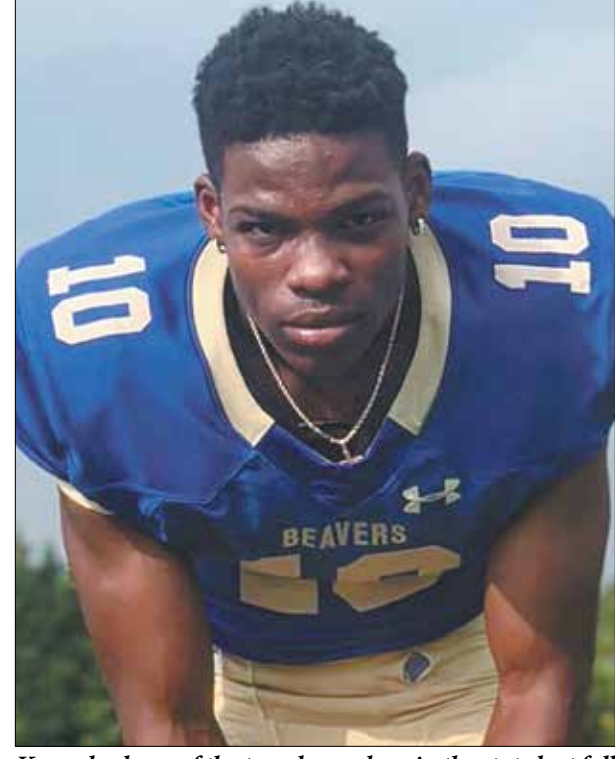
In basketball, Phillips was named All-Mason Dixon Tournament Player



MarCreshia Phillips leaves behind great memories and big holes to fill at TSD.

and to the All-District 2A team.

Benson added: "She has



Karns had one of the top playmakers in the state last fall in Thomas Harper.

Karns' male honoree gets head start at Oklahoma State

Cont. from page 1

pointed out the Karns AD. Harper was able to enroll early at Oklahoma State, where he received a full athletic scholarship.

Brad Taylor, Karns football coach, keeps in touch with Thomas and said earlier this spring that Harper may get some playing time in the Cowboys' secondary this coming season.

Karns' female honoree is Madi Lamon, who excelled in softball as a pitcher and hitter.

She was the ace in the circle for the Lady Beavers and hit five home runs at the plate.



The Lady Beavers' Madi Lamon will continue her education and softball career at Roane State.

Lamon also graduated with a 3.6 GPA and will attend Roane State on a softball scholarship, noted Jackson.

Norris, three-sport standout, is Halls' female honoree

By Steve Williams

Halls High sports fans have to be glad Cassie Norris will be back for another year.

The rising senior and three-sport standout was named the school's female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2018-19. She participated in volleyball, basketball and softball.

"Cassie Norris is one of the most well-rounded athletes we have at HHS," said Athletic Director Meagan Booth. "She's a three-sport athlete and made major contributions in all three sports.

"Cassie, although

naturally athletically talented, will outwork anyone. She has a competitive drive yet a kind heart, a truly powerful combo."

As the leftfielder and No. 3 hitter in the lineup, Norris helped the Lady Devils return to the TSSAA state tournament, where they placed third in Class AAA.

Norris also has a weighted GPA of 4.13, noted Booth.

Senior Ethan Campbell, Halls' male honoree, participated in football and track and field and signed with the University of Tennessee in the latter.

Campbell was a wide



Cassie Norris "has a competitive drive yet a kind heart, a truly powerful combo," said Halls AD Meagan Booth. Halls' Ethan Campbell ranked as one of the top high jumpers in the state this spring and UT likes his potential.



receiver for the Red Devils last fall and ranked as one of the top high jumpers in the state this spring. He had a season-best high jump of 6-8 and finished fifth in the state meet last month.

"Ethan is a great kid of character who displays his work ethic each and every day, both on and off the field," said Booth.

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Where's The Hype? Tennessee Football Not in Forefront

By Alex Norman

By the time you read this article, there will be less than 75 days to go until the Tennessee Volunteers open the 2019 season on August 31st at home against Georgia State.

And there isn't very much chatter about it.

I've lived in Knoxville for nearly 20 years, and don't recall a time when there has been this little anticipation for an upcoming football campaign.

The obvious reason is that many Tennessee fans are finally done buying in without seeing results. For far too long, the Vols have

underachieved. It's hard to believe, but Tennessee hasn't won the SEC East title since 2007. They haven't beaten their biggest rivals very often either. The Vols are winless against Alabama since 2006 and only have one victory against Florida since 2004.

The losses and the disappointments have piled up, and the Vols are still trying to find their way back to the glory days of the Phillip Fulmer era.

But there are other underlying reasons for the lack of attention to the program.

First of all, the new head coach isn't exactly

personality personified. Jeremy Pruitt operates in the mold of Nick Saban. He isn't a big fan of the media obligations that come with the multi-million dollar salary. He allows his assistant coaches to talk about as often as a lunar eclipse. If you are winning like Saban, fans will show up no matter what. But Pruitt is in the middle of a rebuild at Tennessee, so you can't reasonably expect the Vols to be an SEC contender this season.

The flip side this coin is that former Tennessee coach Butch Jones was a carnival barker. Jones was

so concerned with hyping his program that he seemed to forget about player development or learning how to be an in-game coach, which cost the Vols dearly during his five year tenure.

Another reason is the lack of a Big Orange Caravan this year. These were opportunities for fans to get excited about the program across the state and other parts of the southeast. The decision to abandon that for the "Summer of Smokey" took away media attention in Memphis, Nashville, the Tri-Cities... all places where Vols fans live but the passion for the program

remains high.

Part of the current apathy rests in the schedule. The two biggest rivalry games are on the road (Florida, Alabama). Georgia and South Carolina are at home, but the Bulldogs are rolling these days and for whatever reason Tennessee simply can't beat a Will Muschamp led team (4-0 with Florida, 3-0 with the Gamecocks). The Vols other SEC West opponent is Mississippi State, which isn't exactly shaping up to be a can't miss affair. And Tennessee has eight home games as well.

Another factor might

be the success that Tennessee's men's basketball team has been having in recent years. Certainly that's a terrific development, but perhaps fans only have so much of their attention to give.

Of course we haven't even hit late June as of yet, and once SEC Media Days get underway in mid-July, and then practice starts in early August. So the present day quiet will cease to an extent.

But Tennessee needs to give their fans a reason to get excited again.

And the easiest way to do that is to win some games.



On May 22, the CBFO 11-13 softball championship game was played in Farragut. The Brewers won the title with a 6-5 victory over the Cardinals. Anna French had the walk-off base hit in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Local players honored by district softball coaches

By Ken Lay

The King's Academy softball team won a third Division II-A State Softball Championship in May, so it was no surprise that the Lady Lions had several players named to the All-Division II-A East Region District 1 Team by the league's coaches recently.

Regan Weekly, who was the Gatorade Player of the Year, shared District Most Valuable Player Honors with Grace Christian Academy's Sydney Feistner.

The Lady Lions also had Madison Webber, Hayden Jenkins, Blayne King, Kaylan Cole and Kaitlyn Norris named to the all-district team.

The Lady Rams were represented on the squad by Hanna Cooper, Ella Brooks, Heather LaForce, Jade Barfield and Brooke Plemons.

Meanwhile at Christian Academy of Knoxville, the Lady Warriors made great strides forward under first-year head coach Ronnie Bowling.

CAK had four all-league selections in Addison Smith, Annie Cole, Kenzie Henderson and Ariya Rice.

Concord Christian had three selections including Alie Turner, Ashley Penland and Madi Mee.

Webb School of Knoxville was represented by Jade Anderson and Kylie Birdwell.

Farragut takes down Pigeon Forge in throwback tilt

By Ken Lay

Several local baseball players were honored recently in Division II-A East Region District 1 as the coaches handed out all-district honors.

Christian Academy of Knoxville won a second Division II-A State Championship last month and the Warriors were heavily represented on the squad.

CAK's Jacob Tate was named Player of the Year. Hunter Loyd claimed Pitcher of the Year honors.

Webb School of Knoxville won a region title and

the Spartans' Mason Patel was Defensive Player of the Year.

Grace Christian Academy's Eli Nordhorn was the Offensive Player of the Year. The Rams also had the Newcomer of the Year in Will Jenkins. Grace's Jonathan Byrd was named Coach of the Year in his first season at the school.

The Warriors, who won Division II State Championship in 2018 and 2019 after claiming the Division I Class AA crown in 2017, had five additional players named to the squad.

Zane Keener, Connor Jurek, Andrew Kribbs, Jesse Osborne and Cole Campbell all received all-district honors.

Webb was represented on the team by Peter Schaefer, Jackson Musrock, Riley George and Jayce McGaha.

The Rams had Landon Crumbley, Nick Pettit and Hunter Ferguson selected to the team.

Tyler Mink and Juan Vale were chosen from The King's Academy and Carter Grooms made the team from First Baptist Academy in Powell.

Local players receive All-District 2-AAA honors

By Ken Lay

South-Doyle and Seymour High School each had players pick up All-District 2-AAA honors recently.

Those players had their accomplishments in the 2019 season acknowledged by the league's coach.

Seymour's Kyle Koeneman was named Coach of the Year.

Koeneman guided the Eagles to a Class AAA State Tournament appearance in 2018. Seymour didn't make a return appearance to Murfreesboro in 2019 but

the Eagles had another solid season this spring.

Seymour's Andrew Ott was named Player of the Year and Dylan Dickert was named Pitcher of the Year.

Other Eagles to receive all-district honors included: Elijah Galyon, Derek McCarley, Marcus Joyner, Adam Quincy and Chris Hilton.

The Cherokees were represented on the team by three players including Braden Jones, Braden Hickey and Bennett Fowler.

Renfree tries to break 4-minute mile in final prep race

Cont. from page 2

Virginia, California and Scotland to compete in National competitions," said Catholic Athletic Director Jason Surlas.

"Jake will undoubtedly graduate from Knoxville Catholic High School as the most decorated and accomplished student athlete in our school's history,

and will take his talents to the University of Notre Dame."

Volleyball standout Olivia Cunningham is Catholic's female Student-Athlete of the Year. She was All-State her junior and senior years and also District 3-AA and Region 2-AA tournament MVP plus the District 3-AA regular season MVP her

senior year.

"Olivia has helped the team make it to the TSSAA State Volleyball Tournament all four years, winning the championship once," said Surlas. "We wish Olivia the best of luck when she takes her volleyball skills to East Tennessee State University this year."

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Choices

I am Trinitarian in my faith, but also philosophically. I maintain that four choices are often too many and two are not enough. Three seems about right to me. My wife Becky says I can find three options for almost any situation.

My father was a Navy officer and perhaps it was my upbringing, but I learned that bullies must be faced or their tyranny will just worsen. From my picture, you may notice that my nose is crooked. It's been broken several times, but the coup de grace came from a hockey stick in high school rather than schoolyard lessons and my pugnacious nature.

All my life I've held that in a confrontation your choices are fight, flight or surrender. In other words, you can fight the bully or injustice. You can avoid difficult people or run away from duty. Or you can surrender your principles and go along to get along.

Fortunately, we live in a peaceful part of a mostly safe country and don't have to confront bullies very often. However, they do exist in the workplace, on politically correct college campuses and in politics, the workings of the polis or state.

Perhaps President Trump understands Democrat and media bullies, though the counter-punching street fighter from Queens is sometimes perceived as just boorish or indelicate. But war is not a genteel endeavor, and make no mistake about it, we are at war. I guess Trump doesn't know he's supposed to just take abuse and not respond. Recently, ABC's George Stephanopoulos incredulously asked the President why he objects to the lies told about him and his family. After all, George W. Bush just took the media's abuse and left office with an approval rating in the

twenties. If Trump were that unpopular the still operative coup d'état would have already driven him from office.

I don't seek confrontation, but I won't run from it, nor will I compromise my principles. Recently, this Trinitarian philosophy was challenged with perhaps another option that can be used when gutter snipes like George Stephanopoulos or bullies like Adam Schiff confront you.

Since I'm now semi-retired, I find that I have more time for family, friends and reflection. And I've discovered book clubs. In fact, I've found that reading and discussing a book in a group is far better than reading it alone. I've adopted a friend's mantra that goes, "None of us is as smart as all of us together," and I learn from the perspectives of others.

Actually, with all the chores I have to do on our small farm, I sometimes wonder how I got anything done when I was working full-time. But, I manage, and I now find time for two Christian and one secular book clubs and discussion groups, instead of making hospital rounds.

The German philosopher Hegel developed a type of discourse which came to be known as the Hegelian dialectic. In this

conversational interaction someone presents a thought or a thesis. Then someone else presents a different perspective or anti-thesis. The two sides go back-and-forth and finally come to a synthesis or conclusion which then constitutes a new thesis. However, to find common ground or synthesis, the two parties must have mutual respect for one another. In the political war roiling around us there is an absence of respect.

One of my book clubs is anything but traditional. Becky and I meet another couple every Tuesday morning on Skype which works surprisingly well given that the other couple lives in north Georgia. We just finished a thought provoking book by Vince Vitale and Ravi Zacharias called Jesus Among Secular Gods. Vitale noted that discussions too often proceed from disagreement to devaluing those who differ with your perspective. And tragically, intolerance soon arises which sometimes leads to overt or covert violence.

Just picture the verbal gladiatorial matches on cable TV which fortunately don't usually lead to broken noses. I can't say the same about confrontations with Antifa or tyrannical bullies in politically correct collegiate crowds who

demand safe zones to protect themselves from the microaggressions of differing perspectives.

In the 12th century, theologian Peter Abelard said, "By doubting we are allowed to question, by questioning we arrive at the truth." In our "drive thru" culture of 10 second sound bites and 10 minute doctor visits, there is scant time for questions and seeking the truth.

Jesus disagreed with group think of the Hebrew theocracy of his day. He didn't run away from controversy and he certainly didn't modify his fundamental principles. He courageously challenged the Pharisees and legal experts, not with violence, but with what Vitale describes as "sacrificial disagreement." And though he had less than genteel words for the establishment (read Matthew chapter 23) he nonetheless continued to love them and ultimately sacrificed his life for sinners like them and me.

"To whom much is given, much is expected" (Luke 12:48). I have been given life, awareness of the Way and a sense of wonder of the Creation. I have been given time, and love and enough of everything that is really important. As a result I am challenged to listen lovingly

and sacrificially to those whose opinions are different than mine. This is tough for a man like me who thinks that some deserve and might benefit from a busted lip. Jesus called out religious reprobrates, but in the end he loved them and calls us to do the same by "turning the other cheek" (Matthew 5:39).

I read an interesting explanation of the Master's oft quoted advice. Jesus refers to the right cheek being struck, and since 90% of humans are right handed, a blow would be expected to land on your adversary's left cheek. However, an insult is often delivered with the back of the hand or a glove, and would be delivered to the right cheek.

I may not be able to "love" those I consider reprobrates, but I can extend charity to them. Perhaps President Trump should turn the other cheek to insults and Adam Schiff, along with the media, should examine their souls and give up their destructive hating.

But I'm just a doctor, a Christian and a blessed, thankful man. What do I know about life and the political intrigues of Washington's elite?

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

The Hoppers return to East Tennessee

New Destiny Productions is pleased to announce that The Hoppers are coming to First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, Tennessee on Saturday, June 22. This will be the summer concert for New Destiny Productions.

Multi-award winning family group The Hoppers have been singing to global audiences for over 55 years with appearances ranging from presidential religious inaugural ceremonies and New York's Carnegie Hall to singing conventions and church platforms. Their unique blend of harmonies and song choices have created a legacy of musical excellence embraced by leading pastors and event organizers. Known as America's Favorite Family of Gospel Music, they are

favorites on the Gaither Homecoming videos and tours, and their recordings frequently land at the top of the BILLBOARD sales charts and The Singing News radio charts.

Comprised today of family members Claude and Connie, son Dean and his wife, Kim, and son, Mike Hopper, The Hoppers were formed in 1957 in the rural-farm town of Madison, North Carolina, and have grown continuously for decades, touching countless lives around the world. A cancer survivor, Connie has been honored with the prestigious Marvin Norcross Award, in addition to numerous industry and fan honors; and she has been inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of

Fame. Sons Dean and Mike have continued the family legacy with their musical talents and business abilities; and Kim, Dean's wife, hails from her own nationally acclaimed musical family, The Greenes. She is noted for the excitement she brings to any live performance, and her unmistakable, rafter-ringing soprano vocals have taken The Hoppers to new heights for many years.

Russ Woolard, president of New Destiny Productions, says that The Hoppers are deeply committed to musical excellence yet have a greater desire to impact the hearts of those listening to their music. This group, collectively and individually, has been acknowledged as one of the finest



The Hoppers are Claude and Connie, son Dean and his wife, Kim, and son, Mike Hopper.

in the business having received many awards over the years, including Song of the Year, Album of the Year, Best Live Performers, Artist of the Year and others. Although the group is grateful for the recognition of

their work, their aspiration is for all honor and glory to be God's alone.

The concert begins at 3 p.m. and doors open at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25. Children 14 and under are free in

general admission and balcony seating. Tickets can be purchased locally and online. Further information on the Hoppers concert can be found at www.newdestinyproductions.com



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Spartan Saves My Summer

By Hannah Kistemaker

Summer is nearly here. Schools are letting out, the sun is shining, pools are opening, and mosquitoes are already swarming. If you are anything like me, all you have to do is stand in an open doorway for a minute and you already have at least two mosquito bites. It is frustrating, itchy, and not fun. Not to mention that mosquitoes are potentially dangerous, too.

This summer, I am happy to inform you that I can ditch my usual summer perfume of Bug Spray. No more sticky, smelly, chemicals on my skin! Spartan Mosquito Eradicators are "taking back my yard" for me.

I don't have to hire people to come out and spray my yard. No more foggers or even candles that halfway work. Just a few little tubes hanging in the trees on the edge of my property, and I can count myself mosquito-bite free. My yard is less than an acre and I hung mine before mosquito season began, so I only needed 1 box (containing 2 tubes). Spartan does say that if you hang them after you already have mosquitoes to use 2 boxes for each acre you're trying to protect, so we need 2 boxes per acre now in Tennessee since it's already mosquito season. The easy to follow directions are simple enough. Fill the tubes with warm water, shake, and then hang them on the edge of your property.

The easy to follow instructions in the box tell you to hang the tubes about 100 feet away from where you will be hanging out. You do not want the tubes to be near your picnic table. The mosquitoes are drawn to them so you want them away from your house. I kind of cheated with my placement. Instead of walking off 100 feet, I did what any millennial would do and got on social media. I just messaged Spartan through their Facebook page and they gave me a personalized map of my yard with red dots showing me the best place to hang the tubes. It was super easy.

Not even 15 days after hanging my Eradicators, my yard was mosquito free!

I had to know more about what the heck was in these tubes! According to Spartan's website, "Spartan is a mosquito control system that eliminates both male and female mosquitoes quickly and effectively without fogs, unpleasant odors, or chemical sprays. The only ingredients in the tubes are salt, sugar, and yeast, to which the user adds warm water."

The website also says that the mosquito population will suffer dramatically in the first several weeks and will be up to 95% controlled for up to 90 days. They don't require batteries or electricity. The only thing you add is warm water.

I bought my Eradicators online, but you can also look up local stores that sell them by going to Spartan's website (spartan-mosquito.com).

I wish you a mosquito free summer!

Unusual but stunning June blooming shrubs

With summer approaching, let's talk about some



By Mike Cruze
Master Gardener

June blooming shrubs/trees. Some of these are not often used in the garden although they should be.

Let's first take a look at the Bottlebrush Buckeye tree or shrub. This tree is ideal for understory planning in native and woodland gardens. It grows 8-12 feet high and 12-15 feet wide. It has bottlebrush-shaped clusters of delicate white flowers up to 12 inches long which bloom in June. Its white flowers are tubular-shaped and attract hummingbirds and butterflies. It is easily grown in moist well-drained soils in part to full shade. It is noted for being on of the best summer-flowering shrubs for shade areas. It makes an excellent lawn specimen. Group or mass in shrub

borders or woodland areas. The show doesn't end in summer. In fall the leaves change from deep green to glorious bright yellow. Then it loses its leaves being a deciduous shrub. This is a great addition to a shaded garden or woodland garden.

When purchasing the Bottlebrush, make certain that it is indeed a Bottlebrush Buckeye which does well in our Zone 7. Do not get it confused with the Bottlebrush Callistemon which is from the Myrtle family and is suited for Zones 9-11.

If you are looking for something unique and quite eye-catching, consider a smoke bush or smoke tree. Smoke bush makes a beautiful garden specimen with its purple-pink smoky plumes. This shrub actually has relatively insignificant yellow flowers however, after the flowers are spent, billow hairs attach to the elongated stalks which turn a smoky pink to purplish

pink in spring to summer. This appears as fluffy, hazy, smoke-like puffs throughout the summer.

At maturity it reaches 10 to 15 feet high with similar width. Smoke bush prefers full sun and does well in most soil types. Once established, it has good resistance to drought.

Some varieties of Smoke Bush (Such as 'Royal Purple') have attractive foliage. In spring it emerges as a rich maroon-red, in summer turning to deep wine purple and then even redder in fall. Best coloration is obtained in full sun. They can be planted as a specimen tree or massed for hedging.

Another showy tree is the Chaste Tree (which is really a shrub). It blooms in June and July with clusters of lavender fragrant flowers. Birds, bees, and butterflies are attracted to the flowers. They are usually 8 to 10 feet high and wide. There are dwarf

varieties available growing to 3 feet high by 3 feet wide. The leaves are grey-green in color and silvery on the underside making for quite attractive foliage. It has a multi-trunk display and can be used as a shrub border or can be trained as a small tree. This plant is deciduous. Chaste trees like full sun and moist, well-drained soils. They do tolerate drought well and some people like to use them as a replacement for Lilacs as Lilacs do not tolerate hot summers. You need to prune annually to keep the shape and size. It is best to prune in winter. You also need to remove the flower spikes when the blossoms fade. This may also force a second bloom in summer.

These are a few shrubs/trees that bloom in June that are underused in the garden. They are very attractive and quite showy. You may want to experiment with one or all of these shrubs.

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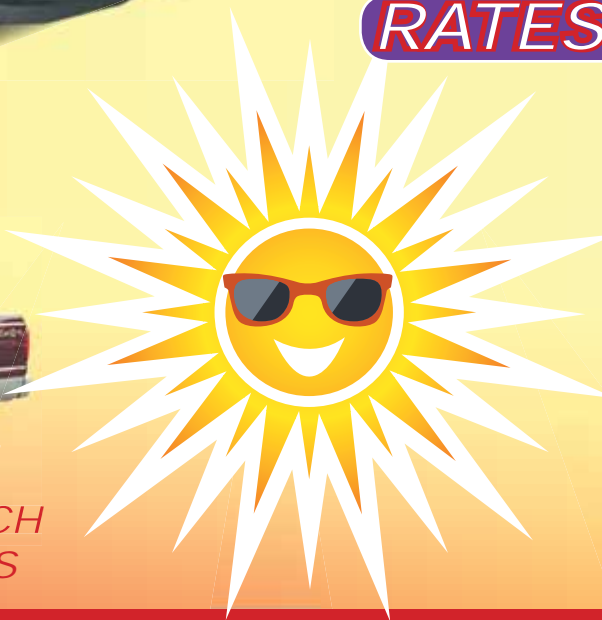
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