

Early voting begins next week

By Mike Steely
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Knoxville residents will have the chance to vote for a new city mayor and four new city council members starting Wednesday, August 7. Early voting polls will remain open every day except Sundays through August 22 and the primary election is Tuesday, August 27.

The outcome of the early voting and primary day will vary because any candidate for mayor who receives 50 percent plus one vote would become the mayor. That name, however, would still appear on the general election ballot alone because of possible write-in voters.

If one candidate for mayor does not receive the fifty plus one than the top two candidates proceed to the general election in November.

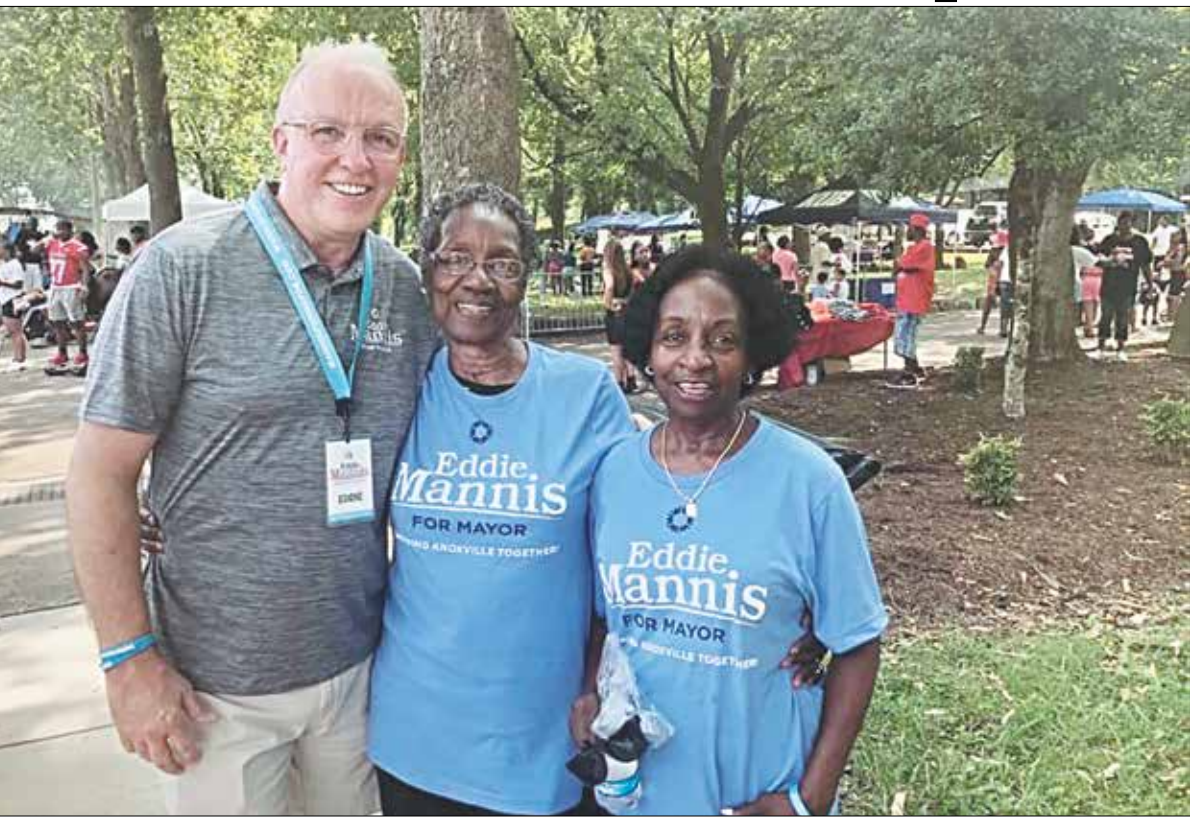
City Council races are different and the top two vote getters proceed to the general and the 50 plus one does not apply. Three of the four council races only have two candidates and those candidates automatically go on to the November 5th ballot.

However, five candidates have filed for At-Large Seat C, to replace Vice Mayor and Councilman Finbarr Saunders. The top two in that contest will advance to the general election.

Early voting places include the City-County Building, Downtown West, the Love Kitchen, New Harvest Park and Meridian Baptist Church. Standard hours for the precincts, except for the City-County Building, are from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Polling places are open **Continued on page 3**

Mannis attends Five Points parade



Candidate for mayor Eddie Mannis, pictured with Mary Foster and Linda Freeman, was very excited to attend the Five Points Neighborhood parade Saturday, July 20. Although it was quite toasty, Eddie and his supporters made their way along the parade route and were very pleased to have the support of many neighbors in attendance. The parade recognized Dewey Roberts, and Eddie was happy to have been the only candidate present to participate in this celebration. Eddie cooled off afterwards by joining neighbors at Walter Hardy Park to enjoy the vendors, food trucks, and games that were present.

Second reading of Recode before City Council

By Mike Steely
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When the Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday evening the members will be asked for a final approval of Recode, an overall revision of zoning and building regulations. More than two years have passed since the planning commission was asked to review and propose new rules; that time has seen lots of neighborhood and business objections.

The city council may see further opposition from citizens when they look at the fifth Recode draft again. While several alterations have been made in an attempt to get the regulations to become law, the latest, and most controversial, may be the exemption of higher income neighborhoods, or Established Neighborhoods, from accepting accessory dwellings. That changed in the last council meeting when Councilman Andrew Roberto said he would not support Recode unless the ENs, like Kingston Pike's Sequoyah Hills, were given a chance to not participate.

The initial intent of permitting accessory dwelling **Continued on page 3**

Abloom Florist donates flowers to Shannondale Healthcare Center



Dianne Storm and Tina Lakin of Abloom Florist prepare to distributed flowers they donated to the patients and staff at Shannondale Healthcare Center.

By Ken Lay

A local florist made last week a little brighter for the patients at Shannondale Health Care Center.

It was a cloudy and drizzly day, but Dianne Storm and Tina Lakin of West Knoxville's Abloom Florist delivered a few flowers to the senior healthcare center at lunchtime on Tuesday.

Storm, who manages the family-owned flower shop, located at 7007 Kingston Pike said that the day was the store's annual day of giving.

"The last four years, we've given to some of the smaller nursing homes and we delivered flowers to the patients in their rooms," said Storm, who manages the shop owned by her parents Roy and Hazel Drinnen. "When we decided to go to Shannondale, they had 170 beds and we just couldn't afford to donate to 170 patients."

But that didn't stop Abloom Florist from brightening the day for the staff and patients at one of Knoxville's largest senior healthcare facilities.

"They suggested that we deliver them to the dining areas on each floor so everybody would get the chance to enjoy them," Storm said. "We also dropped some flowers off at the front and at the nurse's stations."

That represented a day of giving by the Tennessee Teleflora Unit, of which Storm is a member and Teleflora annually donates to service providers, including senior healthcare centers, police stations, fire stations and other members of the institutions of public service.

"We have a Tennessee Teleflora Unit," Storm said. "I'm a member and every year we donate flowers and that has to be in the service industry."

But providing service is nothing new for Abloom Florist, a company that prides itself on exemplary customer service.

The company provides floral arrangements for weddings, funerals, parties and other events and Storm said that customer service is a key to the company's success. Roy and Hazel Drinnen have owned the business since 1983. Hazel works in the shop and Roy runs daily errands to the post office.

"We wanted to be a florist who brought something a little bit different," Storm **Continued on page 2**

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By Mike Steely
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A forum for candidates for mayor of Knoxville held Tuesday in the City-County Building touched on a seldom mentioned topic: What the city does or can do for the handicapped.

The forum was sponsored by the Mayor's Council on Disabled Issues (CODI) and five of the six candidates attended. Missing from the forum was Michael W. Andrews.

The forum drew a reasonable sized audience of citizens, some handicapped, and discussion topics from CODI Chairman Mark Allan included how candidates plan to include the disabled, make city parks more accessible, and get more citizens involved. He asked the candidates about their involvement with the handicapped and their thoughts on access to transportation, and living facilities and housing for the disabled.

Each of the candidates was given the list of questions prior to the forum.

When asked about their history with disabled or handicapped people Eddie Mannis said he has a 12-year-old nephew with autism. He said that his Prestige Cleaners employs



Five of the six candidates for Knoxville Mayor took part in a forum dealing with handicapped and disabled citizens. The Tuesday forum was sponsored by the Council on Disabled Issues, an advisory group appointed by the mayor.

handicapped people and noted the number of disabled military veterans he's taken on HonorAir to see the monuments in Washington, D. C.

"My goal is to make Knoxville an accessible city," he said.

Indya Kincannon referred to spending 10 years on the school board and helping get handicapped access to Christenberry and Bell Morris schools.

"I have neighbors and friends with

disabilities," she said.

Marshall Stair noted that CODI was established in 1984 before the national Disability Act and said he has supporters who are disabled and blind. He noted the city's scooter policy is causing problems with sidewalks and the disabled.

Fletcher Burkhardt said he grew up with a deaf friend and one of his campaign workers is blind.

"I don't know all the answers but all people should be

represented," he said.

CODI is an advisory group to the city with 21 members. There are only one full time and one part time employee to oversee the daily operation. The group is looking to the city to increase the effort for disabled citizens and to increase the number of employees.

Calvin Taylor Skinner said, "I can only imagine what CODI does through."

Burkhardt said, "That's not enough; we have to expand offices like this."

"Community involvement is the key," said Stair and pledged, as mayor, to hold monthly community meetings.

Kincannon called for expanding the staff contingent on the budget and council approval.

Mannis said that the city needs to engage citizens with disabilities in every city department.

Asked about homelessness Mannis said 40% of the homeless are veterans and during his first hundred days as mayor he will

address homelessness, starting with those veterans, working with veteran services of the county government, and other agencies. He said that youths are aging out of foster care and need assistance in finding a home.

Skinner said he would work with faith leaders and non-profits on an approach. He said that pooling the best proven practices of other cities might help.

Burkhardt said the homeless question needs to be addressed creatively, possibly with tiny homes and hiring the homeless as examples.

"Housing First hasn't worked, we need to be intentional," he said.

Housing First is an effort by the city and non-profits to find lodging for displaced families as soon as possible. Kincannon took issue with Burkhardt's statement referring to the mayor's Homeless Roundtable and said she supports the program.

Stair said there's no easy solution to homelessness and an effort should be strengthened to help people stay in their homes. He called for the state to get back involved in helping solve the problem.

Election commission denies tax petition

By Mike Steely
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How do you go about getting a petition on an election ballot?

Unlike a referendum placed during an election by the city or county a petition by a citizen is a lot more complicated.

Greg Mills is trying to get a question on the 2020 Knox County election ballot dealing with when a tax increase can be approved. Currently a county mayor makes a request and the commission approves or disapproves the increase.

When the Knox County Election Commission met Wednesday in a special session to consider the Mills petition request it the agenda items simply said "Consideration of a Petition for Amendment to Knox County Charter to increase Property Tax Rate." Actually the Mills request was just the opposite, to forbid any county tax increase unless it is matched by an increase in the average medium income level within the county.

Election Commission Executive Director Cliff Rodgers and

Deputy Director Chris Davis told The Focus that the commission must respond within 15 days to such a request. The petition must contain at least 24,967 signatures by people who voted in the last presidential election, that's about 15% of those who voted. That's based on the current Knox County Charter.

Mills had visited the election office and was directed to file the petition also with the clerk's office. The request for a petition was sent to the Law Director's office but fell short in a couple

of ways including the way it was worded. Mills made the corrections and emailed it back only to find out a written copy must be, again, filed with the clerk's office.

The hopeful petitioner said he will make the corrections including adding a line where each signer would print their name. Law Director Bud Armstrong chatted with Mills following the meeting advising him to hire an attorney before filing it again.

Commission Chairman Christopher Heagerty told the meeting that another called meeting

will be necessary after the new petition is received. He moved to reject the first petition. Armstrong reminded Mills that an actual petition form is in the charter. Rodgers told the meeting that the law director went above and beyond what is required to inform Mills of possible legal challenges to the petition even if it makes it on a ballot and is passed by the voters.

Deputy Director Davis said getting almost 25,000 registered voters to sign the petition and

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Abloom Florist donates flowers

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said. "There are a lot of florists in Knoxville and we've always prided ourselves on our customer service.

"My parents pretty much bought the business and I went to work in it. We've prided ourselves on being a little bit different."

Storm also said that her work brings her plenty of rewards.

"This is very rewarding to me because everybody likes to get flowers," she said. "Even with funerals, the people are always pleased because we help them do what they want to remember their loved one."

A fairly common legal term that you may have heard of is a, "pre-nuptial agreement," or the shortened version of that term, "pre-nup." But what actually is a pre-nuptial agreement and what is contained in that agreement?

First, let's break down the term, "nuptials." It is not an often used phrase, but nuptial, means, "a wedding." Therefore, a pre-nuptial agreement, is an agreement entered in to by individuals prior to a wedding.

For what purpose would individuals enter in to such



By Jediah McKeehan
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an agreement?

So, when the normal individual thinks about marriage, they think about two individuals in a relationship where their plan is to share everything that they have, and that they will have, for the rest of their lives. Whether it's a house, a car, a boat, or even a stamp collection, we think about those items that the two people have as belonging to both of them, and those items being considered, "marital property."

And the law states, that when individuals get divorced, the "marital

property," is to be equitably divided. Now equitably does not necessarily mean equal, but an equal division of marital property during a divorce is often what happens.

To go back to our original question though, a pre-nuptial agreement is designed to control the division of property between a married couple should a divorce occur in the future, instead of leaving that division in the hands of a judge.

Say a couple is considering getting married and the woman has \$500,000.00 in the bank in an account with just her name on it. Also, the man has three rental properties that are deeded in just his name. Even though these two

love each other, they may decide that they want these items to be considered their separate property, and not subject to a division by the court, should they later get divorced.

Now it may be possible for them to keep these items as separate property simply by never placing that money in a joint account, or deeding those properties to each other jointly, however, the safest way to have assets not even a consideration in a division of marital property is for a pre-nuptial agreement to be drawn up and signed by the parties prior to the wedding, that lists out all of their separate assets and the parties intent to keep those assets as separate property, and

not marital property.

For most marriages, a pre-nuptial agreement is not even a consideration, but when the couple considering marriage, has significant assets, or they have been married multiple times previously, a pre-nup may be something they are considering, or should consider.

Jediah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knoxville 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.

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Publisher's Position

Where's grandfather... What's EN... Where's proper notice?



By Steve Hunley,
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Recode Knoxville will be voted on Tuesday, July 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building. This will be the second and final vote on the text of Recode which is now at 410 pages in Recode Draft 5.5. Tomorrow's meeting will also see the first of two votes on the Recode Map that shows zoning changes. Even though the Recode product is comprised of these two pieces, the text and the map, the administration decided to present these to city council for separate votes. This is another in a series of very questionable decisions to keep Recode as confusing and muddled as possible.

Why does the planning commission use the description "Recode Draft

5.5?" Really, Recode is on Draft 10 at the least. That doesn't sound as good as Draft 5.5 does it? Draft 10 would show how flawed the Recode process has been. They say not to worry though as it is a "living document."

In the second city council workshop on Recode Holston Hills resident Michael Stinson spoke to city council and the mayor about property rights. Stinson asked a question which caused discomfort to city council, the mayor, and the city law department. Stinson asked, "Will residences and businesses have protection from Recode if their property is zoned into a non-conforming use?"

While this was a simple question it created an intense discussion with conflicting responses from the city law department, council, and the mayor. Stinson asked where the Grandfather Clause was in Recode. Councilmember Lauren Rider said, "'Grandfather' is not a legal term, it is a layman's term." Yet "grandfather" is cited 14 times in Tennessee Code Annotated. Knoxville City attorney Christina Magrans-Tillery spoke of state law that pertained to Recode and said, "What we have done is use our

local terminology to make it more user friendly and readable." Say what?

Councilmember and local attorney Marshall Stair read what he thought would shut down the grandfather discussion with Recode Draft 5 Section 17.1 paragraph two:

"A nonconforming building, structure or use of land lawfully existing at the time of the adoption or amendment of this ordinance may be continued and maintained as provided in this article; provided, however, that nothing herein may be construed to authorize the continuation of any illegal or nonconforming use which was illegal prior to the adoption of this ordinance."

Do you consider that "more user friendly and readable?"

After much discussion Councilmember Stair told council even he was confused by Sections 17.1 and 17.2 and Stair made a motion that 17.1 and 17.2 be revised by the planning commission. Mayor Rogero said, "We don't need a vote on that...okay...let's have a motion that we come up with the appropriate language," and after a proper second to the motion it was passed unanimously by council. Why was Mayor

Rogero so adamant that the grandfather clause not be added?

So what did council and the planning commission do with the requested grandfather clause? Nothing. They simply copied and pasted the current Tennessee state law on non-conforming use, which offers no protection to the property owners of Knoxville because **state law dictates that local zoning code trumps state law on zoning.** If that is not confusing enough, on the city website there is this new statement, *"In any case, no owner in the city will be forced to change the use of his or her property. All current uses will be 'grandfathered,' or allowed to continue, unless the use is abandoned and the property is not actively marketed for 24 months."*

Why in the world will city council and the mayor not put that statement in the Recode ordinance? They put it on their website where it has no legal meaning but they refuse to put it in Recode. Is it because they plan to change the "living document" of Recode later to force all property uses to conform to Recode? How naive do they think the people of Knoxville are?

In the first vote on the

text of Recode on July 16 a threatened lawsuit from Sequoyah Hills caused city council to remove Accessory Dwelling Units from the zone EN which is Established Neighborhood. Since not all neighborhoods may know about this zoning classification this could be a due process or notice violation. City council could have abandoned the Accessory Dwelling Units for all neighborhoods but they chose a way to pick and choose which neighborhoods will be spared. This could likely result in lawsuits the taxpayers will have to fund.

Many of you reading this may still not know what Recode Knoxville is. If so, you are in the majority. In a recent radio interview on the WETR 92.3 FM's Knoxville Morning News with Elaine Davis, former four-term Knoxville City Mayor Victor Ashe estimated that 80% of the people in Knoxville did not know anything about the Recode rezoning process that will change the land and property use of for 73,000 parcels in the city of Knoxville affecting 50,000 property owners. Another guest on the show, who is a local real estate expert, has estimated that figure to be 95% of the people of Knoxville do not know what Recode is.

Do you know what Recode Knoxville is? This is the core issue with Recode. Has proper public notice been followed throughout the Recode process? Incredibly, the city council actually passed Ordinance O-187-2018 last December that stated they did not have to notify any property owner about Recode. Evidently this was so egregious that Tennessee State Representative Martin Daniel has multiple bills ready in the next state legislative session to repeal O-187-2018 at the state level. Daniel said in a recent radio interview on Knoxville Morning News with Elaine Davis that this kind of city government overreach should never occur again.

Recode is a matter of trust. The mayor and city council have asked you to trust them. Should you? We are having record real estate growth in the city of Knoxville with our current zoning code which has sixty years of case law to protect your property rights.

What is the real reason for Recode? The Focus will keep searching until we find that reason. Call your city council member and ask them, "Why do we need Recode?" Please let us know what you learn.

Grandfamilies Together meeting

The Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) Office on Aging's Grandparents as Parents program and Virtue Church are pleased to announce the formation of a new Grandfamilies Together meeting. This group will meet monthly at Virtue Church, 725 Virtue Road beginning on August 8, 2019, from 10:00 until noon.

Grandfamilies Together meetings are for grandparents and other relative caregivers raising children whose parents are unable to care for them. Caregivers will be able to come together to hear from community experts and build support and a social network of families that are on the same journey.

Grandparents as Parents (GAP) is a program of the CAC

Office on Aging. Grandparents assuming the role of primary caregiver and parent to children need support as they cope with new sets of challenges raising the next generation. GAP offers several different programs, support meetings, resources and referrals to caregiving families. There are no age or income requirements to join this free program.

Lonsdale Celebrates Homecoming

The historic Lonsdale community will celebrate their Homecoming on Friday, Aug. 2, through Sunday, Aug. 4, at the Lonsdale Park.

The schedule is as follows:

Friday, Aug. 2, 6-10 p.m. – International Night, Children's Activities, and Vendors

Saturday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m. - 10

p.m. – Homecoming Parade, Children's Activities, Vendors, and live music featuring artist Brian Clay

Sunday, Aug. 4, 2 - 4 p.m. – Old Timer's Dinner, Worship Service, and Memorial Service

This event is free and open to everyone. T-shirts, food, and crafts will be available for purchase.

Early voting

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on Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. On August 20 through August 22 the polling places will open at 10 a.m. and remain open until 7 p.m.

The City-County Building voting hours are different, basically ranging from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. except Saturdays, when voting runs from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. On Thursday, August 15 voting there is from noon until 6 p.m. and Saturday, August 17, voting takes place from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

City-County Building is open for voting on August 19th through the 21st from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

On Thursday, August 22 the City-County hours are noon until 7 p.m.

Registered city voters may choose any of the precinct locations to cast ballots during the primary election.

More information is available at the Knox County Election Commission by calling (865) 215-2480 or going online to www.knox-county.org/election.

Second reading of Recode before City Council

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units, such as a smaller house behind a dwelling for relatives, in all residential neighborhoods made it all the way to the first reading. Roberto's move switched a yes vote to a no and the change passed 7-2.

Recode is the sixth item on the second reading agenda but should get the most attention. There is some suggestion that Roberto's change needs to go back to planners to be incorporated into the Recode regulations.

A look at the Recode zoning map, in its fourth revision, is also on the agenda for a first reading. The language on the agenda is exactly the same as the text for the Recode regulations second reading but the City Law Department informed The Focus that the item is actually the map being up for consideration by the council.

Also on the agenda: The council is also being asked by the law department to make any shared mobility

vehicles illegal unless the providers operate in accordance to the city's pilot program.

Two different agenda items deal with the city's purchase of the former St. Mary's Hospital just off Broadway. One resolution calls for contracting Messer Construction for construction management for the redevelopment of the site. The other item increases a contract with Volkert Inc. from \$227,000, to \$1.6 million for management of planning design,

bidding and construction of the new Public Safety Complex there.

Two zonings are up for final approval including 5703 Jackson Avenue, which would move from R-1 to R-2, and 114 Cedar Lane, which was a dental office and would move from Office zoning to C-3 Commercial.

Ordinances on first reading include a \$5,000 donation to the Fountain City Lions Club for maintenance and upkeep of the Fountain City Park.

NEW BEVERLY PRESENTS



Pastor Hollie Miller, who served as senior pastor at Sevier Heights Baptist Church for 31 years, will be ministering at both the 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. services on **Sunday, August 4th**. You surely don't want to miss this opportunity to blessed!



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At-Large Seat C candidates talk about East Towne Mall

By Mike Steely
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Early voting in the Knoxville City election begins August 7th and there's lots of activity among the candidates, especially the five people hoping to be the council member for At-Large Seat C. Aside from the six candidates for Knoxville Mayor the Seat C contest is the only race with more than two candidates.

The two top candidates to receive the most votes move on to the November general election. Early voting ends August 22 and the primary election day is August 27.

The candidates for that seat are Amy Midis, Amelia Parker, Hubert (Frazier) Smith, Bob Thomas and David Williams. The Knoxville Focus is asking each of those candidates a series of 12 questions. This week we asked them the following question and here are their answers.

What would you like to see happen with Knoxville Center (East Towne) Mall?

Bob Thomas: I think it is difficult to dictate what a privately held piece of property should be used for. That being said, the fact that it is a large piece of land with plenty of parking and quick access to the interstate seems to shout police and fire department

HQs along with the Knox County School System.

Amelia Parker: East Town is still privately owned and past due taxes have been paid. Therefore, there is no action that the city can take towards the mall itself. To spur economic activity either around the mall or in the mall itself, the city should consider acquiring and upgrading the street surrounding the mall that serves area businesses as well as private residences located behind the mall. The city could also facilitate discussions with state officials regarding a need to redesign the exit ramps to accommodate a larger traffic flow due to population growth in the area, largely in the county. Otherwise, it is the responsibility of the mall owners to secure the right mix of tenants in the mall to attract a steady stream of customers or to implement a new vision that allows residents to engage that space in a new way. Although malls are being replaced by online shopping, making it difficult for mid-sized cities to maintain multiple malls, I believe that side of town could maintain those stores with the right mix of retailers to make a visit worth the stop. For too long, that area has been reduced to department stores and single audience.

Hubert Smith: This is a privately-owned business. As

a council member, I want to see anything that's legal and successful. It's not a council decision, unless the city is considering purchasing the facility.

David Williams: One must be very creative in bringing old malls back to life. Churches and schools and civic centers have found their way into malls. You have ice skating in Farragut and Bearden why not East Towne? How about a bowling center? How about mixed use? Think of families living near their businesses with schools nearby for their children. Grocery stores and clothing shops would be nearby. It would be a community within itself. Make it easier to get to the mall from other parts of town with better signage and access. Stage special events. Keep the community involved in the rebuilding process.

Amy Midis: Almost anything would be preferable to the current situation at East Towne Mall. Residential or mixed-use developments which include commercial and residential uses would be ideal. The city's options are limited since the property is privately held and the owners are not seeking negotiations with the City over its needs to market the space to new developments. I do not support the idea of a baseball stadium on this site.

At-Large Seat A candidates answer Focus questions

By Mike Steely
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One of the most interesting races for Knoxville City Council involves the campaign for At-Large Seat A, currently held by George Wallace. The two candidates couldn't be more different. Unlike the mayor's race, where a candidate could be elected in the primary if they receive 50% plus one vote, the top two vote getters for each council seat will advance to the general election. Barring any surprise write ins, these two candidates for the seat already have their eyes on the November election.

Lynne Fugate is a former school board chair and Charles F. Lomax Jr. is a minister and former planning commission member. The Focus asked both candidates a series of questions and here are some of the answers.

Talk about the revitalization of Magnolia Avenue, Burlington and Chilhowee Park.

Fugate: I am pleased that the streetscape work on Magnolia Avenue is going on, the survey is being done to get citizen input on the future of Chilhowee Park, and there has been significant planning for Burlington. It is exciting that this much emphasis is being focused on East Knoxville. We have seen the benefit of a coordinate redevelopment effort in different parts of the city and I look forward to seeing how the work the city is doing now will leverage even more investment in East Knoxville.

Lomax: East Knoxville is essential to Knoxville as a whole. If we are serious about our city thriving, then every community must be included in the push toward prosperity. Revitalization efforts along the Magnolia Corridor, in Burlington, and in Chilhowee Park are needed and past due. For far too long, other areas in the city have been the focus of attention while East Knoxville has often been ignored or pacified with promises unfulfilled. Development of the area is great, but with development must also come growth. Growth of investment, growth of economic opportunities, and growth of wages must also be



Charles Lomax

Lynne Fugate

a part of this conversation. Development without growth typically leads to gentrification, which is the fear of many in the community.

What would you like to see happen with Knoxville Center (East Towne) Mall?

Fugate: The Mall is currently privately owned and the owners are looking at redevelopment ideas. Some malls have become a mix of housing and retail in other communities and that might be an option to consider here. The main focus should be keeping the mall property on the tax rolls and having it become a vibrant, active place that contributes to the quality life for the citizens of Knoxville.

Lomax: It is difficult to say what I would like to see happen at Knoxville Center (East Towne) Mall when the property is rightfully owned. I would have a difficult time with someone telling me what I should do with my property, and I try to approach this topic in the same manner. I believe in property rights, but I also believe in being good neighbors. I support the city working with the owners and developers to make the area vibrant again, and I believe that we must think strategically about industries that could support and contribute to the economic success of the community. The mall was a resource to the community, but it was not the community. East Knoxville deserves retail opportunities, but there might be a better use for the space as well. The owners simply have to be invited to the table to discuss possibilities for what could be.

Election commission denies tax petition

Cont. from page 1

get it on the next county ballot is almost impossible, saying it would need some 300 signatures each day. Election Commissioner Tammy Kaousias suggested that Mills carefully read the Law Director's reply to him before refiling.

In other action during the

special session the members voted to change the election hours at Meridian Baptist Church on Wednesday, closing the voting at 5 p.m. so the church can hold prayer meetings.

The election commission also voted to appoint two Republicans and two Democrats as election officials.

Heagerty nominated the Republicans and Cameron Brooks named the Democrats.

Other commission members present included Bob Bowman and Hannah Hopper. Deputy Law Director David Buuck was also present along with a representative of the League of Women Voters.

UPDATE

"Mr. Greg Mills just stopped by our office to advise me that he no longer wishes to proceed at this time with his petition drive re: Increase to the Property Tax Rate. Thus, Mr. Mills will not be filing any Amended Petition re: this. Because you all have already considered and rejected at yesterday's meeting Mr. Mills' original petition (the only document which Mr. Mills has officially filed), there is



Petition creator Greg Mills (left) talks with the Law Department's Richard Armstrong and David Buuck and Election Chairman Christopher Heagerty following the denial of his initial petition.

nothing presently before you to consider at the meeting which we had set for Thursday, August 8th. Consequently, that meeting is hereby cancelled," Rodgers notified The Focus Thursday

"I told Mr. Mills that we really appreciated his coming by to inform us of this, thereby avoiding the expense of this additional meeting. Of course, Mr. Mills understands that this action does not prevent

his filing any document/petition he wishes going forward. We also appreciate Law Director Armstrong and Chief Deputy Buuck meeting with Mr. Mills about all of this yesterday afternoon."



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‘Something extra’ always part of Pet Nanny Pet Care

By Amy Box Fellhoelter

As a person who has poured her life into helping others as a nurse and now caring for pets as a pet sitter, Jennifer Mills, owner of Pet Nanny Pet Care, desires for the animals of her clients to be not only well cared for, but genuinely loved by her staff as well. Not to mention, the services her company provides may allow pets to escape stress, sickness, and possibly death as compared to other pet boarding companies.

Jennifer Mills moved to Knoxville from California in 2001. After working several years as a nurse, she decided, like many of us, to enjoy a vacation with her family. She owned two dogs at that time and secured a place to board them while she and her family were gone on a ten-day trip. When she returned, her dogs were extremely sick and in need of multiple veterinarian visits and medications. Fortunately, her beagle recovered but her basset hound did not and died eight months later due to sickness. “He struggled. He was on three or four different antibiotics ...



Jennifer Mills, owner of Pet Nanny Pet Care, with her four-month-old puppy, Sydney, will provide pet sitting, boarding, and vacation care for pet owners who want the best care for their pets while away.

and he was only four years old,” said Mills. The boarding company never claimed any responsibility in regard to the sicknesses of both dogs.

“So the next time we went on vacation, I knew there had to be a pet sitter who would come to my home,” she said. Mills researched pet sitting

companies and found just a few at that time, which was 2007. She picked one and had such a great experience with the company that when later she discovered they were hiring pet sitters, she signed up for the job. “I was still a nurse, but I loved it. I would do it on weekends, after work, before work, at lunch, and

I just loved it,” she added.

She loved it so much so that when the company owners relocated to Florida to expand their business, they asked Mills to manage the Knoxville location. She ran the business successfully for two years until the owners stopped mailing paychecks to their sitters in Knoxville.

Eventually, the company closed and Mills realized how much she missed taking care of animals. “So I started doing research on how to start a business, and before I knew it I had eight clients that I would visit before work and after work. I decided if I could get eight clients in one day, **Continue on page 2**

Mayor’s ‘School Mania’ planned for August 5

School starts in a couple weeks and Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs is pleased to announce his School Mania event is just around the corner. The event, Jacobs’ first as County Mayor, is an opportunity for students to get free school supplies, have a Shoney’s KidCare ID made, and enjoy activities, special programs, vendors and more. The event is free and open to Knox County citizens.

Thousands have attended school kick-off events like this in years past under previous administrations, Mayor Jacobs is looking forward to hosting his own great event this year.

School Mania is sponsored by the Knoxville Enforcement Credit Union, Star 102.1, BlueCare Tennessee, Shoney’s, the City of Knoxville and Chilhowee Park & Exposition Center.

Commission approves tax break for two projects

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Thirty acres on Oak Ridge Highway, just north of Schaad Road, was approved for a Tax Increment Financing tax break last week by the Knox County Commission. The request, from the Industrial Development for Grassy Creek LLC, received a \$4.5 million 15-year break. The proposed complex will have a Food City, a three-story storage building, a pet supply store, a restaurant, a bank and retail businesses.

The unanimous vote followed a previous discussion at a recent work session. In that meeting developers said the new complex will hire about 200 construction workers and 200 permanent employees. In recommending the tax break the Industrial Board said the area is in

Continue on page 4

Ogle answers call to service at Mobility City of East Tennessee



Shane and Tina Ogle recently opened a Mobility City franchise in East Tennessee. Together they serve those who have mobility issues throughout Knoxville and surrounding areas. Photo submitted.

By Ken Lay

Throughout his career, Shane Ogle was always been a public servant. He’s worked as a public safety officer for McGhee-Tyson Airport, the Anderson County Sheriff’s Department and the Blount County Sheriff’s Department.

But an injury changed his life and ended that career, but Ogle felt the need to continue to serve his neighbors. He does that by providing services for those with mobility challenges.

He and his wife Tiffany now own Mobility City of East Tennessee. The couple also employs their son Nick and daughter Madison.

And Shane said he feels blessed to have the opportunity to continue helping others after more than two decades

as an officer.

“After an Achilles injury ended my public safety career of 20-plus years, I wanted to work for myself in a field where I could continue to serve my community,” Shane said. “I witnessed firsthand how debilitating mobility issues can be while caring for my grandparents, who have since passed on.

“Opening Mobility City of East Tennessee has given me the opportunity to serve, give back and meet the needs of others.”

Shane and Tiffany opened the business approximately a year ago, in July of 2018 and the Knoxville Area franchise serves customers in Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger,

Continue on page 2

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Real and compelling

Too many people these days are watching “reality television” programs. “The Apprentice” proved to be one of the more popular of all time, and it propelled the leading character to becoming the president of the country. Others include “The Bachelor,” “The Bachelorette,” and “Survivor.” A cruder program has young people meeting up on an island to see who can hook up and how well individuals play the game. “Duck Dynasty,” “Honey Boo Boo,” and “The Toe Bro” have appealed to viewers’ baser instincts. Heck, one show features a vet who makes rounds and performs surgeries and procedures on his patients, things that make me more than a little squeamish. Those of us with a few years can testify that reality shows have



By Joe Rector
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been around for years. The ones we viewed were much better and more compelling than any half-witted series aired today. The first one is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month. The Apollo missions that landed on the moon was reality show at its finest. I was enjoying the summer before the senior year in high school when the first moon landing occurred. At 3:17 p.m. on July 20, 1969, The Eagle landed on the surface of the moon. Only 39 minutes later, Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon. Mother, my brother Jim, and I watched the entire thing, and we were joined by an audience that covered the entire planet. Each second was breathtaking, and viewers stayed tied in knots as they worried about some ill befalling the mission. For years, my generation

stayed mesmerized by space shots. We watched a television or listened to a radio as the man from Houston counted down the launch. A hold or cancellation replaced excitement with disappointment. No highs were better than when Alan Shepard and John Glenn entered the heavens or circled the globe. No lows were as crushing as the fire that took the lives of astronauts or the explosion in the sky that snuffed out the crew’s lives and shocked all viewers. Only a few years later another reality show gripped the nation. The Watergate mess began in 1972 and ended in 1974. The trial started in January, 1973. That trial called dozens of witnesses, but the most important one was Alexander Butterfield, who revealed the existence of the Watergate tapes. The tide of public opinion turned against Nixon with each new revelation in the trial, and the country watched

with disgust, depression, and destabilization as he resigned before being impeached. We worried what would become of our country as the former president waved from the door of the helicopter and flew away in disgrace. Sure, we have reality shows airing almost every night, but I’d bet most of them are more contrived than natural. Also, not a single one of them has the ability to affect the entire nation and world as did those from years ago. Of course, with the present political climate, we might just have another serious reality broadcast before long. Only time will tell. I know I’ll watch every moment of it if it does come to the television screen, just as I did with those from fifty years ago. Unlike the inane programs that folks watch now, this one might shape the future of our country for years to come. That’s what reality does. It’s not always so cute, happy, or quirky.



Picture of Angela Easterday Holder with sunlight streaming across her forehead; photo credit, Baylee Bohanan. The image is so fitting, because Angela was truly a ray of sunshine to those who knew her.

Angela

‘happiness abounding’

It was another beautiful Sunday morning. A day to honor mothers. A day to celebrate graduates. We had just taken our seats when the lady in front of us turned to ask, “Did you hear about Angela?” “No,” I answered. “What about her?” “She had a massive stroke and died,” the lady



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

answered. The words pierced like a dagger as news of a sudden death usually do. I glanced over toward the right-hand aisle where we would usually see Angela making her way to the choir. A church, a college campus, several communities, and an entire East Tennessee

Continue on page 4

‘Something extra’ always part of Pet Nanny Pet Care

Cont. from page 1

then I can make enough as what I do for nursing,” Mills explained. Before long, her nursing job was traded for managing a pet sitting business “and it worked. It was scary, but I did it,” she said. Mills began this venture in 2013, and she has currently nine part-time employees and more than 250 clients. “And I still love it, the hardest part for me is sitting in the office. That’s my struggle right now. But I learn as I go,” said Mills who has been voted “pet sitter of the year” for five consecutive years by her peers. And she never left her nurse training behind completely because she is First Aid and CPR certified for dogs and cats. “I know there are more

and more pet sitting companies coming to Knoxville, so we go above and beyond for our clients by doing something extra – that extra is all about keeping the pet happy,” declared Mills, also owner of a puppy and three cats herself. Yet “something extra” is also for the clients, such as watering plants, bringing in the mail, setting the garbage out for pickup, turning lights on and off, sweeping up litter, vacuuming pet hair, and more – all free of charge. As the successful owner of Pet Nanny for six years, Mills knows the most important part of establishing a good relationship with a new client is the consult. As a free service to interested parties, it is a time to meet the owner and his or

her pets, and learn about the routine, schedule, and needs of the animal. Each client’s pet sitting session is customized to fit the pet. The client may need a pet sitter to come visit a dog four times a day or a cat once a day. Mills wants potential clients to ask lots of questions and encourages them to call her references. “It depends on the dog. Coming four times in one day to pet sit may seem like a lot, but if a dog isn’t used to being alone, it really is not,” she commented. Pet Nanny Pet Care does not accept clients with aggressive dogs for the safety of its pet sitters. Each pet sitter is hand-picked by Mills, must be 18 years old, and have access to a car. Sitters must also pass a background check

for all 50 states – not just the state of Tennessee – and of course, be an animal lover. “They have to love what they are doing,” added Mills. This process involves an in-depth interview session with open-ended scenario questions, walking potential sitters through training, and conducting pet sitting visits together. If everything goes according to expectation, the potential sitter will receive a pet sitting job or two, and then will be evaluated. All sitters are insured, licensed, and bonded and never bring company or visitors with them to a client’s home. “I don’t have to check up on my sitters. Ninety percent of the homes of my clients have cameras so the owners can see exactly what the sitters are doing when they are there,” she mentioned. Also, clients have the option for Pet Nanny to install a pet camera in their home for an extra fee.

Some of Pet Nanny’s clients are called “lunch dogs,” that are served at the lunch hour. They are usually dogs whose owners work long hours and are unable to come home during the day. Another service provided is private home boarding. Mills can personally board up to four dogs in her home at a time, and her manager can board up to two dogs in her home at a time. “Boarding a dog is very stressful for the animal, a different environment, and getting no sleep,” said Mills. Some pet benefits of boarding with Pet Nanny are: not being left in a cage, receiving lots of one-on-one attention, plenty of exercise, and not being exposed to ill pets. If your dog needs to be walked at a park or taken to a dog park, pet taxis are offered too, as is overnight pet sitting/house sitting. Sitters can sleep with the

pets mimicking their same routine when their owners are home. Since more than half of the pets they sit for sleep in bed with their owners, this has become a popular choice. These benefits include staying in a familiar place, and receiving food, medicine, and bathroom breaks on a regular, schedule. Pet Nanny provides services the following areas: West Knoxville, Powell/Karns, Downtown Knoxville, Bearden/Rocky Hill, Farragut, Knoxville Center Mall Area, Halls, Alcoa/Maryville, and South Knoxville. Mills hopes to one day open a pet day care to provide a daily home away from home. For more information about Pet Nanny Pet Care, check the Pet Nanny Pet Care Facebook page, www.petnannypetcare.com or call Jennifer Mills at 865-216-6118.

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Ogle answers call to service at Mobility City of East Tennessee

Cont. from page 1

needs of the Tri-Cities Area, as well as the Chattanooga Area. “The mobility needs of our outlying areas are extremely underserved and we are currently willing to travel to help them out. Since opening, we have met the needs of customers as far away as Nashville, Lexington, Asheville and Chattanooga. We are considering a retail location to better serve our clients. [But] with so many brick-and-mortar stores struggling to compete with Amazon and other online shops, though, we felt like a mobile-based business was our best first step.” The company services, rents, repairs and sells mobility equipment, including power wheelchairs, scooters, lift-out recliners, hospital beds, manual wheelchairs rol-lators/walkers and bathroom aids. Mobility City of East Tennessee is also a retail dealer for major brands. It offers warranty and non-warranty repairs even for items purchased elsewhere.

Shane also noted that he and Tiffany are “so very fortunate to cultivate” the family-owned business. “We also employ two of our adult children,” he said. “My favorite part of working alongside them is being able to share the rewarding, feel-good, we-just-helped-someone moments. “Mobility concerns usually show up unexpectedly, so meeting the needs of our customers quickly and at a fair price can help them take control of their life again. Sharing those moments with the people you love most is energizing. And trust me, new business owners need all the energy they can get.” Shane also said that referrals and repeat customers are vital to his business, noting that he and his family takes great joy in getting to know their customers and serving their clients on a long-term basis. For more information, visit Mobility City of East Tennessee online at www.mobilitycity.com/easttennessee.

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Tennessee's 'Unholy Trinity' Walter 'Pete' Haynes

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

For decades the Tennessee General Assembly was largely ruled by three men: Walter M. "Pete" Haynes of Decherd; I. D. Beasley of Carthage and James H. Cummings of Woodbury. Known as the "Unholy Trinity", the three men were powerful legislators and highly important in their respective communities. Beasley, Haynes and Cummings were all country lawyers by trade and each represented rural districts in the legislature. All of them spent decades as members of the state legislature and not only did they know where the bodies were buried in Nashville, the Unholy Trinity buried many of them personally. More politely, Beasley, Haynes and Cummings were known simply as the "Triumvirate."

Walter "Pete" Haynes was born October 2, 1897 in Decherd, Tennessee. Haynes earned his law degree and began practicing law in Winchester before winning election to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1922 when he was twenty-five years old. Altogether, Haynes served nine terms in the House of Representative and three in the State Senate representing Franklin, Grundy, Marion and Warren counties. Haynes spent five of those terms in the legislature as speaker of either the House or Senate. Pete Haynes was Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1931, 1935 and 1937; Haynes was Speaker of the State Senate in 1949 and 1951. Haynes was also Tennessee's first lieutenant governor through an act passed by the legislature in 1951.

Haynes quickly allied himself with I. D. Beasley and "Mr. Jim" Cummings as members of the Tennessee General Assembly. All three men were remarkably colorful characters, each with his own particular strengths and weaknesses. As a combine, they were a force to be reckoned with. Haynes was a masterful parliamentarian, while the rotund Beasley carried the fight on the floor of the legislature. Beasley was also renowned for being a superb mimic, possessing an uncanny ability to impersonate most anyone, man or woman. I. D. Beasley was playfully referred to as "The Mockingbird of Capitol Hill."

Beasley got to the legislature two years before Haynes and Jim Cummings arrived four years after Pete Haynes had first been elected. The three were not to be mistaken for mere rabble-rousers; they were serious legislators, profoundly interested in helping the rural people they

represented, as well as making Tennessee a better place to live. All three of the Unholy Trinity liked good food, smoking, and drinking whisky and they all had a sense of humor. None of the three men took themselves especially seriously.

Joe Hatcher, the political columnist for the Nashville Tennessean, had covered Pete Haynes since Haynes' first legislative session in 1923. Hatcher wrote, "Old Pete is a legend in legislative history, one of the most colorful characters ever to serve, especially for so long and so well." Hatcher guessed Haynes' name was "probably on more legislation than any other member in history, because of his long tenure and his leadership and progressive thought."

Even Pete Haynes was not immune from I. D. Beasley's love of pranks and deviltry. Haynes was awakened at 3:00 a.m. one morning in his Nashville hotel room by a "sleepy-eyed" fellow legislator. Haynes invited his colleague inside and was astonished to see one after another come into his room. There were some thirty-five legislators standing in his hotel room when Haynes finally blurted out, "What do you guys want?" "You know what we want," one legislator cried plaintively. "You just called us and said to come here immediately if we were interested in committee appointments."

Recognition began to dawn on Haynes' face and he barked, "Where is I. D. and Jim?" Haynes knew "The Mockingbird of Capitol Hill" had summoned the sleepy legislators by mimicking his friend.

Pete Haynes managed Governor Gordon Browning's bid for a third consecutive term in 1952, a contest won by thirty-two year old Frank Clement. Evidently Governor Clement had a long memory and the two were never close. When Haynes sought election to the State Senate in 1964 and was defeated by Ernest Crouch, many thought it was through the efforts of the Clement organization even though Pete Haynes had been a floor leader for Clement's successor Buford Ellington in 1959.

Quarreling with governors was nothing new to Pete Haynes, who had been a member of the opposition to chief executive Austin Peay during his first years in the House. Haynes was also opposed to Governor Henry Horton and presided over the impeachment hearings against Horton. Haynes was a staunch supporter of Senator Kenneth McKellar and for a time, was allied with E. H. Crump of Memphis. Pete Haynes refused to go

along with the Memphis Boss when Crump ditched U. S. Senator Tom Stewart for an unknown judge from Cookeville in 1948. I. D. Beasley, Pete Haynes and Jim Cummings all backed Stewart. Haynes also earned the Boss's extreme displeasure when he outfoxed Crump in 1935. Crump's legislative generalissimo Frank "Roxie" Rice and the Memphis Boss were vacationing in Hot Springs, Arkansas. As Crump and Rice took the springs treatment, Haynes was busy getting commitments to get himself elected Speaker. Crump was astonished when Pete Haynes was elected Speaker over his personal opposition.

While on a vacation in Florida together, I. D. Beasley had some fun with Haynes after he had upset the Memphis Boss. Beasley planted a loudspeaker under Haynes' bed. As Haynes was drifting off to sleep, he heard "a ghost-like voice" saying, "Pete, this is Ed Crump. You double-crossed me in 1935." Haynes worriedly asked his roommate if he had heard the mysterious voice and naturally his friend insisted he hadn't heard a thing. Haynes went back to bed, only to hear the voice once again. Repeatedly, Pete Haynes heard Ed Crump remonstrating with him for having double-crossed him to win the speakership, while his roommate adamantly insisted he didn't hear a word. In a fit of rage and frustration, Haynes finally defiantly stood up in his bed and cried, "If you're Mr. Crump... I double-crossed you three times, and you didn't know it until 1935!"

During Pete Haynes' time in Nashville, lawmakers were especially wary of attempting to pass legislation regarding dogs. Man's best friend was a touchy subject with many Tennesseans and legislators were all too well aware those unfortunate souls

who trifled with what they termed "dog laws" usually didn't come back. One enterprising opponent made headway against Haynes during a campaign when he reprinted a "dog law" bearing the signature of Pete Haynes. In truth, Haynes had not been the sponsor of the bill and may not have even voted for it, but as Speaker, his signature was on it. After the election, a friend asked Haynes why he didn't try and explain it. "Explain it, hell!" Haynes bawled. "It would take an hour to explain it, and chances are nobody would believe me anyhow. My name was there, wasn't it?"

Haynes, like Crump, supported former Congressman Gordon Browning for governor in 1936. Pete Haynes became Speaker of the House during Browning's first term in 1937. It was the beginning of a long association between the two men.

Pete Haynes was also an excellent attorney, even if he was just a country lawyer. John Jay Hooker, Sr., father of the future gubernatorial candidate, believed Haynes had a "way with a jury you don't see very often." Hooker thought Haynes suffered due to his political prominence, causing some to think the legislator's legal abilities were subpar. The elder Hooker said, "I regarded him as one of the greatest trial lawyers that ever lived in this state."

Haynes practiced law from 1919 until his death, save for two years. Pete Haynes served for one year as a bankruptcy referee and gave another year of his life to work as an assistant state attorney general.

Pete Haynes was perfectly content to be a country lawyer, spurning numerous offers to join big law firms. During his career as an attorney, Haynes defended more than 400 individuals charged with crimes that carried the death

penalty. When asked why he refused to consider lucrative offers from big law firms, Pete Haynes replied, "I like it where I am."

Haynes was as a delegate to Tennessee Constitutional Convention in 1953 and attended the national Democratic conventions in 1928, 1952, 1956 and 1960. Pete Haynes finally met with defeat when he lost a race for the State Senate in 1962. Haynes candidly said he was "relieved" to lose. Haynes cheerfully said he hoped his defeat would lead to him being "depoliticized."

"Now I can practice law with a clear mind," Haynes said.

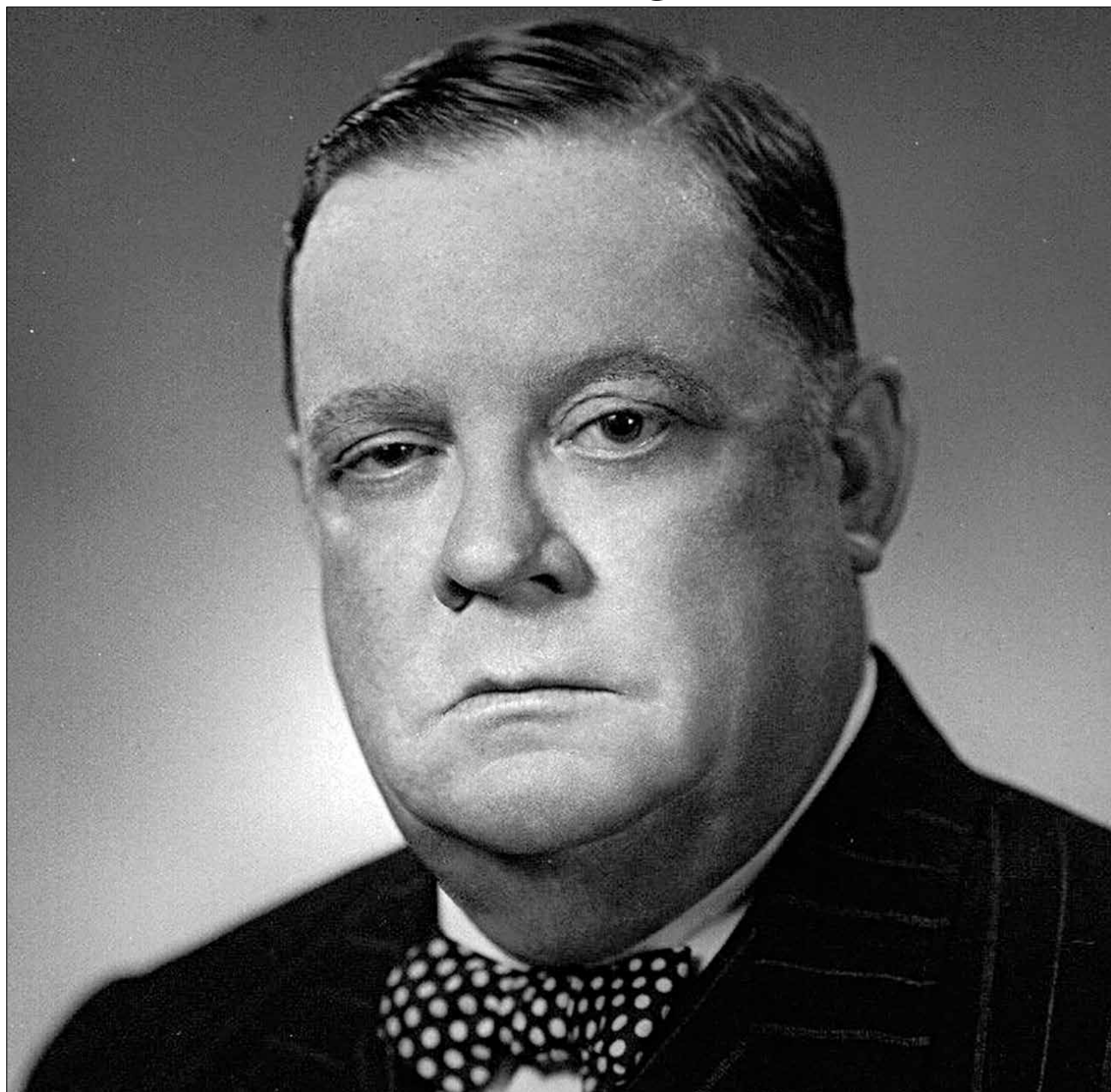
Pete Haynes died in 1967. An employee who had come to the historic Haynes home to drive the former legislator to Haynes' law office discovered his body; apparently the sixty-nine year old Haynes had died in his sleep. Haynes had been in declining health for sometime, having suffered a heart attack during the late forties and a light stroke in the early sixties. The death of the long-time legislator came as a profound shock to his many friends as he had appeared to be in relatively good health for the past several years. Haynes had spent the previous Friday working at his law office. Tributes to Pete Haynes poured in from Tennessee Democrats. Senator Albert Gore thought, "Mr. Haynes mastered the art of practical politics. His ability to put together the possible made him one of the most effective Tennessee political leaders of our time." Governor Frank Clement said Haynes was "a hard fighter" as well as an "able lawyer" and a dedicated public servant to the people of Tennessee. John Jay Hooker described Haynes as "a great personality who brought good humor and joy to every meeting." Hooker noted Haynes was "highly intelligent", an

intrinsically kind man and "an unfailingly marvelous human being."

Pete Haynes, although a Middle Tennessean, was important enough a political figure to merit an editorial on his passing in the Kingsport Times. The Times naturally referred to Haynes' association with I. D. Beasley and Mr. Jim Cummings while remembering the late legislator as "a robust, strong-voiced man who could get the attention of everyone when he rose to speak." Sadly recalling the last session of the legislature in which Pete Haynes served, the Times noted "ill health had taken its toll, but he was still an effective lawmaker."

The Tennessean published its own editorial after Pete Haynes died, remembering his good humor and natural ability. Describing Haynes as "widely known in Tennessee and elsewhere in the nation", the Tennessean likely summed up Pete Haynes' character when it noted the late lawmaker's "circle of friends ranged from great national leaders to regular courtyard whittlers." Pete Haynes was not blinded by great wealth nor attention from the influential; he remained true to his friends and the folks in his rural district. Haynes was born in the stately house his father owned and he died sixty-nine years later in the same house. The Haynes House remained in the hands of the family until 2001.

I. D. Beasley had died in 1955 while still a member of the state legislature. Haynes had been defeated in 1962 and only James H. Cummings was left as a member of the powerful Unholy Trinity. "Mr. Jim" was Speaker of the House when his friend Pete Haynes died. As Cummings sat in the small Episcopal Church during the service for his friend, nobody knew better than "Mr. Jim" that an era had passed along with Pete Haynes.



TN STATE LIBRARY ARCHIVES

Veteran Tennessee state legislator Walter M. "Pete" Haynes.

Anti-ICE protesters speak at commission meeting

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Protesters who are against Knox County's cooperation with ICE's 287(g) program took up the most time during last week's Knox County Commission meeting. Several speakers used the public comment section to lambast the sheriff's policy of arresting undocumented aliens and the commission's funding of the sheriff's department efforts.

Anyone entering the doors of the main assembly room in the City-County Building had to notice the white papers posted on the door warning that disrupting a meeting is a violation. The notices were posted following some of the protesters being escorted from the previous commission meeting recently after disrupting the session and yelling at the elected county leaders.

David Hayes, a candidate for the City Council At-Large Seat B, led the protest off by saying the sheriff's department has no oversight and referred to the need for a group like the city's Police Advisory and Review Committee. He said the sheriff's office profiles innocent people and called for a change in county leadership.

"You're next, it's coming," Hayes warned the commission of the 2020 elections.

Constance Ebery chastised the county mayor and commission for reduced funding for indigent health care and charged that school students in Knox County Schools are being profiled. She also forewarned them of next year's election and criticized "entertainers" being in county leadership positions, a swipe at Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs.

Noah Nostrum called for an audit of the sheriff's budget and called for oversight of that department and "more oversight" of



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Protesters hold up signs as some of their group spoke against the Knox County Commission's support of the sheriff's cooperation with ICE's 287(g). Six speakers called for an end to the program.

the city's PARC.

Other speakers included Laura Miller, who called for stopping "separation of families" and harassment of "people who look Hispanic."

Roberta Loy cited Bible verses and called the 287(g) program immoral.

Three other protest members spoke to the commission, which remained silent during the remarks that took up the entire Public Forum section of the meeting. The supporters snapped their fingers in favor of some statements and applauded each speaker. Several law enforcement officers stood at the back of the audience although no violations, except loud language by the speakers, were noted. Following the statements the protesters left the building.

Following the speakers the commission moved quickly through their meeting, approving the agenda items that had been reviewed in their prior work session, and moving on to honor two individuals and reconvening for the zoning requests.

PARC may look at claims of lewd remarks by police officer

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Why isn't the Police Advisory and Review Committee taking any action on complaints concerning lewd remarks about women and graphic drawings by a police supervisor during a meeting with other policemen? Because PARC cannot, yet.

PARC Executive Director Clarence Vaughn Jr. told The Focus prior to the committee's quarterly meeting held earlier this month at the Knoxville College Chapel that a review will be made following the internal affairs investigation, when a copy of the findings will be passed to the oversight group.

"Probably in our next quarterly meeting after the review," he said.

Knoxville Police Chief Eve Thomas confirmed that the internal investigation, then underway, noted that any action will come by the department based on the results.

"If it is found criminal than it will be sent to our criminal division," she said. The chief added that an internal investigation "is varied" depending on what is substantiated. A

complaint was filed after a shift briefing by Sgt. Bob Maxwell who was captured on a cellphone video making inappropriate comments about rough sex with women and drawing lewd depictions on a dry erase board.

Lt. Travis Brasfield made the complaint that included a demand that two of Maxwell's supervisors be removed for not reporting the incident. An unsigned letter was also received by internal affairs about Maxwell's comments. Maxwell retired before facing disciplinary action.

Both Police Chief Eve Thomas and Mayor Madeline Rogero spoke about the issue and both condemned such unacceptable actions.

PARC is made up of appointed citizens and the committee reviews complaints and actions by the internal review process. In recent years PARC has disagreed with a finding by internal affairs involving an off duty policeman who drew a gun on a woman he thought was stealing a car.

What are the results when PARC reviews a case?

The committee has



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

PARC Executive Director Clarence Vaughn gives his director's report during a recent meeting of the police advisory and review committee.

handled about 48 complaints so far this year and 85 during the previous year. Two of the reviews are pending resolution, 31 were resolved by the department or executive director, seven were referred to the police department, three were resolved by the executive director and four were resolved by the director and the committee.

Over the last quarter PARC had 27 cases of which 25 were closed the remainder referred to the city or county law enforcement agencies.

Angela 'happiness abounding'

Continued from page 2

region came together to celebrate Dr. Angela Easterday Holder's life. Pastor Emeritus Dr. James McCluskey recalled the day Angela was born. A 100-voice choir dressed all in black wore red roses, Angela's favorite. They sang the beautiful "Thou, O Lord." A soloist sang "How Can I Keep From Singing," which was so perfect for Angela's service. Carson-Newman students and alumni gathered down front and closed with a beloved hymn, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You."

I have learned much about the music professor in the weeks following her death. Angela had prayed that a member of their Connect class would receive a kidney. That week, he received one of hers. She was an organ donor. Angela's father summed up her 52 years on this earth with a statement printed on the bottom of the program: "Angela

was a blessing to all who knew her." She was. Dr. Holder was known to ask her students, "Is happiness abounding?" Those words reflect so much of her personality.

I miss her. I miss her smile. I miss her sweet voice and her presence. I can see her onstage in Easter's Living Pictures drama saying with deliberate conviction, "I find no fault in him!" Though no longer heard on this earth, Angela's, amazing voice is now part of heaven's choir. Only days ago, we were watching the sky after a storm. The dark clouds gave way to a most unusual sight. A small area opened revealing a bright light that looked as though it went straight up into heaven. As we watched, mother mentioned Angela. It has been several weeks since her death, but Angela's words linger. May we all find the "happiness abounding" that she did. Angela would want us to.

Commission approves tax break for two projects

Continued from page 1

need of such a facility.

Also approved by the commission in a unanimous vote was a PILOT tax break for Blueprint Group LLC for renovation of 835 North Central Street. Deputy City Mayor Bill Lyons told the commission that the business is "growing fast" and could employ about 300 people when it opens.

Developer Scott Davis received approval for his three projects on Mary Lay Lane, East Copeland Drive and Old Rutledge Pike.

A request from the Development Corporation was also approved for a property at 626 Mannella Drive on the edge of the Midway Business Park, changing the sector plan there. The idea is to create a buffer zone between neighborhoods and the industrial park.

During the meeting Commissioner Carson Dailey recognized Seymour Fire Chief John Linsenbigher who spoke about the eliminating the \$29 state fee for tag renewals for volunteer firemen and rescue squad members. He said the break is a way of saying "thank you" to the volunteers. He added those Knox County volunteers will continue to pay the county

wheel tax and registration fee but get a break on the state fee.

The commission also approved a few rule changes for their meetings including capping the time for the devotional message, saluting the flag, and permitting the chairman to move items around on the agenda with the approval of the other members.

A request to change the sector plan for 10 acres near the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on Governor John Sevier Highway was sent back to planners after local residents objected. Robbie Toole was appealing a denial of his request to the planning commission.

A lengthy discussion looked as if the denial would be rejected. Commissioner Brad Anders moved to send the request back for clarification. Toole is wanting to use four acres of the property for a business involving stream restoration. Some commissioners felt the use was compatible with an Agricultural zone. Anders said he didn't want the applicant to wait another year to reapply should the denial be refused.

Nearby residents and a local church objected to the proposed



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Commissioner Carson Dailey recognized volunteer rescue squad and firemen in Knox County who get a state fee break on the renewal of vehicle tags.

use citing an increase in traffic and the request not matching with the sector plan there. The vote for sending it back included Anders, Michele Carringer, Randy Smith, Richie Beeler, Larsen Jay and Justin Biggs. Voting "No" were Dailey, Evelyn Gill, Hugh Nystrom and John Schoonmaker.

Passing on one vote were several agenda items including an agreement between the Knox County Board of Education, Knoxville Police Department and the sheriff's office to address the rules and responsibilities of the three agencies on policing at county schools.

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FALL FOOTBALL PREVIEWSThe Panthers want to finish what they started last year

YOUR GUIDE TO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



POWELL FOOTBALL 2019

PHOTOS BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Powell offensive linemen listen to Assistant Coach Pace Melvin during practice last week. The O-line should be one of the strengths of the Panthers this fall.

By Steve Williams

Powell High's football team turned a lot of heads in 2018.

A 6-1 start had the surprising Panthers steamrolling to their first playoff berth in years.

"I don't think we're going to sneak up on anybody anymore, that's for sure," said Matt Lowe, back at home for his second season as Powell's head coach, following a morning practice session last week.

"This year might be the exact opposite. I think a lot of people expect us to have a good team."

Last season ended 8-2 on the field, with losses only to Fulton and Oak Ridge, the Region 3-5A champion and runner-up, and the Panthers would have earned a playoff berth. But prior to its eighth game, the TSSAA ruled Powell would have to forfeit its first six wins for using an ineligible player.

Ultimately, that cost Powell a berth in the

playoffs and the Panthers' final record on paper was 2-8.

"None of these players have ever played in a playoff game," said Lowe. "We've got to put these kids in position to have some fun and hopefully get to play in November and December. Those are the fun times of the year. Right now we're extremely excited."

And no wonder. Greeneville, which has gone 30-0 in winning back to back Class 4A state championships, will be the Panthers' opening test in a televised contest on Thursday, Aug. 22, at Powell. It has the makings of being one of the top season openers – if not the best – in the state.

Even more important from Powell's perspective, the Panthers have the talent to compete with the Greene Devils and maybe even win.

The defensive unit

Cont. on page 2



Powell High Head Coach Matt Lowe runs the scout team offense in a practice drill Wednesday.

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FALL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

YOUR GUIDE TO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

New quarterback to start for Falcons

By Alex Norman

FULTON FOOTBALL 2019

Everywhere you go in North Knoxville, people want to know... who's going to be the Fulton Falcons starting quarterback in the opener on Saturday, August 24th against South-Doyle at Bob Black Field?

This isn't something that Fulton head coach Rob Black has had to worry about the past few seasons. Xavier Malone was the four-year starter at football's most important position.

It appears to be down to a competition between juniors Tommy Sweat and Jeffrey Riddle.

"We've got two guys battling for the position," said Black. "Both those guys are getting equal reps right now. Good thing about Jeffrey is that he is another guy that can help us at receiver as well so if he ends up not being our quarterback he will definitely help us as a

wide receiver."

The quarterback position is up for grabs, but that's not the only spot needing a replacement. The Falcons only return a handful of starters on offense and defense. The seniors that have moved on left some large cleats to fill.

"It was a tremendous group. Not just good football players but we had some really good kids too," said Black. We graduated probably the biggest senior class we have had in 15-20 years. We had several three year starters several two year starters. So lots of spots are open. The good thing is that creates competition when guys know there is a spot for me, especially when you have a lot of guys at the same position really battling to try to win that job. Lack of experience at a lot

of our skill positions but if the kids are coachable and they work hard and practice hard and give great effort then we feel like we have some stuff to work with."

Approximately twelve players from that senior class signed to play in the college ranks. One of the most importance graduates that the Falcons will have to replace is DeShawn Page. He committed to Marshall in December 2018, but in April 2019 made the decision to attend East Mississippi Community College, one of the top JUCO schools in the nation. That move could assist in Page's goal of joining an SEC or ACC program in a year or two.

Numbers could be a problem for Fulton this season, but it's something the Falcons simply are dealing with head on.

"We need to get in a little better shape because we are going to have so many guys playing both ways," said Black. "But I like our attitude and I feel like in the off-season the weight room was good to us and conditioning was good to us. We gotta get in better shape but I like where we are."

Last season the Fulton Falcons won Region 3-5A, finishing above rivals Oak Ridge and West. It should be another highly competitive run to November.

"Football is good in East Tennessee and it just so happens this 5A region that we are in has a ton of good teams in it. It is competitive every Friday night. You have to lace them up every Friday night. This year just like last year will come down to that last week to find out who is in and who is out come playoff time. Very competitive. As a coach that's the way you like it."

Bulldogs look to fare better in region play in 2019

By Ken Lay

BEARDEN FOOTBALL 2019

At first glance, Bearden High School's 2018 football season looked like a smashing success as the Bulldogs won eight games.

But their two regular-season losses proved extremely costly as both came in Region 1-6A. Losses to Science Hill and Hardin Valley Academy landed Bearden in fourth place and resulted in a date with Maryville in the playoffs. The Rebels ended the Bulldogs' season.

"We have to win our region games. We had eight wins but we lost two region games and lost early in the playoffs," said Bearden senior quarterback Collin Ironside. "You have to be ready to play every game and during the offseason, we worked on the physical aspect of the game."

"We have a strong rising team and we've worked hard in the weight room. We've had three great years and we've gotten better every year. I'm looking forward to a big fourth year, we want to win every game but you really have to take care of business in your region games."

Ironside has started since the Farragut game of his freshman season and he wasted little time emerging as a leader.

"Collin has done a really

good job," Bearden coach Morgan Shinlever said. "He has a good head on his shoulders and three years of experience."

Like Ironside, Shinlever feels that the Bulldogs (8-3 in 2018) let a chance for a Region 1-6A Championship slip away.

"We had a chance to win the region last year but we didn't play well in a couple of games," Shinlever said. "But we've made progress and we've established ourselves as a good high school program."

"We're continuing to move in the right direction and we're making headway."

After a disappointing end to the 2018 campaign, the Bulldogs went to work during the offseason.

"Our hard work is paying dividends," said Shinlever, who will soon open his sixth season as Bearden's head football coach. "This team is not one of those that you really stay after."

"They have a great work ethic and they do their work on the field and in the weight room and they've probably put forth more effort than any team that I've coached."

One of the team's best qualities is its work ethic and the Bulldogs have a

Continued on page 4

Panthers want to finish what they started last year

Cont. from page 1

returns its front seven. That includes linebackers Jordan Brown, Evan England, Daniel Stanford and Eli Owens plus linemen Jackson Daniel and Colby Wheeler and end Colton Webb.

Bailor Hughes, a four-year starter who has bulked

up to 208, heads up the secondary at strong safety. He also was the region's leading punter last season and operates at times out of the slot on offense.

Walker Trusley will return for his third season as the starting quarterback. Talented junior running back Fernando Frances rejoins him in the backfield and the

Panthers also again have a big wide receiver in senior Tyler Kirkess (6-2, 185).

Powell has four returning starters in the offensive line and Coach Lowe says, "At the high school level, that doesn't happen very often." They are seniors Michael Treadwell, Spencer Rudder and Cade Ballanger and junior Jake Wyrick.

A talented freshmen class also will be contributing significantly to this year's team.

"It's an exciting time," said Lowe. "This type of team doesn't come around very often. This should be a fun season."

Powell is overdue for having one like that.

New head coach Potter takes over at Hardin Valley

By Bill Howard

There's a new era in Hardin Valley Academy football.

Wes Jones was the Hawks' head coach for its first 10 seasons. In May, Jones announced he was leaving to become an assistant at Science Hill. Shortly afterward, Mike Potter, an assistant coach since 2014, was named as his replacement.

"It's exciting," said Potter of his new place at the helm. "Obviously we're in a very tough region - 1-6A - and week in and week out

with our region and non-region games it's gonna be a battle. As long as we stay healthy we have an opportunity to compete each and every week."

The Hawks' offensive approach is to establish the run in order to set up the pass. Who will be throwing those passes remains unsettled. Senior Jacob Smith and junior Sam Simpson - similar in dropback style - are battling to be the starter.

Establishing the run will fall primarily to a pair of tailbacks: senior returning

HARDIN VALLEY FOOTBALL 2019

starter Kelton Gunn (5-10, 170) and junior Adrian Garcia (5-9, 160). Senior Luke Filipkowsky (6-0, 200) will again be the fullback.

"Kelton's got some wheels on him," said Potter. "He's got a good build on him too if he needs to lower his shoulder."

When Smith or Simpson airs it out, the likely targets will be junior Michael Spurgeon (5-10, 180), senior Cam York (6-1, 175), or junior Braden Schloff (5-9,

165).

Whether the Hawks are running the ball or throwing it, a strong offensive line will ease the process; all four are returning starters. The guards will be junior Ian Sawyer (6-0, 210) and senior Declan Brophy (6-1, 210). Senior Maverick Mount (6-2, 240) and junior Isaac Wilhite (6-1, 270) will man the tackle positions.

"We got some good experience there," Potter said, of his O-line. "We're a little undersized for 6-A, but they work hard. With an experienced line and backfield, I think we'll start out trying to establish the run."

What's likely to keep

Potter up at nights this fall is his front seven on defense. Three of his starters on the line last year are gone. So are all three starting linebackers. Limited experience throughout is the norm.

"We'll be very inexperienced in the front seven," Potter said.

The one returning starter on the line is senior end Jaylen Moore (6-2, 235). The other end might be filled by senior Devin Jones (6-5, 300). The position is still being developed.

"The other guys, we'll see how they battle," Potter said of the other end position. "When we get in pads, we'll see where we go from there. Hopefully in the next several weeks we

can develop some depth because we have a lot of kids who are gonna play both sides of the ball."

Starting tackles will be Brophy and junior Deshawn Carey (6-0, 200).

Senior Derek Whitaker, (6-2, 215) played some linebacker last year. He returns this year as a starter. He'll be joined by Filipkowsky, who also has limited experience at the position. York will be the other.

Depth will also be an issue in the secondary, as two-way players will be prominent there as well. Spurgeon will start at safety; Gunn at one of the corners. The other corner will be Treston Thomas (5-11, 160) who has limited experience.

The Hawks' kicking game is a work in progress; several players are vying for the job, according to Potter.

"Next week we'll put a real emphasis on our special teams," Potter said.

Last year the Hawks finished in a three-way tie for second in the region at 4-2. Farragut, at 5-1, won the region; the Admirals' lone loss was to Bearden, whom H-V beat. Ooltewah beat H-V in the first round of the playoffs, 35-28.

"We're a little behind the 8-ball," Potter said, of having to make a sudden transition to head coach. "We've lost several coaches. But these kids are hungry and excited. I think they believe in themselves."



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Powell wins ‘Big Man’ battle, which includes tire-flipping

By Steve Williams

While there’s been plenty of news on 7-on-7 football play among high school teams this preseason, let’s not forget the “Big Man” competition that’s been going on locally and in the East Tennessee area.

Skill position players – quarterbacks, receivers and defensive backs – compete in 7-on-7, while Big Man competition involves linemen.

“We host a Big Man competition in July versus other high schools,” reported Farragut Coach Eddie Courtney last week. “We use tire flipping as one of the events.”

Powell was the team champion in the Big Man competition at Farragut this month, while Hardin Valley Academy took second place and the host Admirals third.

Up the road at Tennessee High in Bristol, **Continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY EDDY GRAY AT TRICITIESCAPTURED1@HOTMAIL.COM

A Tennessee High player works to flip the 250-pound truck tire in the Vikings’ annual race down State Street in Bristol.

Hagenow, Martin named Max Preps All-Americans

By Ken Lay

Two of the area’s most decorated high school baseball players each picked up a national trophy recently.

Farragut High School junior pitcher Ryan Hagenow and Catholic High freshman center fielder Kaden Martin each received national recognition from Max Preps.

Hagenow made the website’s Junior All-American team after helping the Admirals win the Class AAA State Championship in Murfreesboro in May. He also made Tennessee Baseball Report’s All-State Team in June and was the District 4-AAA Pitcher of the Year.

In 2019, Hagenow posted a record of 12-1 and recorded 96 strikeouts. The University of Kentucky commitment finished the campaign with a 1.02 earned run average.

Martin, the son of former Tennessee quarterback and current Volunteers’ assistant head coach Tee Martin, was named to the Max Preps Freshman All-American.

Kaden is a two-sport athlete for the Fighting Irish. He also plays football and spent the first semester of his freshman year in California.

He was on the Tennessee Baseball Report’s Super Freshman and Sophomore Team.

He hit .252, clubbing three home runs and driving in 21 runs. He scored 29 runs and had 12 doubles en route to being named District 4-AAA Rookie of the Year.

Decision to add Terry Brown to Hall of Fame was easy

By Steve Williams

Gratitude filled Terry Brown’s thoughts when he found out he was going to be inducted into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame.

The longtime official was very appreciative of being among what he called a “magnificent” 2019 class of inductees, and he reflected too on the previous “celebrated” classes he would be joining.

“But, most importantly, I have a great deal of respect for the body of members that makes up this prestigious (selection) board,” stated Brown recently. “Because I too served on this board once upon a time, and therefore recognize and understand the considerable thought process, hard work and dedication that contributes to each induction class. Decisions I know are not always easy.”

Making split-second decisions on football’s biggest stage for 13 seasons played a huge part in Brown’s selection for this year’s Hall of Fame class. He is one of a very few with ties to Knoxville who have made it to the National



As the hunt for a fumble continues between Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos, NFL official Terry Brown knows who recovered the ball and “sells his call.” Brown was inducted in the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame Thursday night.

Football League in black and white stripes.

According to NFL Official Statistics, Brown has worked 190 games since 2006, including being the field judge in the 2019 AFC

Championship game that matched the New England Patriots against the Kansas City Chiefs at frigid Arrowhead Stadium.

Many University of Tennessee fans first got to

know Brown, a native of Macon, Ga., as a four-year starter in the defensive secondary (1983-86) and a member of the “Sugar Vols,” who walloped the Miami Hurricanes 35-7 in

one of the school’s greatest all-time wins and finished ranked No. 4 in the nation.

Brown, who started calling high school football and basketball games in 1990, believes his experience as

a player has helped him in officiating.

“I certainly think playing collegiate football at its highest level does add a much needed benefit to officiating,” he said. “I can anticipate or expect specific plays – sometimes based on down and distance, as well as certain particular formations.”

Brown noted too that officiating crews consider themselves the “third team” on the field, but prefer to be as inconspicuous as possible.

“We understand no one pays to watch officials,” he added. “But think for a moment what a game would be like, if referees were not there to govern them?”

“Remember, I was once a player first, and most players feel it’s better to cheat - than get beat ...”

Brown, who also worked college basketball games in his career, has learned how to deal with rude fans.

“Unfortunately, fans consider sports arenas as an opportunity to yell and criticize officials,” he said. “So many fans have

Continued on page 4

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Decision to add Terry Brown to Hall of Fame was easy

Continued from page 3

this erroneous misconception that demeaning officials is part of the game. I beg to differ!

"We are proud of what we do, and we have enough fortitude to overlook and work hard at not taking the words of fans personally. "That's a difficult task."

But over the years Brown has found a way to make it a little easier. "I remind myself 'Love Conquers All!' ... My love for the game conquers all the criticism from them that cast

stones!"

In addition to his outstanding officiating career, Brown has played a meaningful role in many young lives through the years, working for the Knox County Juvenile Court, where his current job title is Court Director / Hearing Officer.

Other Hall of Fame inductees Thursday night at the Knoxville Convention Center were Walt Chapman (golf), Randy Jenkins (track and field), Dr. Chris Jones (coach), Kamisha Martin (track and field), David Messer (coach), George Sampson

(contributor), Davis Tarwater (swimming) and Jody Wright (coach).

JOHN MICHELS, who died in January, was named the winner of the "Buck Vaughn Legacy Award" at the 38th annual ceremony. The UT guard was a consensus All-American in 1952 and won the Jacobs Trophy as the outstanding blocker in the SEC. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1996.

Michels also was an assistant coach for the Minnesota Vikings for 27 years.

Powell wins 'Big Man' battle, which includes tire-flipping

Cont. from page 3

tire-flipping has become a longtime annual event. In fact, the Vikings had their 17th annual tire-flip race July 18.

"We divide our whole squad into two teams," explained Tennessee High Head Coach Mike Mays, "and take the tires to State Street, which is a mile away.

"We start the teams on each side of the road at school and they run down to the tires. They flip the tires on the sidewalk on each side of the road all the way back to school.

"The players love it and lots of people come out and cheer them on."

Leading up to the race, the Tennessee High players flip tires on the field throughout the spring and summer, added Coach Mays. "It's good for football because it requires hip explosion and leg drive.

What I like about it most is the toughness it creates mentally and physically."

The tires weigh about 250 pounds apiece.

"I'm not sure if anyone else around has a tire flip race," said Mays, "but I'm sure they probably flip some. It's just something we started doing for competition and toughness. It also uses a lot of muscles needed in blocking and tackling."

A spot check among some Knoxville coaches found most use tire-flipping in some form for conditioning.

"We flip tires some in the offseason, but it's not a big part of what we do on a daily basis ... maybe something we should do more," said Knoxville Catholic Coach Steve Matthews.

"We at Bearden use tire-flipping and variations of that drill during our off-season training for the entire

team," said Bearden's Morgan Shinlever.

Halls' Scott Cummings and Jeff Phillips of Austin-East said their teams also do some tire-flipping.

SOUTH-DOYLE reportedly defeated Catholic twice in the recent Knoxville 7-on-7 Classic at Powell High before falling to the Irishmen in the title contest.

"We ended with a record of 6-1," said Cherokees Coach Clark Duncan. "We have a talented and experienced group of players. We were very pleased with the way we competed throughout the two-day event."

ROAD TO FAME: The first class of Halls High Athletics' Road to Fame is scheduled to be announced in the August 5 issue of The Knoxville Focus,

The 12 inductees will be introduced at Halls High's home football game

against Clinton on Sept. 6.

JOSH SOBOTA, 2018 Bearden grad who is now a member of the University of Kentucky track and field team, won the Silver Medal in the shot put event and the Bronze Medal in the discus throw at the recent U20 Pan American Games in Costa Rica.

Josh's brother, Jacob, also now competes for Duke University.

PATRICK RABY, Farragut High grad, notched the first win of his professional baseball career for the Greeneville Reds in a 4-2 win over the Elizabethton Twins in the Appalachian League July 19. He struck out five in pitching three scoreless innings of relief.

Raby won a TSSAA state title at Farragut and was a member of this year's College World Series title team at Vanderbilt.

VFW Post 12135 Fundraiser Golf Tournament

Tellico Village VFW Post 12135 will be holding a Fundraising Golf Tournament on August 10, 2019, at the Tanasi Golf course. The event will be a 4-person scramble with a shot gun start at 9 a.m. Teams will be flighted and open to all golfers. Golfers can sign up at the Tanasi Pro shop for the event as teams or individuals. Cost of the event is \$65 per individual, plus cart/green fees payable on the day of the event. Each golfer will receive a gift pack. A lunch will be served on completion of golf along with the awarding of prizes. We need your support so we can continue to help the needy Veterans in the County. Come and join us for golf and fellowship for a very worthy cause. Contact Ed Frandle for any questions at efrandle@bellsouth.net or 865-657-9350.

Bulldogs look to fare better in region play in 2019

Cont. from page 2

bevy of skill players returning on offense. But graduation hit the Bulldogs hard on the defensive side of the ball, especially on the defensive front.

"We have five senior skill players back on offense," Shinlever said. "But our defensive front is going to be a huge question mark. We lost two of our key defensive players in [linebacker] Caleb Wilkins and [defensive lineman] Shamarcus Brown.

"We lost our whole [starting] defensive line and the next two in on our rotation. I think we have some talented players there, but they're just inexperienced."

The expectations at Bearden are simple.

"We just want to play our brand of football and that's to play hard for 48 minutes," Shinlever said. "We want to be physical. We want to prepare and we want to focus on the process and not just the final results."


The Bulldogs open their 2019 season against

non-region rival West High on the road on Saturday, Aug. 24.

Players to watch for at Bearden include: Ironside; Hayden Candelaria (senior, wide receiver/defensive back); Parker Harrell (senior, offensive lineman/defensive lineman); Gavin Campbell (senior, offensive lineman/defensive lineman); Ty Seritt (junior, linebacker); Connor Cross (senior, kicker/punter); Julian Kendrick (senior, wide receiver/defensive back); Jackson Biggs (senior, safety); Jaquez Ballard (junior, outside linebacker); Makai Williams (junior, running back/defensive back); Kenneth Parker-Smith (senior, wide receiver/defensive back); Kishion Jones (senior, tight end); Reed Frederick (junior, safety); James Milazzo (junior, offensive lineman/defensive lineman); Micah Haun (sophomore, offensive lineman/defensive lineman); Chase Butcher (senior, offensive lineman) and James Adkins (senior, wide receiver/defensive back).

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Cycles

It's a good thing I live in the south because I like hot weather. I'd rather be too hot than too cold - as long as there's a bit of summer-time air-conditioning.

A hot, sandy beach in mid summer is not my cup of tea. I'm more of a mountain man than a beach bum. The view from our mountain cabin above Townsend, Tennessee is as beautiful as any place in the world. I have friends with vacation homes in the mountains of western Carolina where they escape the summer heat of the Tennessee Valley. But I relish summer mornings sitting on my porch or summer evenings driving with the windows down.

I'm writing this essay in route to the beach via Portland, but not Portland, Oregon, where we often visit my daughter, SIL and grandchildren. We're flying

to Portland, Maine to visit friends who avoid Knoxville's heat at their beach house in Kennebunk. It has been a long time since Becky and I were in New England. I look forward to hanging out with my friends and I really look forward to lobster at least once a day! The last time I was in Maine, McDonalds was offering a McLobster sandwich. I realize I'm not a "Mainer," but lobster on a bun "just ain't right."

Fortunately, the heat wave recently experienced in New York City and New England has passed and the forecast predicts sunny weather in Kennebunk with temperatures in the mid-70s. Not bad for a beach vacation. I would soon learn a different definition of "beach" which, in Maine, is more granite rock than white sand.

Humans have a biased

and a present-moment sense of things. When it's hot we imagine it's hotter than we ever remember. And when it's cold, it's terribly cold. I would not presume to tell a New Yorker experiencing the recent 110° heat that experience shows it will pass and will be cooler again soon. Presently, we're experiencing heavy rainfall in Knoxville. No one is advising us to build an ark. The truth is the world gets hot, it gets cold, it rains and things dry out. Apocalyptic reports abound in the 24 hour news cycle, adhering to the journalistic mantra, "If it bleeds, it leads."

I've become somewhat skeptical of everything I read and filter any "news" with my own observation, logic and the study of history. Despite what a modernist might say, there are few things that occur that have not happened before. The founders of our country studied the lessons of history. You should do so as well. Yes, I'm often critical of what journalism has become. However, I found a commendable section on CBSN Live called "The Uplift: Stories That Inspire." It is a refreshing oasis amidst the reported chaos, offering food for the soul.

Recently, I've been asking friends whether they

sense more wars, murders and shark attacks off the Atlantic coast, than there used to be. Perhaps our perception is biased. Perhaps there is just more space to be filled in the 24 hour news cycle. However, most of us have smartphones and Internet access, and admittedly we seem to be drawn to the drama and pathos of life more than the mundane or uplifting. The cartoon sage Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

As I travel to the ocean I have been thinking about reports of ocean pollution, garbage and plastic. With a bit of research I found a report that a billion gallons of sewage is purportedly dumped into the ocean from cruise ships each year. I've done considerable cruising and it has been my observation that cruise ships are extremely careful to avoid polluting.

Then I read that 10,000 cargo containers are lost from cargo ships into the ocean each year. Perhaps if we bought more American made products we wouldn't need to import so much from China and endanger the ocean.

And lastly, I read that Canada has begun repatriating huge quantities of garbage it previously

shipped to the Philippines for disposal. Why haven't the Canadians been using their own land for garbage disposal rather than sending it to the Philippines?

I have always been puzzled how so many soda straws are said to find their way into the ocean, forcing California and Starbucks to ban plastic straws. In Knoxville plastic is either recycled or put into a landfill. New York City sends much of its garbage to landfills in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Perhaps Californians can't resist throwing straws into the ocean. It turns out that China is the greatest plastic polluter in the world. Indonesia captures second place. The United States ranks a dismal 20th in the panoply of plastic polluters.

Some years ago I wrote an essay decrying litter along the roadside. I wondered what kind of an animal fouls its own nest. Actually, as I walk in our neighborhood I pick up trash strewn by these nocturnal human beasts. And I separate garbage and recycle. Some years ago, a liberal friend of mine was flummoxed to find me at a recycling bin. I assured him I was a conservationist and recycling before it was cool.

With pollution in mind, a recent news story from Berkeley, California caught

my eye. Apparently, the city council in this bastion of progressive liberalism banned natural gas in new home construction. Hizzoners mandated that electricity be used for heating and cooking instead of energy from fossil fuels. Apparently these intellectual giants do not realize that electricity is largely generated from coal. But not to worry, Berkeley purchases electricity from Arizona and New Mexico where it is generated in coal fired power plants. Apparently, the civic leaders of Berkeley don't mind transporting waste to others.

Fortunately, I was traveling and missed the garbage of Mueller's Congressional testimony. Sifting through the soundbite refuse led me to remember and recycle the words of Shakespeare's Macbeth as applies to our Congressional Hizzoners.

"[They are] but poor players

[who] strut and fret upon the stage and then [are] heard no more:

[Their's] is a tale told by idiots, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

I cannot improve on the Bard's analysis.

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

Exploring Virginia's I-81 attractions

Many of us know that Interstate 81 begins just east of Dandridge as I-40 turns south but many people probably don't know that I-81 continues all the way to Alexandria Bay, New York, and from there enters Canada.

It's an interesting but busy route for trucks and the interstate flows up through the Shenandoah Valley, an area full of history, cave attractions and beautiful scenery. Just off the highway beyond Bristol there are also many state parks, the usual services to travelers, and connections

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

with other interstate routes.

Within a day's drive from Knoxville is the Shenandoah Caverns. Although there are several tourist caves along the

route, Shenandoah is different for a couple of reasons. While it features a well-done guided tour with multi-color lights on the formations, it also boasts two other attractions: a self-guided tour of Americana business window displays called Main Street of Yesteryear and a separate building, American Celebration on Parade, displaying

various parade floats.

The attraction is located just off I-81 near Mt. Jackson, Virginia, in Quicksburg, and there's lots of free parking. Admission to the caverns is \$25 per adult and a veteran and senior citizen discount is available. Children are admitted for \$13.

The floats, collected over the years by Earl Hargrove, are from presidential inaugurations, the Rose Parade, New Orleans events, etc. The admission is covered with your cave ticket and you won't believe the size and beauty of most of the retired parade floats. Hargrove started his collection of floats in 1949 with pieces from the President Harry Truman inauguration parade.

Old Timey Sayings

The following appeared in a recent "Historic Union County Newsletter" and is appearing with the permissions of Shirley McMurtrie and the Union County Historical Society.

By Shirley McMurtrie

A couple of years ago, Bonnie Peters and I were talking about old timey sayings. Later, I sat down and compiled a bunch of them. Back in the day, before television and a movie costing an arm and a leg, we enjoyed sitting around seeing who could remember the most maxims. Most have a kernel of truth in them. See if you remember any of these:

1. Five leaf clovers bad luck. Continue looking until you find a four leaf clover to restore your good luck.
2. Don't start anything on Friday. You will never finish it.
3. Don't step on a crack in the sidewalk. You will break your mother's back.
4. As a child we would look for plantain in the yard. The number of threads on the broken end of the stem foretold how many children you would have.
5. Don't put on your shirt backwards, or

you will have bad luck all day.

6. If a family member is buried on a rainy day, two more deaths will surely follow.

7. The last Friday and Saturday of the month rule the next month. If Friday is stormy, the first half of the month will be stormy. If it is sunny and pleasant on the last Friday, the first part of the next month will be the same. Saturday rules the last half of the month the same way.

8. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

9. If you spill salt, throw some of the spilled salt over your shoulder. It makes a difference which one, but I don't remember which one.

10. Don't cry over spilled milk. Why not?

11. Don't go to bed mad or you will get up mad.

12. Don't mix your metaphors. It's confusing.

13. A new broom sweeps clean.

14. Taking a picture of someone in their coffin is bad luck.

15. A new knife will always draw blood. Let someone else use it first.

16. When you are with child, seeing

Continue on page 4



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No, Johnson City, you are not the Home of Mountain Dew

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

An event took place recently in another East Tennessee city that should upset and outrage Knoxvilleians. "It'll tickle your innards" was the original Mountain Dew slogan and this event might be laughable except for who's claiming to be the home of the popular soft drink.

A historical marker was unveiled in Johnson City naming that city as the "Home of Mountain Dew!" Any history-minded thinking person knows that Mountain Dew was invented and bottled first in our town. While a press release in Johnson City noted that the soft drink was first produced in Knoxville it gives that date as

1946. The release goes on to say "but the flavor was born in Johnson City when Tri-City Beverage, the company behind Dr. Enuf, was awarded the first Mountain Dew franchise in 1854."

Actually, Johnson City, Mountain Dew began as early 1927 as a product when Max Licht and Sons and was invented by Barney and Ally Hartman. Most accounts give the soft drink as being first bottled in 1940 but the drink predates that years. It was originally created to be a mixer for the real "mountain dew" or corn whiskey during Prohibition when that was about the only whiskey anyone could find.

The Hartman Brothers displayed their drink

at the Gatlinburg Convention Center in 1946. Their original bottling company building still exists today in East Knoxville at 1921 E. Magnolia Avenue. Some Parkridge residents would like to see it memorialized.

"This new flavor (by the Tri-City Beverage Company), as today, was the beginning of a soda distributed across the nation and world," the Johnson City release says.

The new historical marker was placed at the corner of West Walnut and Cherokee Streets in Johnson City and a display is currently at ETSU's Reece Museum with artifacts related to the company along with bottles of Dr. Enuf and Mountain Dew, through September 20th. Supposedly Scott Lusk,

a local bottle collector, worked with the Johnson City bottler and with the Tennessee Historical Commissioner to have a 2018 resolution passed to permit the marker, noting "the subsequent creation of a new flavor."

In 2012 the Pepsico Corporation introduced an extension to the Mountain Dew brand in honor of Johnson City calling it "Johnson City Gold."

Where's the indignation, Knoxville?

Initial local notice of the Johnson City historical marker made local Knoxville television news and hit Facebook last week, bringing some response from East Knoxville and other area residents. One posted that he grew up in Johnson City and always believed the brew started there.

Another Facebook Knoxville resident said he is from the Parkridge Neighborhood and knows that one of the "Dew" buildings of the Hartman Brothers bottlers is and should be recognized as the birthplace. The Focus has asked

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero to defend Knoxville's claim. She may reply but seems to have more on her plate right now than the soft drink.

"It'll Tickle Your Innards" was the motto of Mountain Dew for many years and is the theme of an ongoing display at the East Tennessee History

Museum. The display explores the origins of the drink, the Hartman brothers, and includes more than 200 artifacts. The museum will display Knoxville's rightful claim to fame through January 20th.

Old Timey Sayings

Cont. from page 1

an ugly person will mark the baby with a birthmark.

17. A full moon is bad luck. Be careful.

18. Eat everything on your plate or you will have bad luck. At least that is what my mother used to say.

19. A watched pot will never boil. Ignore it, and it will boil.

20. If you spy a coin on the ground, tails side up, turn it over before you remove it from the ground, for good luck.

21. See a penny on the ground? Someone in heaven is thinking about you.

22. Nothing rhymes with orange.

23. A broken shoelace is bad luck.

24. Monkey see; monkey do.

25. Hearing a rooster crowing during the night is bad luck.

26. Shaking hands with the left hand is bad luck.

27. If you think a gun is empty, beware, it probably isn't.

28. Beware of a stranger bearing gifts.

29. Don't skate on thin ice.

30. If it rains before seven, it will clear before eleven.



This historical marker was unveiled recently proclaiming Johnson City as the "Home of Mountain Dew." Actually the soft drink, now the third most popular beverage in our nation, was developed originally in Knoxville.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES MATTHEW YORK
DOCKET NUMBER 81947-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 18TH day of JULY 2019, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JAMES MATTHEW YORK who died Jun 10, 2019, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death

This 18TH day of JULY, 2019.

ESTATE OF JAMES MATTHEW YORK
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JASON M. YORK; ADMINISTRATOR
200 CRAWFORD ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37918

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Published in The Knoxville Focus Monday, JULY 29, 2019

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In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on August 16, 2019 @ 2:00 PM @ Chestnut Street Transport & Recovery, Inc. 5000 Rutledge Pike Knoxville, TN if

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