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City Council

Drop the beer distance ordinance? Council says 'Not Yet.'

By Mike Steely
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It is apparent that the distance between a beer retail store and places like schools, hospitals, churches and mortuaries may someday be changed but a 5-4 vote Tuesday evening by the city council keeps the 300 foot requirement. The close decision not to

change the distance rule came after several minutes of debate on the ordinance change request from Council members Marshall Stair and George Wallace.

Aaron McClain, founder of The Crafty Bastard brewery, spoke in favor of the ordinance explaining how hard it was to find a property for his business that

met the distance requirement. He said that breweries in Knoxville are part of the revitalization of the city and said the current distance requirement is "archaic."

Councilman Nick Pavlis responded that the requirement is not archaic and "works very well."

Brenda Palmer, the

council member who heads the Beer Board, told McClain that he knew about the distance requirement.

The main objection by opponents to the distance rule is that applicants for beer permits that are too close to churches or schools are being told, by the beer board, they can

apply for a state liquor license which has no distance requirements, and if issued, also sell beer.

Councilman Nick Delle Volpe said the current law is to protect "these institutions" but he recognized that the state permits are "a work around."

"We're not required to issue a beer permit just

because the state has issued a liquor permit," he said.

Pavlis said that some 190 applications for beer sales have been considered over the past 5 years and only 5 were affected by the distance requirement.

"The rules are in place for a reason, we have to be
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New Pump, Wetland To Improve Fountain City Lake



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Efforts to begin the repairs on Fountain City Lake was slated to begin in September 2014, pictured above, when algae covered 80% of the lake.

The City of Knoxville's efforts to restore Fountain City Lake took a major step forward Tuesday night, when City Council voted unanimously to authorize a contract of up to \$91,250 with a Knoxville company to install a new pump, pipes and other infrastructure essential to maintaining this community resource.

The pump, to be installed by Design & Construction Services Inc. by late spring, will restore constant circulation in the lake, increase oxygen levels in the water and moderate temperatures - all of which will reduce the growth of algae.

"This iconic lake is truly cherished, and we're taking careful, thorough steps to restore it in such a way that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy its beauty many decades from now," Mayor Madeline Rogero said.

"We always understood that rehabilitating Fountain City Lake would be a long-term project. We're not finished yet, but I'm pleased that we're well on our way

toward returning the lake to its former grandeur."

Last fall, work began with a repair of a leak in the earthen berm that surrounds the 125-year-old manmade but spring-fed lake. A new water outlet structure was installed last year. Those initial improvements allowed the lake to fill to its proper depth.

Because algae thrives in warm, stagnant, shallow water, both deepening the lake and aerating the water with the new pump and plumbing are critical upgrades.

Additional steps, like creating a small wetland area in what's now a shallow spot on the lake's northern end, are planned for later this spring and early summer.

This next step would aid habitat diversity while reducing the size of a stagnant zone of water that's been conducive to the growth of thick algae. The wetland vegetation also would filter pollutants and absorb some of the nutrients from waterfowl feces that are now in the water and promoting

Update on Improvements to Fountain City Lake

Fountain City Town Hall will meet on Monday, April 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 5337 Jacksboro Pike. The program, Update on Improvements at Fountain City Lake, will be presented by Joe Walsh, City Parks and Recreation, and Garry Menendez, landscape architect.

algae growth.

The wetland area will be planted with native species, and the lake will be restocked with triploid grass carp and blue tilapia to control aquatic vegetation. Chemical algaecide will be sparingly applied if needed.

David Hagerman, a City stormwater engineer who's been working on the Fountain

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KAT Board, Advisory groups meet

By Mike Steely
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Both the advisory committee and the KAT Board met recently in separate sessions and both meetings saw some interesting comments.

"We need a good step class," said Chris Jenkins, a Knoxville Area Transit Community Advisory Committee Member speaking at a recent meeting of that board, referring to where a bus or trolley stops to let people get on and off the vehicles.

He applauded one driver for dropping off riders on concrete rather than gravel. Many handicapped people ride the public transit system. The step class would remind drivers of the most courteous manner to serve passengers.

Advisory Chairwoman Sandy Booher, a member from the Council on Disabilities Issues, reported she met with an Americans with Disabilities Act member recently who is a former trolley driver and they discussed safety issues.

She said the Advisory Committee is shy two members and needs those members named by city council members George Wallace and Brenda Palmer.

The committee is made up of citizens named by each council district members and members from local organizations. Those members currently are named by the University of Tennessee, the CAC, CBID, the Homeless Coalition, Pellissippi State, Knoxville College and Mayor Rogero's office. All members serve two year terms.

Most advisory members are users of the city transportation system and act in an advisory capacity to KAT. The group was formed in 1981.

Booher said that Dawn Distler, Director of Transit, will meeting with the advisory committee next month to conduct "mini-training" for

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Town Hall Meeting held to Discuss Recent Threats at Farragut High School

Karen Carson held a town hall meeting for the Fifth District community at Farragut High School Thursday, March 31, 2016 to discuss the recent threats at FHS, the school system's response



By Sally Absher
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Trammell, and others from the Sheriff's department. Board of Education member-elect Jennifer Owen and 5th District candidates Susan Horn and Buddy Pelot were also present.

and the community's ability to support a resolution to these concerns.

Several dozen Farragut parents, students, teachers and staff attended the meeting. Also in attendance were Commissioners John Schoonmaker and Bob Thomas, Knox County Board of Education Chair Doug Harris, Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre, KCS Chief of Security Gus Paidousis, Chief Deputy Lee

Carson explained that she was not going to get into the details about the threats that occurred, saying, "There is a delicate balance between providing enough information so parents understand that the right things are happening to protect their children, and providing too much information." She said they gave too much information after the first threat, and there were copycat

threats. In fact, there have been at least four threats at FHS since February. Last Tuesday, the high school was evacuated and students were sequestered in the football stadium for several hours. More information, or at least more consistent information, is what many of those who spoke at the meeting were requesting.

Brian Mayer, a parent, said that he doesn't have confidence in KCS because, "We don't know what the plan is and we don't know who is in charge, and I got conflicting messages. You don't have to give me specifics but I do need more communication."

Students also want to know the plan and expectations. Junior Viktoria Ohstrom said, "As a student

I need to know where I'm expected to be, how I am expected to behave in this situation and that's not what I'm getting."

Carson explained that there are two general responses to a threat: hard lock down, where everyone stays where they are and there is no movement, and soft lock down, which allows movement from class to class within a building. She said, "Our specific response changes with every situation."

Chief of Security Gus Paidousis explained, "All threats are taken very seriously, but all threats aren't created equal... What we know dictates to a large degree what we do, but also what we don't know dictates what we do... We don't want to push out

information that creates a blueprint for someone to create a threat."

Dr. McIntyre added, "We respond based on the nature of the threat." He said there may be a different response to each threat, from early dismissal to moving kids to cancelling school. "Our interest is to provide as much information as we possibly can, as quickly as we possibly can. Our first obligation is to keep your kids safe."

Carson encouraged parents to be proactive, to be aware of what their child is doing on social media, and try to de-escalate their child's anxiety (and their own) during these events. She cited the anonymous tip line set up to help "see something, say something," which many in the audience

were not familiar with (see below)

To report potential violence, drugs, bullying or other sensitive issues to security and law enforcement.
Text to: 274637 (spells CRIMES)
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Type a space
Type your tip

A student from Hardin Valley Academy, which also recently experienced

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Drop the beer distance ordinance? Council says 'Not Yet.'

March is Woman's History Month and Tuesday local attorney Wanda Sobleski spoke of the timeline of women getting the vote during the city council meeting. She noted that it was one vote by an East Tennessee legislator that succeeded in Tennessee and passed the constitutional right. Many of the women in the main assembly room held up time-line cards recalling important dates in U. S. history involving women and their contributions.



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careful," said Councilman Daniel Brown.

"You inhibit business development because of that requirement," Wallace said. He explained that he offered the agenda items, being considered on first reading, to create a public discussion.

"I don't regret bringing it, I still support it," he said.

Stair said the issuance of liquor permits by the state with no distance requirement is "a giant loophole."

"We're in a position to change that. We've already exempted downtown," he said, mentioning the growing density in areas like Bearden, the South Waterfront, Magnolia, Central and Broadway as being similar.

He said the current distance requirement affects small restaurants like pizza places that may want to sell beer.

"The craft beer industry is typically mom and pop operations," Stair said.

Councilman Finbarr Saunders said that the city "needs to be as friendly as we can" and said he'd like to see the conversation keep going.

"We need to deal with this," he said.

The vote to consider dropping the 300 foot distance between beer selling stores and the other establishments saw Wallace, Saunders, Stair and Mark Campen voting for the change and Brown, Della Volpe, Palmer, Pavlis and Duane Grieve opposing it.

In a related matter the city council, after much discussion and public comment, voted to delay a decision about final food truck regulations for two weeks.

The debate on that subject has also to do with distance — the distance between the food vehicles and neighborhoods, whether or not the trucks can use "smokers" to their locations, and where the trucks can operate.

Larry Silverstein and Carlene Malone spoke in opposition to several items in the food truck regulations and primarily against the smokers. The language of the ordinance now goes to the city law office and will return to the council where it will apparently continue to face opposition.

"Just remember," said Grieve, "It took three and one-half years for the sign ordinance."

He said the ordinance language has "several sticky points" with the main objection concerning the smokers.

Della Volpe, in referring to applications that passed to issue certificates of compliance for the new state wine sales from grocery stores, said he was surprised that there were 22 applications from Pilot stores. The certificates were issued by the council with Della Volpe's support but he commented that the state requires at least 20% of the sales from a business to be food.



Compassion in Action is collecting new and gently used pocketbooks, purses, totes, wallets, luggage, etc for their April 19th sale. Donations will be accepted through April 15th. Contact Jillian at (865) 637-0095. Proceeds from sale are used to assist cancer patients with financial hardships that arise during treatment.

New Pump, Wetland To Improve Fountain City Lake

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City Lake project, said the pump, wetland creation and restocking of the lake with sustainable species of plants and fish will restore the lake's health — so long as lake visitors do their part as well.

"Almost all of the bacteria and nutrients that feed the algae originate with the waterfowl," Hagerman said. "Feeding bread to ducks is harmful to their health because it changes their migration instincts, and it promotes an artificially high overpopulation of

waterfowl at the lake.

"The high population and overfeeding produces way more waste than the small lake and park can handle. The result is unsightly and unhealthy for humans and wildlife.

"While the physical infrastructure upgrades are needed, the most critical improvement for a long-term clean and healthy Fountain City Lake is actually changing our behavior. Please don't feed bread, dog food or grain to the ducks. Please leave the food and trash at home — and enjoy the park and its

wonders. We believe families will enjoy the wetland feature as a fun new educational amenity."

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THE CHALK BOARD

Bits of News About Local Education

By Sally Absher
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Kindergarten Round-up Tuesday April 12

Kindergarten Round-up (registration/application) will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at all Knox County Elementary schools for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year. At Kindergarten Round-up, parents receive important enrollment information about the upcoming school year. Children should be five years old by August 15, 2016, to enter kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year, and parents are asked to register their child at the child's zoned school.

Note that Kindergarten is a full day program. The school day begins 7:45 am and dismisses at 2:45 each day. The first two weeks of school will be a staggered schedule for Kindergarten students. Students will attend one day each week during the weeks of August 8th and 15th, beginning a full day schedule on Monday August 22, 2016.

If you are unable to attend Kindergarten Round-up on April 12, you can still enroll at your zoned school. For more information, call 865-594-1787.

Dancing with the Knoxville Stars 2016

Lonsdale Elementary School announces that the Lonsdale Dance Club will perform at Knoxville's Dancing with the Stars to benefit Children's Hospital on Saturday, April 9. The program will be streamed live so you can watch them perform from home! Lonsdale's dance club will perform about halfway through the show (between 7:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.). Here is the link: <https://www.etch.com/giving/dancing-knoxville-stars/>.

This event is a take-off of the hit reality TV show "Dancing with the Stars" and will take place at the Grande Event Center at the Knoxville Expo Center. The event features local celebrities performing a variety of dances with a professional dance partner from Dance Tonight.

Since the event began in 2009, Dancing with the Knoxville Stars has raised more than \$450,000 for East Tennessee Children's Hospital's Home Health Care program through donations, proceeds of ticket sales and VIP table events.

If you wish to attend the event in person, general admission

tickets are available for \$60 each, and may be purchased online at <https://www.etchtickets.com/>.

C-SPAN Bus visit to honor StudentCam winners at Hardin Valley Academy

C-SPAN will be visiting Hardin Valley Academy to honor StudentCam honorable mention and third place winning students on Wednesday April 20 beginning at 9 am.

Third Place honorees include Sophia LaSorsa and Mikaela Chavis, who will receive a \$750 prize for their video Racial Injustice in America

Three groups of HVA students will receive honorable mention and a \$250 prize:

Megan Cos, Bryce Stiles and Abigail Bradfield: Climate Change: Debatable

Ryan Hart, Tarver Nicely and Seth Maxwell: Saving our Skies: America's Air Pollution Problem

Simon Jolly, Drew Freshour and Jake Brown: How Will America Power Tomorrow? - Clean Energy

The national competition, now in its 12th year, invites middle school (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) to

produce a five-to-seven minute documentary on a national policy issue.

This year, students used video cameras to address the theme, "Road to the White House: What's the issue YOU most want candidates to discuss during the 2016 presidential campaign?" In response, C-SPAN received a record 2,887 video submissions from almost 6,000 students in 45 states and Washington, DC.

Emerald Academy Charter School Receives Over 600 applications

Emerald Academy Charter School opened in July 2015 to 120 Kindergarten and first grade students. Grades 2 and 6 will be added in 2016-2017. A total of 631 applications were received for the 2016-2017 school year, 468 of which are for the 120 available kindergarten and sixth grade slots for next year.

Because there are only 120 spaces available, the school will conduct a lottery operated by an independent third-party. Families will receive notification of acceptance by letter, and students who are not selected through the lottery system will be placed on a

waitlist.

Emerald students, referred to as "scholars," are held to strict behavioral and academic standards. Students are required to wear uniforms. The school year is 192 days, and students are in class for 8 hours each day. The 2015-2016 school year began on July 27 and ends June 1.

The proposed KCS FY 2017 budget includes nearly \$1 million in additional funding for Emerald charter for next year, due in part to the additional 120 students.

Joint Education Committee to Meet Thursday, April 7

The Joint Education Committee, comprised of members of the Knox County Board of Education and County Commission, will meet on Thursday, April 7 at 4:30 p.m. in the first floor board room of the Andrew Johnson Building (912 S. Gay Street).

The meeting will be broadcast live on KCS-TV (Comcast channel 10) and streamed live on knoxschools.org. The agenda and any supporting materials can be accessed online at the following link: http://agenda.knoxschools.org:8085/agenda_publish.cfm.

KAT Board, Advisory groups meet

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current and new members about their duties and responsibilities.

During the KAT board Lincoln Lincoln, a downtown resident and activist, told the board that he isn't letting up on his opposition to limit trolley service to Summit Towers. Many elderly and handicapped people live in the complex and rely on public transit.

The board voted last month to cut back on stops at the tower complex. Lincoln said the new policy, which begins in May means only 7 stops there each day while a similar apartment building in town will get 44 stops per day and 26 on Saturdays.

"I've written three letters and one petition, no one has been acknowledged or replied to (them)," he said.

"Something that has been done tells me no one cares," Lincoln commented, adding that he will continue to oppose the cutbacks if

it comes to city council.

"I want you to do the right thing," he said. He explained that a 90-year-old artist lives in the Summit Hill Apartments and operates a studio downtown. He said he met with the man, who rides public transit both ways, and was told that the trip back from downtown on the proposed new schedule would be difficult.

Lincoln also asked about progress in creating a bus stop at the bottom of the hill, on Summit Drive, and requested a bench be placed at that stop.

In other KAT Board business, a representative of ITT Technical Institute asked the board to consider having the city bus pull in and stop at the Cedar Bluff Shopping Center,

where the school is located. Students now must get off the bus at the local Cracker Barrel Restaurant stop and cross four lanes of traffic to attend class.

A petition signed by students and local businesses was presented to the board and it was advised that the students look at another bus route nearby

that may bring them safer to the school. About 40% of the students at ITT use public transit.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Downtown activist Lincoln Lincoln speaks to the KAT Board, informing them that he will continue the opposition to cutting back trolley stops at Summit Towers.

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JEFF OWNBY 'A more independent thinker'

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

At least four people will be leaving as commissioners this fall. Commissioners Mike Brown, Jeff Ownby, Sam McKenzie and Amy Broyles are departing. Mike Steely is talking with each of them about their time on the body and their thoughts about their future and that of the commission.

After six years on Knox County Commission, 4th District representative Jeff Ownby will be leaving. Defeated in his Republican Primary, Ownby isn't bitter. He's has been changed by the term in office.

"I transitioned into a more independent thinker. When I was campaigning I thought everything was a right or left issue. That isn't always true," Ownby told The Knoxville Focus.

Ownby is proud of his years and his accomplishments, including his introduction and the passage of a county-wide pet ordinance and his time on the Safety Center Committee.

"I fought against the closing of Lakeshore. Everything I said was going to happen has happened," he said, referring to the homeless mentally ill being on the streets and occupying

about 25% of the Detention Center population.

"Hopefully we will get it to an RFP (Request for Proposal) before Mike Brown and I leave," Ownby said, adding that the proposed number of beds for a center is not enough and that the county has got to look at a regional center with support from the state and surrounding counties.

"It would be a pilot program and if it works the state is looking at other areas and plans to close all the state mental facilities," Ownby said.

What's he going to do after his time on commission?

"Continue to sell real estate," he said, adding that he works with Realty Executives. Ownby and his family also own 14 rental homes around Knox County.

"We buy them, rehab them to a point that I would live in them," he said.

Asked if he would seek another public office he said he may consider that later but he would serve on a committee or group if appointed. "I'd like to serve again," he said.

"I'll remain active," he said. The Ownby family attends Faith Promise Church and Jeff is active

in other groups such as the West Hills Neighborhood Association and Knox Forum.

Ownby said that the 5 p.m. meetings of the commission, changed last year from 7 p.m., has been successful and more of the public participate.

Asked if he ever changed his mind on a vote Ownby said he entered a commission meeting against the Huber Apartments development on Westland and decided the matter was one of "property rights" and then voted for the proposal.

"The next commission is going to have to deal with the Safety Center and the lawsuit about the Midway Industrial Park, which I believe will stand up," he said.

"I became good friends with quite a few of the commissioners and formed personal bonds with some of them," he said, noting that he drew close with Chairman Dave Wright and Commissioner Amy Broyles during his term.

"We came from Black Wednesday and this is a very good commission. I'm proud to have served," he said.

Town Hall Meeting held to Discuss Recent Threats at Farragut High School

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a bomb threat, asked, "In your personal opinion, do you think that these threats are unrelated and not going to be a problem in the future, or do you think they are a reflection on a bigger problem that we are not really seeing?" Carson said she didn't want to speculate, but encouraged anyone thinking this was part of a bigger problem to talk with parents, school officials, law officers, etc.

Here is a reporting on recent threats from the Knox County Sheriff's website, and other reported threat incidents during the 2015-2016 school year:

School Bomb Threats Update - Thursday, March 31, 2016. The Knox County Sheriff's Office advises that every individual that has been involved in a bomb threat at Hardin Valley Schools and Farragut

Schools has been identified and or charged.

One Student Arrested for Bomb Threat and Another Identified. Tuesday, March 29, 2016. The Major Crimes Unit of the Knox County Sheriff's Office has arrested a 16 year old male student from Farragut High School for making a bomb threat at the school this morning. The school was on lockdown while KCSO investigators searched the school and interviewed students and staff after a threat was found on the wall in a boys' restroom. The 16 year old is charged with vandalism and making a bomb threat.

Monday, March 28, 2016. The Knox County Sheriff's Office has charged a 16-year-old girl with making a bomb threat at Hardin Valley School last week. The teen is a student at the school and is charged with making a bomb threat and vandalism. The school was closed last Thursday

after school officials found a bomb threat written on the girls' bathroom wall.

Monday, December 7, 2015. It was reported that the Knoxville Police Department and Knox County Schools Security increased their presence at West High School after a threatening message was written on a boys restroom wall. The handwritten message, "I will cleanse this school on Monday," followed by a smiley face, was discovered the previous Friday, according to Knoxville Police Department spokesman Darrell DeBusk.

August 14, 2015. It was reported that a bomb threat called into Brickley-McCloud Elementary in Halls may be related to a series of threats made earlier against schools in Middle Tennessee, including Hickman, Davidson, Sumner, Maury, Lewis, and Rutherford counties.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Commissioner Jeff Ownby chats with Mike Steely after last week's commission meeting.

National Adopt A Shelter Pet Day

By Howard Baker, RN
BSN

National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day is celebrated yearly on April 30; created to bring awareness to the tens of thousands of animals waiting for adoption in shelters. Hobo the Wonder Dog is a rescue dog in the truest sense of the word. I rescued Hobo from the Sevier County Humane Society where he now serves as an Ambassador. The relationship you forge with a shelter animal is like no other in its strength and acceptance. Often people who rescue an animal will wonder whether they rescued the animal or did the animal rescue them—the bond is often that strong.

Few relationships in life are as strong and unconditional as the bond with our pets. Our pets accept us unconditionally even if we are fat, skinny, sick, healthy, or moody, and bring us joy through thick and thin in the best and worst of times. Because of our pet's strong unconditional bond, they become a significant extension of our family and our health.

The devoted unconditional companionship we build with our pets is only the beginning of the benefits we reap from a human-animal bond. According to Mayo Clinic cancer specialist, Dr. Edward Creagan, "Seniors with pets have twenty-one percent fewer physician visits, lower blood pressure and better coping skills." The US Department of Health concluded



Hobo the Wonder Dog making a difference

pets increased survival rates of heart attack victims by 28% to only 6% for non-pet owners. Other health benefits of pet ownership include: decreases in blood pressure, cholesterol and triglyceride levels and the feelings of loneliness while increasing opportunities for exercise, socialization and outdoor activities.

Clearly, there are many personal benefits of adopting a shelter pet, but what if you cannot have a pet of your own at this point in your life? Then Hobo the Wonder Dog and I encourage you to please consider making National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day into Adopt a Shelter Day. Animal shelters are often stretched for resources, time, money, with no shortage of animals to walk, feed, love and clean-up after. Adopting a Shelter and getting involved may

offer the same health benefits as owning a pet. One thing is for sure, the animals and workers alike will enjoy seeing you and appreciate your support. There are opportunities for everyone. You could volunteer, donate a bag of food or a box of treats, or make a financial contribution. Seemingly small gifts can make a huge difference in the life of a shelter pet.

Help celebrate National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day by sharing pictures of your adopted pet on social media using #adoptashelterpetday. Hobo and I ask you to share a picture of an adoptable pet in your local shelter on your Facebook page. You never know—the picture you share might spark love at first sight between a friend and a shelter pet—wow what a gift.

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Our National Landmarks

Railroad Depots

By Mikes Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville is celebrating 225 years this year and you probably don't realize that the city and its county have some 111 places on the National Register of Historic Sites. That includes not only historic homes and buildings but also landmarks.

You probably know our "main" sites on the national registry but there are many you may not know that are on the list. Places like the Mead Marble Quarry, the Lindberg Forest Neighborhood, or the cemetery at Lebanon in the Forks of the Rivers. Also on the list are the Keystone Building, the Andrew Johnson Building, the Jackson Warehouse District, the Gibbs Drive Historic Neighborhood, Fire Station #5 in Mechanicsville, Happy Holler, and the Ebenezer Mill.

Oddly enough our oldest structure, the James White Fort, is not on the list. The main house built by our city's founder was removed during the town's development, placed on a farm, and then removed



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

The Southern Railroad Terminal was built in 1903 and designed by Frank Pierce Milburn. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985 and at one time had a clock tower.

again to its present location. Being dismantled and moved twice disqualifies the fort from the national list.

The downtown railroad depots are a great example of how the historic buildings can be repurposed to house offices, businesses and venues. After languishing for years of little use the Knoxville

railroad stations are having a rebirth.

The Southern Depot

Our region was settled but did not really boom until the Civil War. Following that great conflict the railroads came and transformed the area's travel, population and culture.

Unlike the river trade that preceded the trains the railroads brought and took goods from here, brought a different people, and prosperity.

The railroads also brought war to Knoxville and a struggle to control troop and supply movement. Early in the war bridge burners, a group of civilian Union supporters,

destroyed railroad bridges where they could. Capturing East Tennessee meant cutting off a vital link in the rebelling states.

Railroads reached our county about ten years before the Civil War. After the war the railroads transformed Knoxville's small population and made the city a major shipping and commercial center.

The terminal complex also had dozens of warehouses and storefronts next to the Old City and that complex is included in the recognition as National Landmarks.

Where the station sits was considered a problem by the early city for it was swampy and known as "Flag Pond." But, being the most level spot in the area it was chosen for the terminal and the 11 rail tracks there. The railroad company was known and owned by various parties until, in 1894, financier J.P. Morgan and other investors bought and combined companies to form the Southern Railway.

In its heyday the Southern Terminal had 26

Continue on page 2



From State Representative Harry Brooks

I hope everyone had a wonderful week back in the district. It has been a great week in Nashville. With committees closing out, everything is reaching the House floor so session is now meeting three times a week.

I would like to turn your attention to the discussion that took place on the House and Senate floors this week. For quite some time, the power of administrative agencies has continuously increased. The traditional role of administrative agencies has been to implement the general policy laid down by the legislature and have only such powers as is granted by the legislature, while being "rule-makers" as you will.

The manner in which Tennessee state government administrative agencies exercise their rulemaking function is governed by the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act (UAPA), passed in 1974. However, over time and due to current state law, administrative agencies have been able to engage in excessive rule making. Present law requires that the UAPA be given a "liberal" construction, meaning that administrative agencies are able to create excessive regulations, whether for good or bad, and impose them with little legislative oversight. Present law also deems that the Government Operations Committees review administrative rules that agencies impose, and the agency must show that the rule/regulation should be continued, with the committee bearing the burden of showing that the bill should not be continued.

This week the House and Senate passed legislation to fix the problems with administrative agencies promulgating excessive rules. The item is House Bill

Continue on page 4

Learning Neighborhood Event Planning

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

If you are hoping to have a neighborhood event and not sure how to plan and execute it you might want to consider a workshop being held Saturday, April 9th at 10 a.m.

Members of the Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization will explain the nuts and bolts of event planning in the two-hour gathering at the Central United Methodist Church at 201 Third Avenue.

A continental breakfast will be served and the Fourth and Gill folks ask that you RSVP no later than noon Thursday to Laurie Meschke at LLMeschke@gmail.com or call 865-964-8368.

The Office of Neighborhoods is promoting the workshop for anyone planning a large or small event.

Topics will include city relations, permits, services and training; logistics, insurance, timelines; sponsorships, marketing; art and entertainment, media outlets; and the use of volunteers, recruitment, and tasks.

The subjects will be presented by the Fourth and Gill planning committee which includes Gary Moll, Laurie Meschke, Liz Upchurch, Robert Rogers and Steve Larimer. The workshop fulfills a commitment made by the very active neighborhood association that was awarded a Small Grant for ARToberfest last year.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Emily Ann Roberts signs Camille Clark's autograph at the CTE Goes Live kickoff held last Wednesday at Toyota Knoxville. Roberts won last year's event and went on to place second in the television show The Voice. CTE Goes Live will be held on May 6 at Market Square, giving contestants from fifteen Knox County high schools the chance to compete vocally.



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\$10 Admission. Mention this ad to get half price admission!

Harmony and Hymns by the TOTS

You may be one of the Focus readers who has been privileged to hear them sing in one of the more than 175 churches or assisted living facilities over the years. I have always known them as "The



By **Ralphine Major**
ralphine3@yahoo.com

TOTS," an acronym for "The Old Time Singers,"--- though they have playfully said it stands for "too old to sing!" I had no idea how or when they were organized as The TOTS, but an outstanding couple who became a part of the group gave me some insight. I was fascinated to learn from Walter and Margie Maples how the talented group started and evolved into the "TOTS" that so many have enjoyed hearing.

In 1998, several members of the late Charlie Hatchett's Sunday School department at Wallace

Memorial Baptist Church decided to form a gospel singing group. They called themselves "Charlie's Angels." It was a rather unusual troupe. The group included the late Mrs. Beryl Davis who sang tenor; Margie Maples, alto; and the late Roger Lockhart and Walter Maples both sang bass. Mrs. Betty Lockhart, Roger's wife and an accomplished keyboard accompanist who had previously played for professional gospel quartets, provided accompaniment for the group. The "Angels" sang for their department and others until Betty's diabetic condition worsened, and she was forced to give up playing the piano. All the while, Betty had been undergoing dialysis. When she passed away in 2000, the group disbanded.

Later, Howard and Joyce Clark joined the church family. After choir rehearsal at Wallace one night, Walter approached Howard about singing tenor in a senior quartet he was getting together. The Chattanooga native brought years of musical experience from his early days in choirs at Red Bank Baptist Church, Red Bank High School, and Carson-Newman College to his years of leading choirs and congregational music in churches in Tennessee, Texas, Michigan, and Spain. After graduation from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1961, Clark pastored two churches in Michigan for over twenty years in home missions. God called him and his wife, Joyce, a pianist and organist, to international missions in 1982 with the International Mission Board (IMB) where he pastored two churches in Spain for sixteen years before retiring to Knoxville,



PICTURE OF THE TOTS COURTESY OF DAVID AND MELBA HILL

(L-R) Margie Maples at piano, Walter Maples, David Hill, Mary Lynn Cameron, Dorothy Johnson and Howard Clark.

Tennessee. "Our musical experiences were used many times as part of our missionary ministry," Clark said.

The inspirational story behind this talented and dedicated group full of harmony and hymns will be

continued.

Educator Appreciation Week: Local children's book authors Wayne and Ralphine Major will be at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 8029 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee,

on Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. for a book signing of "Piddle Diddle's Lost Hat." Piddle Diddle will be in full costume for picture making. Bring your camera! It promises to be a fun day!

Is there anything good on TV?



Rosie's World

A few weeks ago I wrote about my favorite TV shows on ME-TV from the sixties and seventies. My granddaughter asked me, "But, Nana, don't you like any of the programs that are on today?" Yes, indeed, I do. And here they are.

My very favorite, The Good Wife is going off the air, which I write with tears in my eyes. What a program! I can't imagine where the writers get their ideas for criminal cases, lawyer's influx that surpass one's imagination, with some interludes of love and sex. Nicely done, of course. The only fault I find with this show is when they took Josh Charles off by killing him. Perhaps they will produce The Good Husband??

Blue Bloods--another favorite, where Tom Selleck, the commissioner of the New York police force, positively does his job faultlessly with the help of his daughter and two sons. He rarely makes a mistake in his endeavor of doing his job.

Madam Secretary is another

program full of intrigue and it goes out of the country many times to fulfill U.S.A.'s ambition to help others. Tea Leoni does her job well and could show some of our ambassadors what's what.

Mom is a sitcom consisting of a group of ladies who are embattling addiction--be it drugs or alcohol, they each have their own powerful ways of getting through one day at a time. They all do it differently but with the same outlook--faith. The mother and daughter participation is hilarious.

There are other good shows but these are the main ones to me, I think, because they are family oriented. I don't have any movie channels except what's on basic cable, because they show the same movies over and over. My day wouldn't be complete without my proverbial favorites, The Price Is Right, Wheel of Fortune, and Jeopardy. And if you want to spend a joyful, fun-filled hour, watch The Little Big Shots. As far as sport channels are concerned, after football is over, there's always the Tennis Channel. Great!

Thought for the day: Don't let other people tell you what you want. Pat Riley, coach and player of NBA

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

Railroad Depots

The L&N Depot

Continued from page 1

passenger trains each day. Regular service from the terminal ended in 1970.

The owners of The Foundry have acquired the Southern Depot and host parties, events, and gatherings there now. The depot is located at 318 West Depot Street in downtown Knoxville. The Blue Slip Winery also operates at the depot.

Behind the Southern Terminal is a great example of what passenger trains were once like and the cars include a postal sorting car, dining car, and two passenger cars. The station is also the home of Bullock Smith Architects and the Old Smoky Railway Museum.

The Jackson Avenue Terminal

Built as a warehouse to serve the Southern Depot, the long building, across the tracks from the main depot, named the Jackson Avenue Terminal now has a life of its own. Restored it now houses All Occasion Catering which hosts large events from weddings and receptions to business and other gatherings.

Often the first landmark encountered by downtown visitors is the majestic L&N Station, where Henley Street meets Western Avenue and Summitt Hill. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad reached Knoxville after Southern completed a line from Cincinnati to Atlanta. Although the rail line reached Knoxville in 1855, it didn't have access to passenger service until the owners of the L&N and Southern agreed not to compete. L&N handled transportation north and south and Southern ran east and west.

The beautiful station was started in 1904 and was designed by Richard Monfort. It opened a year later. The last passenger train to leave the station was in 1968. The railroad company continued to operate offices there until 1975.

Today the station is the home of the L&N Stem Academy, a Knox County magnet school for science, engineering and math.

At one time warehouses and tracks extended to the back of the building. The station was renovated for the World's Fair by Alex Harkness and Station 83 Partners and it was once considered one of the most beautiful depots along the L&N system.

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John Nance Garner as Vice President

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Few men have been as colorful as John Nance Garner of Texas. Garner spent thirty-eight years in Washington, D. C., and the last eight as vice president under Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Yet, Garner shunned the limelight, preferring to make his considerable presence felt in the corridors of power and hidden offices of the Capitol. While Garner had little affection and even less respect for the office of the vice president, he wielded more real power than his predecessors and almost all of his successors. After having been out of office for a while, Garner told Collier's magazine that the vice presidency was "almost wholly unimportant." Garner referred to the vice presidency disdainfully as "the spare tire of government."

Later still, Garner lamented that having been elected vice president "was the worst thing that ever happened to me." Garner's most famous quote was pithy and varies depending upon the source. Garner was quoted as having said the vice presidency was not worth a "warm bucket of spit." The even earthier version quotes Garner as saying the office was not worth a "warm bucket of piss."

Garner himself insisted the latter quote was accurate.

The former vice president huffed that "those pantywaist writers wouldn't print it the way I said it."

Despite John Nance Garner's obvious contempt for the vice presidency, many historians consider the Texan to have been the most influential vice president in American history.

John Nance Garner had first been elected to Congress in 1902 and continued to rise through the ranks until he was elected Speaker of the House in 1931. Garner was a genuine presidential prospect in 1932, a year when Democrats had a good chance to defeat incumbent Republican Herbert Hoover due to the Great Depression. Garner seemed little interested in a presidential campaign, although he had the support of media baron William Randolph Hearst. The leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination was New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt. Garner dealt Roosevelt's candidacy a serious setback by defeating him in the California presidential preference primary. Going into the Democratic National Convention with the backing of the large California and Texas delegations, Speaker Garner was a force to be reckoned with.

At the time, the Democratic Party rules required a nominee to win

two thirds of the voting delegates and after a strong start, the Roosevelt candidacy appeared to be ready to stall. Garner released his delegates and FDR was nominated. While the Roosevelt adherents likely promised, or at the very least dangled the prospect of the vice presidential nomination to a host of aspirants, FDR picked Garner to run with him in the 1932 general election. Garner reluctantly accepted, a decision he regretted for the rest of his life. John Nance Garner surrendered a position of real power for an office that mattered little until or unless a president died in office.

The Roosevelt - Garner ticket was probably the strongest the Democrats could have nominated that year, although President Hoover likely would have lost to any respectable opponent. Americans were dispirited, fearful, and anxious to escape the oppression of the Depression. Americans wanted change. Roosevelt and Garner won the election easily.

Garner, taking no chances, had been reelected to Congress the same day voters elected him vice president. Garner resigned from his seat in Congress to take the oath of office as vice president. One of his responsibilities as vice president was to serve as the presiding officer of the United States Senate.

The rough-hewn Garner proved to be highly personally popular with the members of the U. S. Senate. Vice President Garner would prove to be an asset to Roosevelt inside the Senate when the ornery Texan wished to be; he would also prove to be an immovable obstacle when he did not wish to be helpful.

The Roosevelt - Garner relationship had been warm in the beginning. It would not last.

During FDR's first administration, it was not unusual for Garner to leave the Senate rostrum to go onto the floor and grab a recalcitrant senator to personally lobby on behalf of the president's program. Garner was supportive of the emergency measures to help alleviate the suffering caused by the Great Depression. As time passed, Garner's innate conservatism began to conflict with Roosevelt's liberalism. Garner also disliked President Roosevelt's constant interference in Congressional matters, believing in the separation of powers.

The vice president was a constant presence during Cabinet meetings, but the exchanges between Garner and Roosevelt began to have an edge. There were occasions when



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Portrait of Vice President John Nance Garner of Texas, circa 1933

the exchanges became heated.

Roosevelt and Garner were reelected in 1936 in one of the most historic election sweeps in history, carrying every state in the union save for Vermont and Maine. Almost immediately tensions between the president and vice president were noticeable. Garner helped to engineer the election of his friend and fellow Texan Sam Rayburn as Majority Leader. When labor riots broke out in Michigan, Garner was aghast. The vice president believed the strikers had violated the concept of property rights, a concept he held dear.

"In Texas," Garner growled, "we call that stealing."

Roosevelt surprised not only Congress, but also his vice president when he decided he wanted to enlarge the U. S. Supreme Court. FDR's "court-packing" plan was controversial, but John N. Garner was horrified. Publicly, Garner maintained a golden silence, but was observed by senators departing the Senate Chamber holding his nose once when the bill was under discussion.

Privately, Garner predicted "It will be many moons before the boss signs that bill."

For those who had missed the vice president holding his nose, Garner turned his thumb down when the bill was read in the Senate. To make his opinion even more plain, Garner left for an extended vacation while Congress was in session, returning to his home in Uvalde. Garner's desertion of Roosevelt made it easier for many Democratic senators to abandon FDR and oppose the court-packing bill.

Senate Majority Leader Joe Robinson of Arkansas died at the height of the court fight, dropping dead of a heart attack in his apartment. Robinson had been under great stress and had worked himself to death. The passage of the court-packing bill died with Joe Robinson.

Roosevelt once again

interfered in the Senate's affairs, siding with Kentuckian Alben W. Barkley to succeed Robinson over Mississippian Pat Harrison. Barkley won by a single vote.

By 1938, John Nance Garner was no longer in sympathy with most of Franklin Roosevelt's legislative agenda. Garner was especially appalled by the constant spending of the New Deal. The two men came to a breaking point when a vindictive Roosevelt sought to purge conservative Democrats in the primaries in 1938. Roosevelt was determined to make an example out of several senators: E. D. "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina, Pat McCarran of Nevada, Guy Gillette of Iowa, Walter F. George of Georgia and Millard Tydings of Maryland, who were among those who had profoundly offended FDR by their refusal to support his court-packing plan.

Garner bluntly said, "The President of the United States ought not take part in congressional fights."

President Roosevelt toured much of the country that year and openly called for the defeat of Senator Walter George. Despite being opposed by two serious candidates, George was reelected. Cotton Ed Smith won a smashing victory inside the primary against Governor Olin D. Johnston, who had the support of FDR. Millard Tydings also easily beat a Roosevelt backed opponent. In fact, Roosevelt only managed to unseat one conservative Democrat, Congressman John O'Connor in his native New York. Roosevelt had to endure the humiliation of seeing all the conservatives renominated and reelected.

Worse still, Senator James P. Pope of Idaho, a stalwart New Deal Democrat lost his primary to Congressman D. Worth Clark, an isolationist conservative. Senator William G. McAdoo, who had begged for and gotten a presidential endorsement, was defeated for renomination.

FDR's smashing reelection in 1936 was but a memory following the general election in 1938. Republicans won 72 seats in the House of Representatives. The GOP won seven seats in the United States Senate. The crest of the New Deal tidal wave had begun to ebb.

Vice President John Nance Garner ceased to be a factor inside the Roosevelt administration for the two years remaining of his second term, although he became a rallying point for many of those more conservative Democrats opposed to what they considered to be the excesses of the New Deal.

If Garner had been horrified by Roosevelt's insistence upon interfering in congressional matters, he was positively appalled when FDR seemed all too willing to run for a third term in 1940. Garner announced his own candidacy for the Democratic nomination, knowing he had no chance to win.

Garner was denounced by labor leader John L. Lewis as "a poker playing, whiskey drinking, labor baiting, evil old man."

President Roosevelt himself joked that he presumed his Cabinet members heard that Garner had "tossed his bottle - I mean hat" into the presidential ring.

FDR shattered precedents and Garner only received 61 votes at the Democratic National Convention in 1940.

Franklin Roosevelt was nominated for an unprecedented third term and "Cactus Jack" Garner no more wanted to run for vice president again than FDR wanted him as his running mate. After thirty-eight years in Washington, D. C., Garner decided it was time to go home to Uvalde, Texas.

Garner's wife, "Ettie" had been his personal secretary throughout his time as both congressman and vice president; they packed up their belongings and returned to the mansion they had built years

earlier.

The former vice president managed his extensive business interests, smoked cigars, enjoyed his whiskey, and assumed the status of a celebrated elder statesman. Garner remained a force inside the Texas Democratic Party.

Garner had no need to worry about money during his retirement. The former vice president wore expensive suits, but was known for pinching a penny. His parsimonious ways were legendary during his time in Washington, D. C. He and Ettie lived well, but relatively simply.

Either Garner or his wife burned his personal and political papers, leaving an unimaginable void for future historians, which may also explain why no scholarly biography of the former vice president has ever been written. The loss of thirty-eight years of Garner's correspondence is incalculable.

John Garner's retirement lasted far longer than anyone could have imagined, likely himself included. For twenty-seven years, the former vice president held court to a host of visiting friends and neighbors. He outlived practically everyone, including Franklin Roosevelt, his wife, Ettie, and even his friend and protégé Sam Rayburn.

Garner's birthday became quite an occasion and the former vice president was celebrating with friends when President John F. Kennedy called to offer his own congratulations on November 22, 1963.

Ettie Garner suffered from Parkinson's Disease and died August 17, 1948. After Miss Ettie died, Garner moved out of the mansion to a smaller home built behind the big house. The Garner home is now a museum in Uvalde.

Garner lived long enough to see fellow Texan Lyndon B. Johnson rise to the vice presidency and eventually the presidency. Garner almost lived long enough to see LBJ return home to Texas. Garner died on November 7, 1967, just days shy of his ninety-ninth birthday.

John and Ettie Garner only had one child, a son, Tully. Tully Garner did not survive his father long, dying less than a year after his father.

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Katie's Kloset Comes To Knoxville

By Mikes Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Katie's Kloset Consignment just might be your new favorite place to shop. Open since 2000 in Alcoa, Katie's Kloset is now open in West Knoxville. The family owned business located in the Cedar Springs Shopping Center is more than a consignment shop. They also buy and trade new and previously owned clothing, shoes, and handbags. You will find all sizes for children, teens, women, and men.

It's Knoxville's newest full service consignment store with a wide selection of casual, career, dressy, and formal wear. There are hundreds of Prom dresses in stock. All are first quality and many are brand new. Most formals are priced \$59-\$129 with designer gowns priced slightly higher. All dresses sold are registered at both the Alcoa and Knoxville stores. The Knoxville store is located at 9216 Kingston Pike, across from Kroger Marketplace and Chuy's Mexican. Katie's Kloset in

Alcoa is located at 332 S. Calderwood Street.

"We work the store everyday making sure it is fully stocked, clean, and organized for the customer," said Jackie Harper. She and her sister Julia Carver have more than 30 years in the retail business.

"We feature new and pre-owned mall and department store clothing at very affordable prices. We're a little store with a big inventory," she said.

Katie's Kloset focuses on trendy and high demand brands such as The North Face, Under Armour, Chicos, Talbots, Ann Taylor, Ralph Lauren, Abercrombie & Fitch, American Eagle and more. Both stores are open Monday through Saturday. You will find women and juniors from sizes 00 to 24 and men's clothing from XSM to 2 XL. There is a large kids' corner featuring clothing and shoes to fit newborn up through sizes 16/18.

There is lots of denim, name brand shoes, handbags, boutique items, summer clothing and



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

With Katie's Kloset's wide selection of quality clothing for everyone, you don't have to spend a fortune to look great. The store is new to Knoxville and located in the Cedar Springs Shopping Center.

much more. From denim to dressy or casual to career...you'll find it at Katie's Kloset.

And they think you're going to love their prices!

The owners of Katie's Kloset believe you don't have to spend a fortune to look great. They make sure every item is in excellent condition.

Clean out your closet and sell or trade your unwanted name brand items at both locations. Or, stop by and treat yourself to something new!

Customers can always exchange any purchase, except formal wear. Layaway is also offered. Keep up with monthly in store sales by visiting www.katieskloset.com. The website is full of information and pictures. Also on facebook visit Katie's Kloset Consignment or Katie's Kloset 2 Consignment.

Katie's Kloset invites you to visit their new Knoxville store. You can also call the Knoxville store at (865)409-4222 or the Alcoa store at (865)-380-4002.

From State Representative Harry Brooks

Continued from page 1

2068 by Representative Daniels, which will provide the legislature with more oversight on agencies. This bill replaces the present law construction of the UAPA with the requirement that the UAPA be narrowly construed as it applies to agency powers, and specifies that an agency bears the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that a rule should be continued. The bill sets out a new set of nine standards that the rule of the agency must abide by, as well as allowing the committee to express their disapproval of an administrative rule by voting to request that the general assembly to repeal the rule.

I hope I have described this situation well enough so that everyone understands the importance of this piece of legislation. I truly believe this to be a great step forward in providing the general assembly with the oversight we should have. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be any help to you. I can be reached by email at rep.harry.brooks@capitol.tn.gov or by phone at 615-741-6879. It is an honor to be your representative.

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Bearden overcomes slow start to down Green Wave 4-1

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School boys soccer coach Ryan Radcliffe finally saw his team produce the results he wanted when it focused and went back to basics.

"Credit Gallatin," Radcliffe said after his Bulldogs notched a 4-1 win over the Green Wave Thursday night in the opening round of the Bearden Invitational at Bruce Allender Field. "Our focus wasn't there early. Gallatin came out and started strong. We were flat.

"We were living off our first two wins. Sometimes, the boys forget that we're Bearden and they forget that we're always going to get everybody's best game. After the slow start, everybody tried to complicate the game. Once, we simplified the game, we did a better job."

The Green Wave (2-2) took an early lead when Antonio Aquino converted

a penalty kick in the 11th minute after Bearden (3-0) was called for a foul in the goal box.

The Bulldogs missed some early chances. Gabe Alvarez missed an open goal when he directed a header over the top of the crossbar in the 19th minute.

But Alvarez, a senior forward, or Bearden didn't stay off the scoreboard long. Alvarez tied the game in the 33rd minute when he chipped the ball over Deonta Kensinger's head and into the back of the Green Wave net in the 33rd minute.

Alvarez's first goal of the match started a barrage of four unanswered markers for the Bulldogs, who took a 2-1 lead when Emre Ucak scored later in the 33rd minute.

Radcliffe saw his side finish the first half with a flourish but he was far from happy with his team's effort over the inaugural 40 minutes of the match.

The coach felt a little better after the Bulldogs stepped things up after halftime.

"I really like the way that the boys responded after an ugly first half," Radcliffe said.

Bearden outshot Gallatin 19-4 in the match and 12-1 in the opening half.

Radcliffe commended Kensinger's effort between the posts.

"He's a good goalie," Radcliffe said. "He stopped some good shots and he did a great job."

Kensinger, however, had no answer for Alvarez in the end. The Bearden forward closed the scoring with a pair of goals in a five-minute span.

His marker in the 62nd minute gave the Bulldogs a 3-1 lead and was assisted by Jonathan Meyshik.

Alvarez tallied again in the 67th minute off an assist from Michael Tarantino.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Gallatin goalkeeper Deonta Kensinger leaps to make a save as Bearden's Gabe Alvarez looks on. Alvarez had a hat trick as the Bulldogs downed the Green Wave 4-1 Thursday night in the Bearden Invitational.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Farragut left fielder Delaney Weller is greeted at home plate after belting a two-run homer in the Lady Admirals' 14-0 win over Bearden Tuesday night.

Lady Admirals win three, rout rival Bearden

By Ken Lay

After opening the 2016 season by losing four of its first six games, the Farragut High School softball game is in the midst of a three-game winning streak.

The Lady Admirals (5-5 overall, 3-1 in District

4-AAA) opened the week with a 14-0 victory over rival Bearden Tuesday night at Bellamy Field. They outlasted William Blount 2-1 on Wednesday and routed Heritage 10-0 on the road Thursday night.

Against the Lady

Bulldogs, Farragut scored early and often. After starting pitcher Kayla Hindle retired Bearden (0-3, 0-2) in order in the top of the first inning, the Admirals sent 12 batters to the plate in their half of the frame.

Cont. on page 3

Gerlach guides Lions to victory in return to K-Town

By Ken Lay

Tom Gerlach made a triumphant return to Knoxville Thursday night.

Gerlach, the longtime Christian Academy of Knoxville boys soccer coach who guided the Warriors to multiple Class A/AA Championships, coached his first high school game in Knoxville since going to Christ Presbyterian Academy.

And he saw his defending Class A/AA champion Lions notch a 3-0 win over Hardin Valley Academy in the opening round of the Bearden Invitational at Bruce Allender Field.

Gerlach, who led the Lions to a state championship in his first season at CPA last year, is no stranger to the Bearden Invitational nor did the Hawks (1-2) take him by surprise Thursday.

"Hardin Valley is a school with great tradition and they will always give you a tough game," Gerlach said. "The Bearden tournament is a premiere tournament in

Tennessee or in East Tennessee and that's why we came here.

"We're also in the Houston Tournament, so we'll see the best competition in the east and the west."

For nearly 40 minutes, the Lions (4-0-1) and Hawks, who reached the Class AAA state semifinals last year, were embroiled in a scoreless tie. But Chip Omer gave the Lions a 1-0 lead with 8.6 seconds remaining in the first half when he fired the ball past HVA goalkeeper Jeremy Wise and into the back of the Hawks' net.

That was the final real play of consequence before halftime of a match that was ended with 5 minutes, 14 seconds left due to lightning in the area.

"That was a great effort from Chip Omer to get us on the board with eight seconds left in the first half," Gerlach said. "Their keeper [Wise] made a couple of big saves."

In the second half, the

Hawks, who won both the District 4-AAA regular-season title and tournament championships, picked up the intensity after the break. But CPA, which outlasted CAK to win the 2015 state title, scored two more markers in the match.

Tucker Duncan gave the Lions a 2-0 lead in the 54th minute and Spencer Hagan closed out the scoring approximately 16 minutes later.

Mark Patterson, Hardin Valley's first-year coach, said that his squad made some crucial mistakes that cost it the game.

"I don't think they played better than us," said Patterson, who led the Lady Hawks to a second consecutive state tournament appearance last fall. "I think that we had the better chances. But it was the mistakes. When you make mistakes, you get punished for them and that's what happened to us tonight."

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6U COED COUNTY CHAMPIONS



POWELL -- Head Coach: Travis Shular (back left). Assistant Coach: Rhett Pearson (back right). Players (left to right): Tate Shular, Emerie Bullock, Blake Purdom, Cooper Wheeler, Zane Stewart, Taylor Williams, Kannon Derry. Player not pictured: Hudson Willis.

8U BOYS COUNTY CHAMPIONS



POWELL -- Bottom row left to right: Tyson Bradley, Caleb Emert, Westin Williams, Mikee Teasley, Treyson Derry. Middle row left to right: Gunner Smith, Neyland Dugger, Kwade Carver, Dylan Stooksbury, MaKai Derry. Top row left to right: Coach Josh Williams, Head coach Nick Derry, Coach John Emert.

8U BOYS GOLD CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: WBBL-Nordin. Head Coach: Janine Nordin. Assistant Coach: David Martin. Roster: Riley Bailes, Joel Bishop, Louis Browning, Tyson Butler, Jack Keith, Devyn Martin, Hal Niendorff, Justin Nordin, Benjamin Shawl.

8U BOYS SILVER CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: WBBL-Luton. Head Coach: Kent Luton. Roster: Carson Asbaty, Logan Benko, Sean Capshaw, Javan Curry, Brayden Hazelbaker, Braden Humphrey, Wilson Luton, Eli Vaughn, Grayson Wright.

8U GIRLS COUNTY CHAMPIONS



CEDAR BLUFF FARRAGUT OPTIMIST -- Bottom row left to right: Enslie Perry, Julieanna Clark, Emerson Clarke, Brooke Dawson, Bailey Burnette. Top row left to right: Macie McInturff, Keira Allen, Pearce Groer, Brooke Bennett, Catherine Evans, Lainey Cox. Coach Casey Flenniken is on the left and Coach Ken Wilmoth on the right.

8U GIRLS CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: New Breed - Johnson. Head Coach: Lakeisha Johnson. Roster: Daja Casby, Hadison Daugherty, Sanna Essle, Shawndravina Gary, Shawntaliah Gary, Cinyah Harris, Terralyn Hill, Tiera Hill-Lee, Jeneva Mitchell, Rheagan Thomas, Jayla Young.

10U BOYS COUNTY CHAMPIONS



HALLS -- Front row left to right: Jake Lane, Grayson Bishop, Seth Perry, Nick Ellis, Daniel Jernejcic. Middle row left to right: Luke Lawson, Caleb Shaffer, Tommy Hicks, Dayde Young, Ethan Heath. Back row left to right: Assistant Coach Dustin Young, Assistant Coach Tommy Heath, Head Coach Jake Bishop.

10U BOYS GOLD CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: EKAA-Stanton. Head Coach: Landry Stanton. Assistant Coach: Bobby Stanton. Roster: Broadie Blankenship, Reggie Bost, Braylon Brooks, Elijah Cannon, Ayden Greene, Caleb Harper, Brady Haun, Joe Vaulton, Chandler Wilson.

10U BOYS SILVER CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: KYS - Winters. Head Coach: John Winters. Assistant Coach: Bill Whitesell. Roster: Dane Britton, Britton Carver, Jones Conner, Ned DeLozier, Wilder Dewhirst, Anderson Puckett, Ryan Scott, John Whitesell, Owen Winters.

10U BOYS BRONZE CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: WBBL-Parker. Head Coach: Brad Parker. Roster: Zachary Armstrong, Andrew Baker, Charlie Bozeman, Miles Dixon, Kaleb Griffin, Clement Maillard, Spencer Miniard, Cole Nathan, Jackson Parker.

10U GIRLS COUNTY CHAMPIONS



POWELL -- Standing (L-R): Reese Rolen, Aimee Flynn, Adisyn Smith, Avery Sanford, Emma Hibben, Khloe Marlowe, Shelby Stinnett. Kneeling (L-R): Ashlyn Steffey, Jaylynn Bullock, Raegan Corvette, Nya Anderson. Coaches (standing in the back from L-R): Head Coach - Ron Corvette. Assistant Coaches - Matt Smith, Tony Sanford.

10U GIRLS CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: KYS-Horner. Head Coach: Niki Horner. Assistant Coach: Brittany Brewer. Roster: Addison Brewer, Bailey Byrd, Allie Gregory, Ella Grossman, Cadence Horner, Mary Ellen Sanger, Jade Schwinge.

12U BOYS COUNTY CHAMPIONS



SOUTH-DOYLE -- Top row: Drew Carver, John-Michael Scott (head coach), David Hull, Josh Lowe (assistant coach). Bottom Row: Creed Werker, Hudson Lowe, Parker Williams, Cameron Monday, Lex Scott, Zack Haggard.

12U BOYS GOLD CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: CCYSP-Hunter. Head Coach: Chris Hunter. Assistant Coach: Joe Ward. Roster: Rhakim Bias, Keon Daniels, Jadarian Faulkner, Malachi Harrison, Desmier Hatchett, Chris Hunter, Denzel Jackson, Jeremiah Jeffers, Darrell Jones, Quay Kershaw, Kwan Nelson, J'shaun Scruggs, Bryson Steen.

12U BOYS SILVER CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: EKAA-Goins. Head Coach: Willie Goins. Roster: Xazayion Bogus, Kimon Casby, Willie Goins Jr., Denzel Hendricks, Christopher Mack-Jones, Lawrence Muhammad IV, Shawn Prater, Javaree Roebuck-Massey, Maurice Smith Jr., Trey Turner.

12U GIRLS CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: New Breed - Cooper. Head Coach: Tony Cooper. Assistant Coach: Austin Webber. Roster: Terryanna Griffin, Zoe Kanipes, Breanna Kirk, Aaliya Knighten, Makenzie Martin, Taylor Rodgers, Ashlyn Rohlander, Lindy Webber, Kyera Watkins, Envy Winter, Emma Wright.

14U BOYS COUNTY CHAMPIONS



POWELL -- (Left to Right): Back: Assistant Coach Keith Magnus, Keegan Rouland-Clark, Christopher Conway, Colton Webb, Michael Treadwell, Zachary Johnson, Gage Foster, Head Coach Bryson Cowden. Front: Kayden Magnus, Seth Pressley, Wesley Mutta, Dalton Coleman, Toby Lawless.

14U BOYS CITY CHAMPIONS



Team Name: EKAA-Webb. Head Coach: John Webb. Assistant Coach: Lawrence Williams. Roster: Derion Battle, Tray Cowan, Elijah Jeter-Whitten, Damonte Jones, Javel Lewis, Zach Lowery, Juanques Sims, Kiyontae Warren, Amani Williams, Kevin Wilson Jr.

YOUTH BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RESULTS

CITY TOURNAMENT

- Girls 8U: NB-Johnson def. KYS-Horner 6-3
- Girls 10U: KYS-Horner def. CCYSP-Nichols 19-15
- Girls 12U: NB-Cooper def. EKAA-Garrett 14-12
- Boys 8U Silver: WBBL-Luton def. WBBL-Brillhart 28-20
- Boys 8U Gold: WBBL-Nordin def. Falcons-Tallent 18-8
- Boys 10U Bronze: WBBL-Parker def. WBBL-Mayfield 16-13
- Boys 10U Silver: KYS-Winters def. WBBL-Benko 22-20
- Boys 10U Gold: EKAA-Stanton def. EKAA-Mallory 28-12
- Boys 12U Silver: EKAA-Goins def. FC-Long 26-11
- Boys 12U Gold: CCYSP-Hunter def. CCYSP-Nelson 28-14
- Boys 14U: EKAA-Webb def. EKAA-McCaleb 22-16

COUNTY TOURNAMENT

- Coed 6U: Powell-Orange def. Gibbs
- Boys 8U: Powell def. South-Doyle
- Girls 8U: Farragut def. East Knox
- Boys 10U: Halls def. Farragut-Blue
- Girls 10U: Powell def. East Knox
- Boys 12U: South-Doyle def. Carter
- Boys 14U: Powell def. Carter

KEY TO TEAM NAMES

- CCYSP - Center City Youth Sports Program
- EKAA - East Knoxville Athletic Association
- FC - Fountain City
- KYS - Knox Youth Sports
- NB - New Breed
- WBBL - West Bearden Basketball League

Powell 14U boys work overtime and then some for title

By Steve Williams

Powell's 14U boys basketball team faced an uphill battle in the Knox County tournament at East Knox Elementary School.

After losing its first-round game to Carter, Coach Bryson Cowden's team would have to come back through the losers' bracket. From that point on, each contest became the title game for Powell.

"I missed the first game and I knew they (players) were just as upset as me about the loss," said Cowden via text message. "The fire in all of us was burning hotter than the sun."

Powell beat Halls, South-Doyle and East Knox to reach the finals. But Powell would have to defeat Carter

twice to take the title.

"What I remember most is the four-overtime championship game ... but this was Game 1," said Cowden. "It was at the end of the second overtime. One of my centers, Colton Webb, got fouled as time expired and had the chance to knock down two free throws in a tied-game situation. He missed both.

"They walked over to the bench with their heads down. I told them that this was Carter's championship game. They had given all they had and if we pull this out, we will be driving home with a trophy in our hand.

"Carter played their championship game, but they never realized we had been playing ours since the first loss. Every game

was our final and that's the attitude we went into each game with."

Three victories in one night - the one over host East Knox and the two over Carter. It was a hard-earned championship.

Powell teams ended up capturing four of the seven County tournament titles this season, as its 6U coed, 8U boys and 10U girls also prevailed.

Honors were spread out more evenly in the 11 City tournaments. East Knoxville Athletic Association and West Bearden Basketball League each won three championships, while Knox Youth Sports and New Breed took two titles apiece.

The City tournament featured over 100 teams in

the 11 divisions.

"After seeing a wide range of scores and skill level during the season, we and the City commissioners decided to split the divisions with large numbers of teams into divisions - gold, silver, bronze," e-mailed Aaron Browning, Athletics Coordinator for the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department.

"The commissioners and coaches were able to determine which level they wanted to play in. We think that it resulted in a better experience for the players as it seemed like games were closer and teams in these divisions had closer scores throughout the tournament."

Ward keeps his promise and continues to give back to youth sports

By Steve Williams

Youth sports have always meant a lot to Joe Ward and still do.

Ward played his first basketball game as an 11-year-old in the Griffin (Ga.) Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department's youth program in the mid-1970s. He went on to earn Coaches' All-SEC first-team honors at the University of Georgia under Coach Hugh Durham in 1986 and continued his career by playing nine years of professional ball.

After all of his success on the hardwood, Ward hasn't forgotten where he started and he's been proud to be a part of the City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department for several years now.

Ward arrived in the Knoxville area not long after his retirement as a player in 1994 and started coaching with the Rule Christian Academy (RCA) recreation program. He guided RCA's 15 to 17-year-olds for nine years. Some seasons he would coach three different teams and they won many championships.

Ward said this past season felt like a "return to those glory days" as he assisted head coach Chris "Ace" Hunter's Center City Youth Sports Program's team, which defeated CCYSP-Nelson 28-14 in the City tournament's 12U boys Gold Division championship game.

"For my son Jeremiah and for the team and myself, I was very excited," said Ward, who has now coached three years for CCYSP. Even the gym on Asheville Highway, the site of the finals, reminded him of past titles won with the RCA program.

"For me at 53, a

championship, whether it is recreation, high school, college or pros, is a championship at any level. You're always excited to be able to achieve your goals and reach that destination."

Ward said he was blessed to be able to play the game of basketball and many people helped him along the way.

"As a youth, I was the oldest of seven kids and my father killed a man and went to prison when I was a boy, so I didn't have a father figure," he said. "There were a lot of people, a lot of pastors, my basketball coach Bobby York and other men in the community that reached out and helped me and did things in my life to help me get to my goal and destination.

"So I made a deal with God a long time ago," added Ward, "that if He allowed me to be blessed to play professional basketball, I told Him I promised to go back and see to it that I help other young men and women get the same opportunity that I was given and hope that I could impact somebody like I was impacted along the way."

Ward has been faithful to his promise. In fact, he will return to Griffin Friday night to receive an award from his hometown for "giving back to the community."

Ward, who founded Basketball Ministries International in 1989, will be putting on the 30th annual basketball camp at Griffin this year.

Ward said Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department "has done a fantastic job. I'm excited about being used and making a difference whenever I can.

"These organizations are vital to our community and make a difference. How do I know? I'm a product of Parks and Recreation. I was 11 years old when I played basketball for the first time and it was because of Parks and Rec.

"I'm very grateful for the volunteers who give up their time and resources to see to it that another young Joe Ward can be raised up in the city of Knoxville, the same opportunity I was given in Griffin."

In addition to coaching basketball, Ward also contributes in football season as a self-proclaimed "world's greatest water boy." He also sets an example by helping with clean-up duties and takes advantage of being around the youngsters to promote good sportsmanship.

In high school at Griffin, a hotbed for athletic talent just south of Atlanta, one of Ward's "mentors" was former UT football and

track star Willie Gault, who was a senior when he was a sophomore.

Ward was a 6-foot-6 jumping jack and averaged a team-high 15.6 points his senior season at Georgia.

One of his fondest memories of his college playing days was being on the 1985 Georgia team that beat Kentucky in Rupp Arena, the first Bulldogs team to win at Lexington in 62 years.

"As we left the arena after the game we were surprised to see some 23,000 Kentucky fans still in the stands," recalled Ward. "Their coach, Eddie Sutton, was going to have a practice and they stayed to watch. That tells you what their fans think of their basketball."

One of Ward's accomplishments as a pro was averaging a league-leading 53 points per game playing in the Philippines. He said Tony White, former Tennessee star, ranked second with a 47-point average.

Ward was head basketball coach at Knoxville College before it closed. He also was honored as a SEC legend at the conference tournament in 2006.

His resume is quite full, but he's not done yet. The kids keep coming and he keeps giving, like he promised he would.

Lady Admirals win three, rout rival Bearden

Continued from page 1

Farragut, which has had its offensive struggles out of the gate, scored eight runs in the opening inning. Seven of those runs crossed the plate before the Lady Bulldogs even recorded an out.

Farragut leadoff hitter Niki Slone drew a walk to start things for the Lady Admirals. She stole second and advanced to third with a passed ball. She came home with the game's first run when Kelsie Tuggle doubled.

The Lady Admirals took a 3-0 lead on a two-run single by senior first baseman Mary Claire Coyne. Farragut scored another run when Andrea Sarhatt reached on an error.

Hindle had a run batted in on a sacrifice fly. Slone had an RBI single in her second plate appearance of the inning and Tuggle's two-run double made the score 8-0.

Bearden's frustration had to hit a peak in the top of the second as both Rachel Colwell and Micah Stair both hit the ball hard but came up empty thanks to a pair of defensive gems by Farragut right fielder Sam Caruso and Slone at shortstop.

The Lady Admirals plated four more runs in the second. Left fielder Delanie Weller started that rally with a two-run homer.

Madison Etter, who had a one-out triple also scored on Weller's round tripper.

Designated player Bailey Young had an RBI double and Coyne had a scoring single before the frame concluded.

The Lady Bulldogs got their first base runner in the third as Piper Rucker walked. She, however, was retired when Jessica Ray rapped into a double play.

The Lady Admirals extended their advantage to 13-0 in the third on an RBI single by Morgan Stapleton.

Bearden picked up its lone hit of the contest when shortstop Jersey Patterson got aboard. She was one of only three Lady Bulldogs to reach base in the contest.

Emma Geron closed out the scoring with an RBI single that drove home Caruso, who singled early in the inning.

Hindle and Callie Moore combined on the one-hit shutout for the Lady Admirals.

Farragut coach David Moore said he was pleased after his squad's first district victory.

"It was good to get some kids some playing time and some at-bats," Coach Moore said. "We played some good defense. Niki had a great play at short and Sam had a great catch in the outfield and M.C. made a great play at first.

"We hit the ball well and Kayla and Callie pitched well. I think we only gave up one hit. This was a good game for us and Bearden is still a rivalry game for us."

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Why Cheating Pays Off in the NCAA

By Alex Norman

The best event in the NCAA is the men's basketball tournament. For three weeks, the nation is captivated by the established powers and the underdogs, all put in the same 68 team bubble, until one squad reigns supreme.

Even with the academic sham that is the "one and done" era, this event rarely fails to bring forth multiple "shining moments." We had the MTSU upset of Michigan State in the first round, Texas A&M's miracle comeback against Iowa State, and Oklahoma's Buddy Hield carrying this team to the Final Four.

But then we get to the Final Four itself and we dive right back into the muck.

Oklahoma was to face off with Villanova in one semifinal. In the other it was a matchup between Syracuse, a team that is currently on probation, against North Carolina, a team that likely will end up on probation, or worse...

Let's start with Syracuse. An eight year investigation into the program revealed wide spread academic fraud, drug policy violations, and improper payments to players. The NCAA ruled that Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim failed to monitor his program.

Syracuse pulled off a pre-emptive strike in February 2015 with a self-imposed ban on postseason play.

The cynic looks at that moving as a self-serving

affair on the part of the Orange. Syracuse was in rebuilding mode during the 2014-2015 season, and likely not equipped to get deep into the NCAA tournament, if at all.

The NCAA ended up not punishing Syracuse in that regard, but did lay down penalties including scholarship reductions and recruiting limitations. Boeheim was also stripped of 108 career victories (but for some reason the 2003 national title stays with Boeheim/Syracuse).

However, the NCAA also shifted a nine game Boeheim suspension away from ACC play, and the NCAA committee decided Syracuse's bid should be considered based on only the games Boeheim coached. The Orange went 4-5 without Boeheim on the sidelines, and suddenly their 18-13 record and 70+ RPI didn't look nearly as bad.

So what happened? Syracuse got into the tournament, got a few breaks, and then upset Virginia in the Regional Final to earn a spot in the Final Four.

Last week before the NCAA semifinals were played, Boeheim addressed the media. And in the way that only Boeheim could, explained why cheating is not the same as violating the rules.

"It's something I regret," Boeheim said. "I'm not happy about that. I don't think we gained any competitive advantage at any time in this whole case that

we've been through for 10 years. I think it weighed on us for 10 years and affected recruiting for 10 years. That's just part of the punishment. But when they say 'cheating,' that's not true. Rules being broken is a lot different. Cheating to me is intentionally doing something, like you wanted to get this recruit so you arranged a job for him, or you went to see him when you shouldn't. You called him when you shouldn't to gain an edge in recruiting to get a really good player. That's cheating."

North Carolina's situation, as hard as it may be

to believe, is actually worse than Syracuse's. For close to two decades, thousands of UNC students, including many men's basketball players, got credit for taking classes in the African studies department that required no attendance, nor any significant work, and they weren't supervised by a professor.

In typical North Carolina fashion, the school went "four corners." They stalled the NCAA investigation so successfully that the final notice of allegations won't be complete until next month. The fact that the investigation, which has

taken years, still is not complete allowed the Tar Heels to play in this tournament.

Kids, the moral to this story is that cheating pays off... at least in the Syracuse and North Carolina cases.

For Louisville, it didn't pay off because Louisville self-imposed a postseason ban for this season in which they had a really good team. Syracuse got a boost in their chances for that NCAA bid. Both are ACC schools, and it might have been tougher for the selection committee to add yet another team from that conference.

For Tennessee, it didn't pay off when Bruce Pearl went back to the NCAA and told them he wasn't telling the truth about the infamous BBQ. If Pearl had stalled or refused to answer the NCAA's questions until he could confer with legal counsel, he might still be the coach at Tennessee today.

This is sad, but it is also the college sports world we live in.

Syracuse and North Carolina haven't won morally. But they have won games.

Bill Wilson Joins Hall of Fame



On December 5, 2015 at the Airport Hilton, Knoxville, Wilford (Bill) Wilson was inducted into the Tennessee ASA Hall of Fame. During his 42-year career, Bill umpired numerous State and Regional tournaments and 25 National Tournaments. In 1982 Bill was selected as the State Junior Olympics Umpire-In-Chief. He held this position for eighteen years. He was selected to the ASA National Indicator Fraternity and won two National Federation awards: One was the National Federation Award for Indicator Fraternity and the other for Outstanding Official. Bill also umpired fast-pitch softball for T.S.S.A.A. for 25 years. Since retiring in 2012 - after 42 years with the Sheriff's Department -- Bill still enjoys watching his three grandsons play slow-pitch softball. The love of the sport runs in the family. His son, Roger Wilson, coached and sponsored several teams and his grandson, Andy, played on an ASA Super softball team until he was tragically killed in a car accident.

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The Doctor is in
 a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Words

Some weeks it's harder than others to write this column. This week's essay is the four hundred and ninth essay I've written for The Focus, each with an average of 1000 words. Do the math; this calculates to four hundred and nine thousand words over the last eight years. Perhaps I've said enough. Some liberals have written to me and said I should shut up. Nah! You know you're doing some good when you make 'em holler with indignation. After all, if you pull the tail of a donkey it brays.

In the summer of 2001 a friend of mine challenged me to begin spiritual journaling. I resisted, stating that the only writing I had

ever done was for assignments in high school and college. He told me I should just try spiritual journaling; so I did and it changed my life. After all, how do you know whether you like brussels sprouts unless you try them. I've tried them multiple ways and I find them to be a "vile weed," if I may quote Newman on Seinfeld.

Years ago my daughter gave me the aphorism from her fortune-cookie. The pithy message in the bland cookie read, "Start writing and the answers will come." Succinctly, this fortune-cookie perspective embodied a long standing philosophy of mine. I've often advised patients to write out their

feelings. Stressful situations can sometimes paralyze people, and organizing your feelings on paper or verbalizing your fears through prayer or with a trusted friend is often liberating. Have you ever noticed that you feel better after vomiting? This may seem crude, but by analogy, praying or spiritual journaling seems to work as a cathartic for the psyche. Freud would agree.

Lately, I've been considering all the years I've been writing for The Focus. I write because this creative process gives me joy. However, recently I remarked to my wife that I had written more than 400,000 words for The Focus. And as I got to thinking about my past essays in the News Sentinel and the Tennessee Medical Association Journal, as well as my spiritual writing of the last fifteen years, I concluded that I've written more than a million and a half words. Undoubtedly, more words than I've spoken in the same period.

Words are just the tools we use to communicate with each other, and can be written or spoken. We

also use body language to communicate, as well as the tone and inflection in our voices to modify those spoken words. There's a lot of vitriol these days in the body politic. However, if you think Trump's verbiage is rough, you should research the vulgarity of the election of 1799-1800 between the Federalist, John Adams and the Democratic-Republican, Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson founded his Democratic-Republican party largely in opposition to Alexander Hamilton's Federalist policies of a strong central government. Those "Democrats" were sympathetic to the Republican movement in France which later produced the Reign of Terror and the guillotine. Jefferson's new party later dropped the Republican moniker just as our modern Democrats have dropped the notion of a democratic election of their presidential standard bearer.

Changing the subject, have you noticed that the redbuds are exceptional this year? I'm an "S" on the Myers-Briggs personality typology, and I notice

things. Perhaps this is why I'm an internist. Sometimes I wonder if I just previously overlooked something, but experience has taught me to trust my instincts when I notice differences or changing patterns, and this year is an exceptional year for the redbud beauties of spring. Like crocus, Lenten Roses and daffodils, redbuds herald spring which I so appreciate. Also, seemingly unusual this spring was a virtual sea of flowering white pear trees which appeared even before the redbuds. I recently learned that Bradford pear trees, which were so popular fifteen years ago, are now threatening native species such as crab apple, flowering cherry, dogwoods and redbuds. I also recently learned that the Tennessee Senate passed the Direct Patient Care provision number 2448. This bill allows Tennesseans to contract directly with doctors for their primary care. It is comforting to this concierge physician that The Healthcare Empowerment Act removes any roadblocks to the care arrangement I've had with my patients for the last two

years. Our American republic is a form of government predicated on the rule of law. We elect representatives who supposedly act for us in local, state and national government. Our Legislators write rules/laws with words which we all agree to abide by. But what happens if they don't obey the rule of law such as the Constitution? We have seen what happens when the (Washington) executive branch of the government ignores the rule of law, the will of the people and renders the legislative branch of the government almost meaningless. And what if we citizens refuse to obey the law? The rule of the jungle, the hood or the cartel results, and there aren't enough police or national guard troops in the country who can protect us.

It is time to return to the rule of law and the Constitution, constructed with words and meaning. It is time for We The People to again rule ourselves.

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

The power of prayer

"The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses" (2 Cor. 10:4).

Many of you have seen pictures or movies of trench warfare used in battles. During the American Civil War in the 1860's, some of the Union and Confederate generals began employing it as a defensive strategy. Weapons had become more precise so when armies marched out into an open field, huge casualties mounted on both sides. During World War I (1914-18), trench warfare became the only option due to the invention of machine guns. On the Western Front in Europe, there was a sophisticated network of foxholes on both sides of the war. The trenches provided protection, but no mobility. There was little chance of defeating the enemy under these conditions; that is until the invention of a new machine of war.

Great Britain developed the first military tank in history by engineering an armored car onto the chassis of a farm tractor. This was a real game changer when it came to military combat. Prayer is our armored tank. Prayer is our assault weapon in battle. In Paul's teaching about the spiritual armor of God, he said, "Pray at all times in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:18). Paul then asked the church to pray for him that he might make the mystery of the gospel known (Eph. 6:19).

What is amazing is that when Paul makes this request, he is in jail. Yet Paul believed prayer was



By Mark Brackney,
 Minister of the
 Arlington Church
 of Christ

defeating any obstacle that was put before him. Prayer can help us do anything. You might be told today that you can't pray in the workplace, on the athletic field, or at school. But no one can keep you from silent prayer. Prayer is access to God, 24/7.

Prayer is also something that is not limited to certain times of the day or a certain place. One thing that can be frustrating about a cell phone is when you lose reception. You are talking with someone and then the next thing you know the call is dropped. Thankfully, God does not use cell towers in prayer. We can "pray without ceasing" or "continually" (1 Thess. 5:17). We can give our burdens to God in prayer and in exchange we receive peace (Phil. 4:6-7).

With all the blessings prayer can bring to our lives, why do we struggle with it? Perhaps it is because we were not taught the value of prayer. Maybe it is because we don't really believe anything happens when we pray. It might be because we trust ourselves more than we do God. Let us grow in our understanding of prayer. Stephen and Alex Kendrick wrote, "Prayer is what frames our pressing, short-term issues with God's eternal perspective, showing us just how temporary - and enduring, and winnable - even our most intense battles truly are. Prayer means hope. Prayer means help. Prayer means relief. Prayer means power. And a lot of it" (The Battle Plan for Prayer, 19).

South Knoxville Kroger raises \$600 for MDA



Kroger on Chapman Highway had assistant meat cutter Britton Patterson "arrested" to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and had an amazing response. Although bail was set at \$200, the store was able to raise \$600 for the charity in two hours. "South Knoxville really took charge and helped Britton get set free and raised money to help the kids with MD go to camp!" Deana Greene of Kroger told The Focus. Pictured left to right are Greene, Britton Patterson, Officer Gadd and Store Manager Robert Martin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Civil War Roundtable

Scott Mingus, author of 17 Civil War books, and his biography of confederate General William "Extra Billy" Smith, will lecture on "The Louisiana Tigers in the Gettysburg Campaign." Scott Mingus, who had a number of articles in the Gettysburg Magazine and has written six scenario books on miniature war gaming, will also focus on The Second Battle of Winchester with anecdotes of the Tigers' time in the Keystone State. The lecture will begin at 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at the Bearden Banquet

Hall, 5806 Kingston Pike. Lecture only cost \$5, students free. Dinner is at 7 p.m., \$17 including lecture. RSVP by noon Monday, April 11 at (865)671-9001.

Ed and Bob's Night Out

Knox County At-Large Commissioners Ed Brantley and Bob Thomas will be at We're Cookin' at 7664 Oak Ridge Highway on Tuesday, April 19 from 5 - 7 p.m. to meet the people of the Karns community and listen to their concerns.

Ginseng: Gold in the Smoky Mountains

Join Master Gardener Janie

Bitner (who is also a volunteer in the GSMNP) to learn some of the history of ginseng, why it is protected and what is so special about the ginseng in GSMNP.

This free public event is scheduled on Thursday, April 14, from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. at the Humana Guidance Center, 4438 Western Avenue, Knoxville TN 37921, phone (865)329-8892.

Heiskell Elementary Class Reunion

The Heiskell Elementary School Class Reunion (all classes) will be on Saturday, April 16, 2016. The event will be held from 1pm

Continued on page 4

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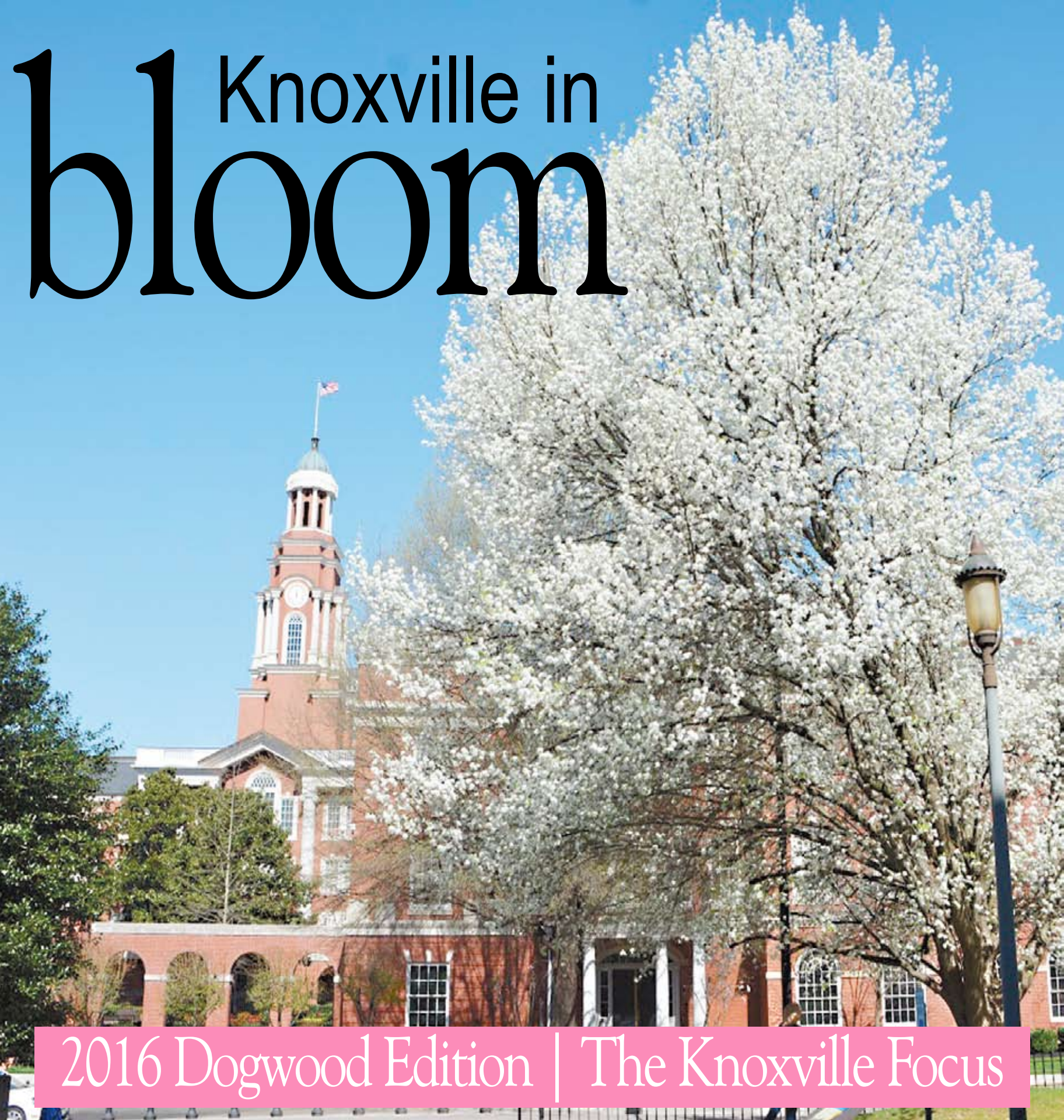
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1 Knoxville in bloom



2016 Dogwood Edition | The Knoxville Focus

Knoxville's Largest Music Festival Returns to the Historic Old City this Weekend

Rhythm N' Blooms is a Festival that's just as much about the City of Knoxville as it is about music. That's not to say it lacks premiere music or a premium listening environment, but it blends a top-notch music festival experience with the identity and spirit of our rich East Tennessee history. Knoxville's story has always been set to music. Rhythm N' Blooms highlights that soundtrack and celebrates the crossroads of the city's varied music history. Whether the music is nationally known or local favorites, Rhythm N' Blooms only showcases the most preeminent artists. Presented by Yee-Haw Brewing Company, and co-produced by Dogwood Arts and Attack Monkey Productions, Rhythm N' Blooms is excited to announce new, exciting features to the Rhythm N' Blooms Festival experience!

KNOXVILLE MUSIC HISTORY WALKING TOURS

While Knoxville may not be world-famous for music, the city has witnessed and nurtured so much musical ferment that



it's been called the Cradle of Country Music. The buildings where Flatt & Scruggs first recorded and where the Everly Brothers first broadcast are still central to downtown Knoxville. The theater that hosted Roy Acuff's first live show in 1932 is the same room where, 65 years later, Chet Atkins gave his final concert.

Jack Neely will lead participants on an easy two-hour walking tour through downtown, while sharing the details of Knoxville's place in music history. Tours will begin at Boyd's Jig & Reel at 2:00 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday. Tours will last approximately 90 minutes and will finish back on the festival footprint beside

Boyd's. Tours are free and open to the public. However, space on the tours is limited so please arrive early to ensure a spot.

BIKES & BLOOMS

A Program of Dogwood Arts & Legacy Parks

Looking for a fun, outdoor activity on Saturday and Sunday before the music starts? Bring your bike and get ready to see Knoxville on two wheels! Note: There's free bike parking at the Old City Courtyard.

Bikes & Blooms is an April program of Dogwood Arts that's co-produced with Legacy Parks Foundation. Experience the Dogwood trails the lean, green way – on a bicycle by way

of an organized ride! This scenic 8-mile ride is led by Tennessee Valley Bicycles. Riders must wear helmets. Young riders must be skilled at on-road riding, suggested age 8 and up. No pre-registration required!

* Rides leave from TVB, 214 W. Magnolia Ave. (Right off the festival footprint)

* Free Bike Workshops at TVB at 9:30 a.m.!

Saturday, April 9th - Southbound Ride (10:00 a.m.)

Sunday, April 10th - Northbound Ride (10:00 a.m.)

Rides are typically 2-3 hours and will have you back on the festival footprint in time to enjoy the first band!

Bikes & Blooms is presented by Covenant Health of East

Tennessee.

More information about Bikes & Blooms can be found at dogwoodarts.com/bikes-blooms

THE OLD CITY COURTYARD

Rhythm N' Blooms is taking over the Old City Courtyard for the weekend and will be featuring all sorts of new events.

The Silent Disco is only the tip of the iceberg for this area. This space will feature a large array of craft vendors, food trucks, beer stands and other programming.

Yee-Haw Brew Crew Talk - Saturday, April 9 at 2:45 p.m.

Come meet the Yee-Haw Brewing team! The Yee-Haw crew will be taking a timeout from the music on Saturday afternoon at 2:45 p.m. in the Old City Courtyard to talk beer, brewing and all things Yee-Haw. There will also be a special Q&A session where you can finally get the chance to ask the Yee-Haw brewers all your burning questions.

Continued on page 4



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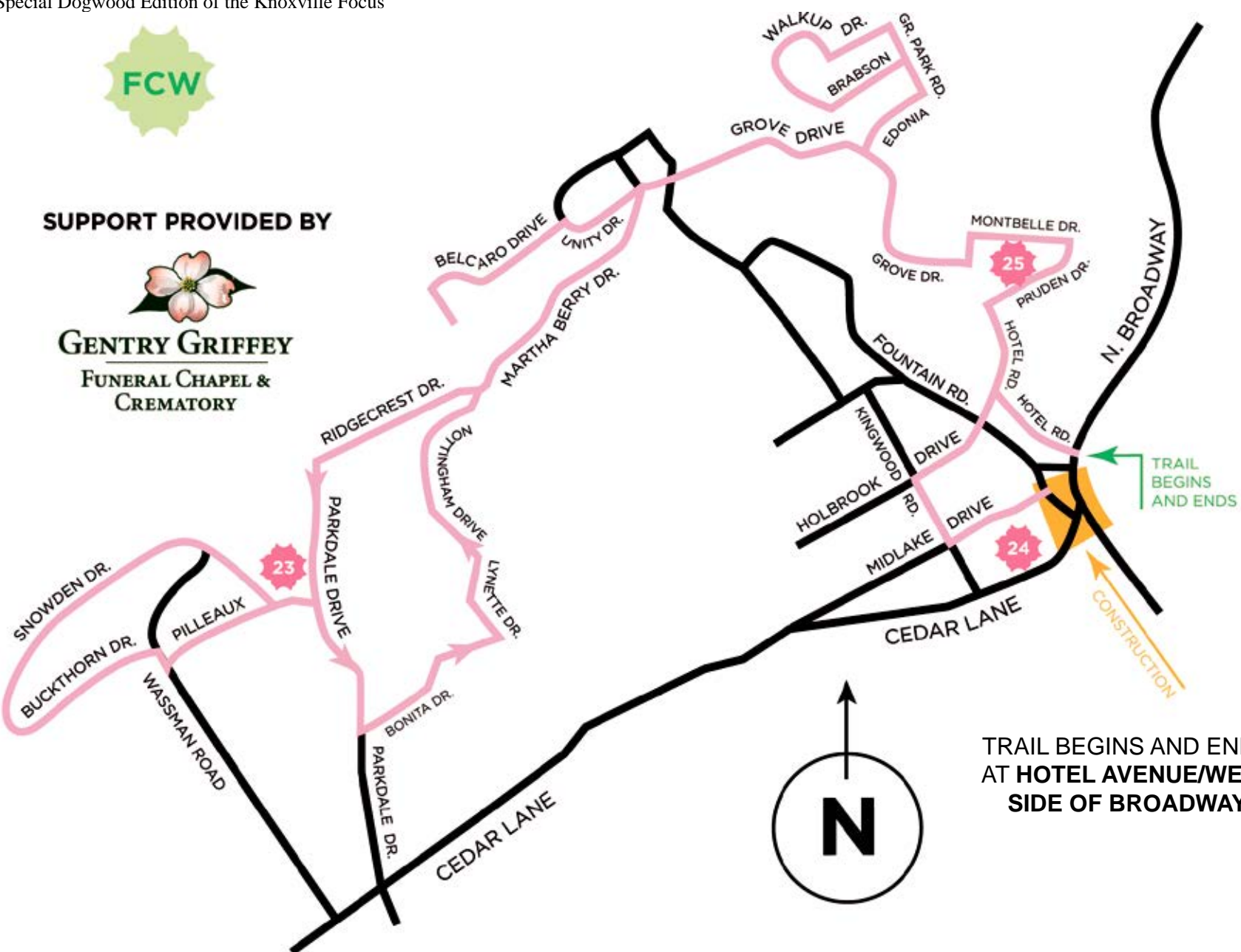




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UT Arboretum Society to hold 50th Annual Plant Sale

The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society's 50th annual Spring Plant Sale will gather the best of four local nurseries in one location.

The sale will be held on Saturday, April 16th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the UT Arboretum at 901 S. Illinois Ave. (Hwy. 62) in Oak Ridge. The "Members Only" sale will be on Friday evening, April 15th from 5-7 p.m. Memberships may be purchased at that time for this "early bird" shopping opportunity. Checks and credit cards will be accepted.

Beaver Creek and Riverdale Nurseries from Knoxville, Sunlight Gardens from Andersonville and East Fork Nursery from Sevierville will be offering a large and varied selection of shrubs, trees, wildflowers, perennials, annuals and edibles. Brad Greenwood Designs will have unique botanically themed copper garden ornaments and steel features for

the home and yard. Dano's Hot Dogs, with an expanded menu, will again be at this event.

Back by popular demand, the Society will be offering "The Rising Sun™" Redbud. This new Redbud displays brilliant, golden tangerine and lime-colored, heart-shaped foliage all summer and was a quick sell-out plant last year. The Society will also be offering a limited supply of another new redbud tree: 'Alley Cat'. 'Alley Cat' was literally discovered in an alley in Kentucky and has beautiful green and white variegated foliage which is stable and scorch resistant.

Retired U.T. horticulture professor Dr. Will Witte, the "Answer Man", will be on hand to answer your plant questions and will be selling books from his personal horticulture library.

Knoxville's Largest Music Festival Returns to the Historic Old City

Cont. from page 2

Morning Yoga with Barre Belle Fitness - Saturday at 12:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Looking to find your inner chi before launching into a day filled with awesome music? Head over to the courtyard for a group session of outdoor yoga led by Barre Belle Fitness. Bring your mat and enjoy an hour of relaxing yoga before you start your day.

SILENT DISCO

A new featured event will be coming to Rhythm N' Blooms Festival this year - but if you aren't looking, you might just miss it. The quietest dance party around will be taking place in the Old City Courtyard on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the festival weekend.

Head over to the courtyard and pop on some headphones, and you'll be jamming to whatever the DJ is spinning



City Courtyard on April 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Courtyard Hammock Village

Looking to take a load off between bands? Head to the courtyard and hop in one of the many ENO hammocks set out. The area will also feature life-size versions of some of your favorite games. It's a great place to kill some time while you're waiting for your favorite artist to hit the stage.

along with other friends and festival-goers. The Silent Disco will feature music of all genres so find the set that features music that gets your feet moving the most. The Silent Disco is free for anyone with a festival wristband and is \$5 for the general public.

Epiphone Guitar Design Awards Ceremony

The fourth annual Epiphone Guitar Design Contest provides a rare and exciting opportunity for students of all regional middle schools and high school to design an Epiphone guitar with their own artwork. The award winners will be announced in the Old

Ticket Information

THREE-DAY FESTIVAL PASSES, VIP THREE-DAY FESTIVAL PASSES, AND SINGLE DAY PASSES are on sale now. Visit rhythmbloomsfest.com to purchase passes and to get more Festival information.

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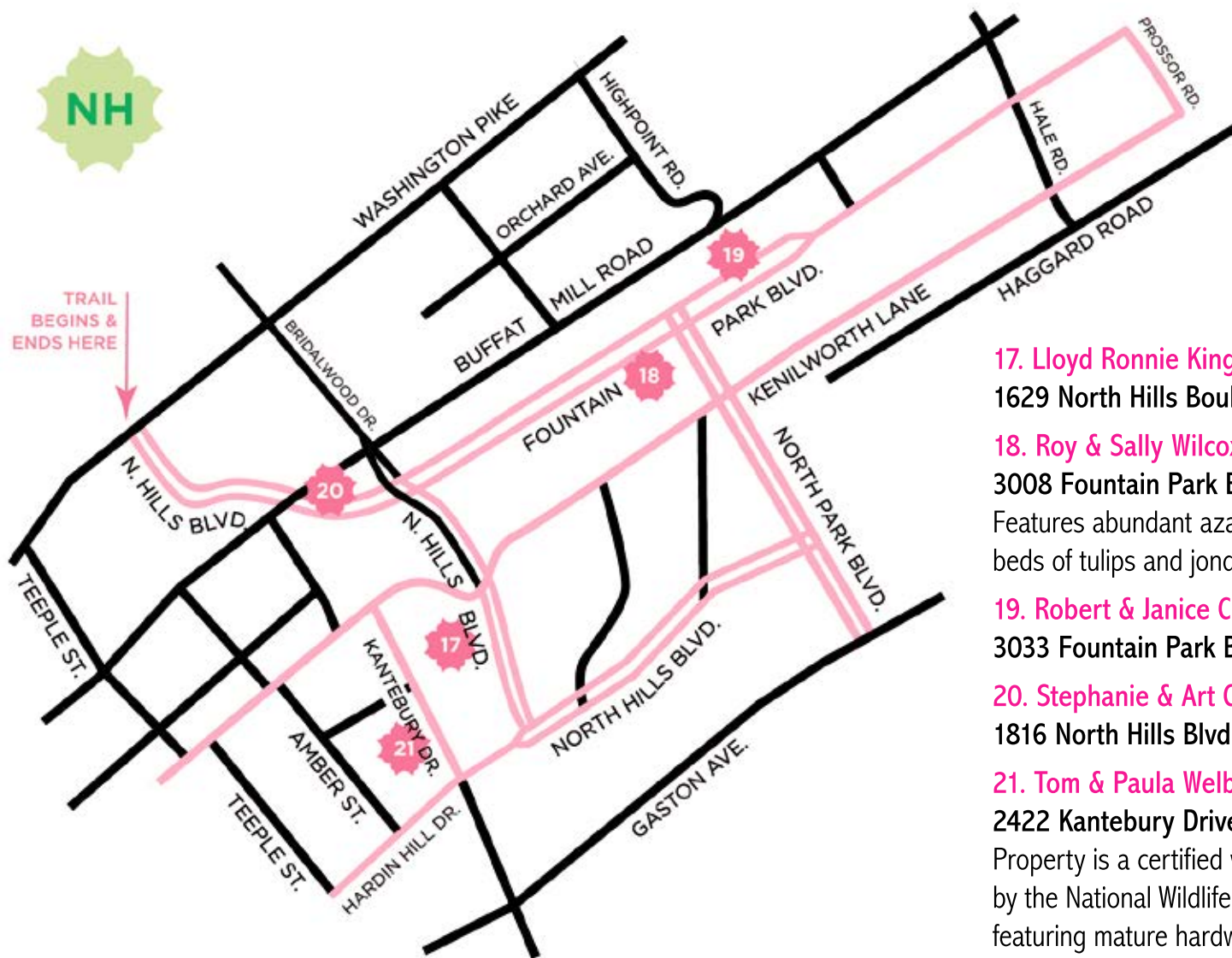
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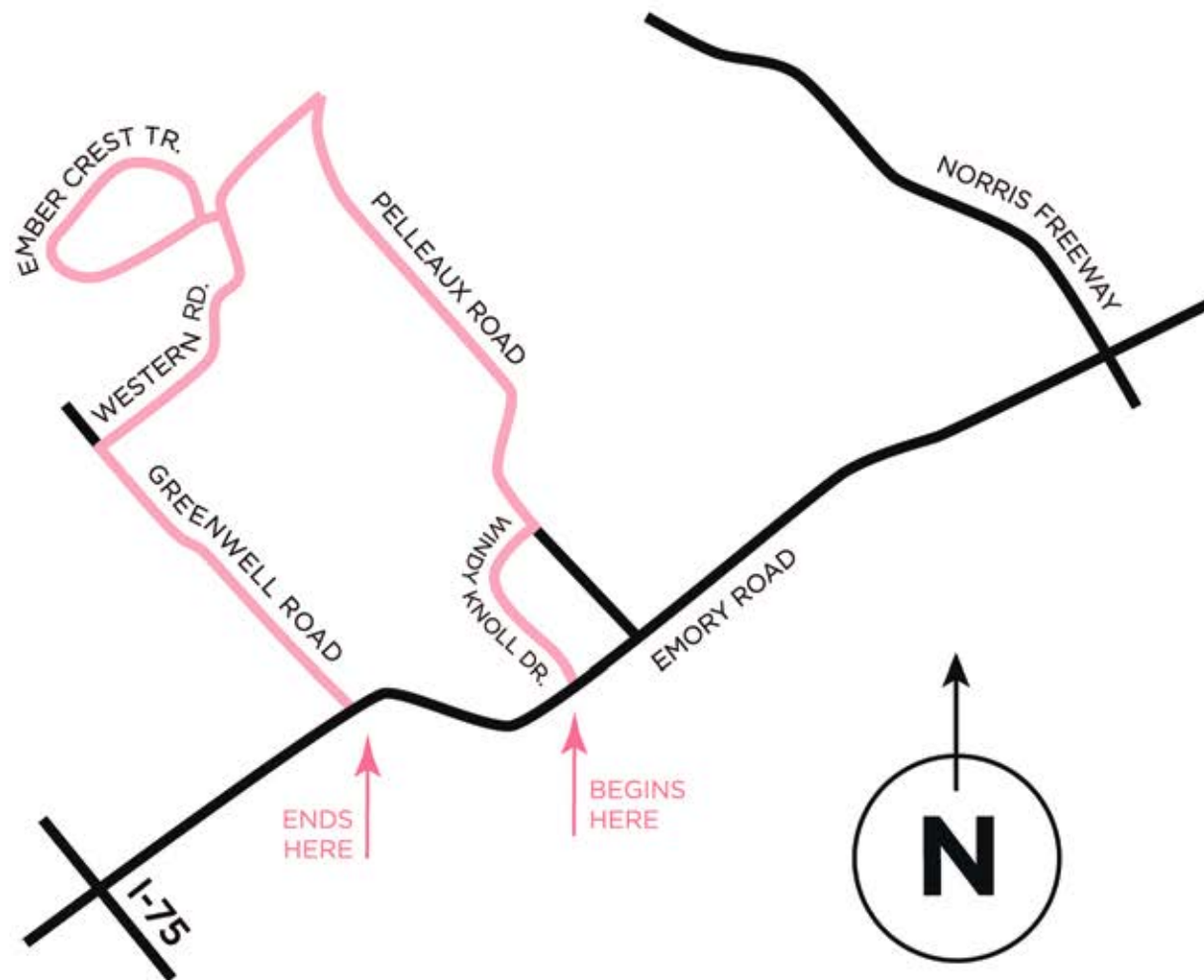
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A Very Special Arts Festival

A Very Special Arts Festival is a one of a kind event that celebrates Knox County Students with diverse abilities and the various artistic skills they are learning in the classroom. The event is not a competition, but an opportunity for students with disabilities to share their talents, works of art, and accomplishments with the community. Through this event, we hope to

encourage and stimulate feelings of self-worth within these students.

The event includes a wide variety of activities in music, dance, drama, and visual arts. Workshops of "make and take" arts and crafts, demonstrations, exhibits of art work, and performances by individuals with disabilities are all elements of the festival. Students will enjoy spending time with local mascot/character

favorites, an exhibit from the Knoxville Zoo mobile, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, a DJ, and more!

Supported by AKIMA Women's Club of Knoxville, The Pilot Club, West High School, and West Knoxville Civitan Club, the event is a united effort between Dogwood Arts, the University of Tennessee Departments of Art and Special Education, and Knox County Schools.

**A VERY SPECIAL
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**Where: West
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**When: Wednesday,
April 6**

Time: 9:00am-12:30pm

How Much: Free!

Turning sidewalks into canvases!

The Chalk Walk comes back in its eighth year and remains one of the fan favorites among our visitors in April! The street painting festival, whose origination as a featured event of Dogwood Arts, drew inspiration from a 16th century Italian happening, turns Knoxville's downtown sidewalks into a seemingly infinite canvas for the region's most talented professional and student artists. Dogwood Arts brings this event to Knoxville once again to continue to educate visitors and artists, alike,

of this lost art in hopes of keeping it alive for future generations. Bring the family and get some ideas for your child's next driveway masterpiece – or your own!

Chalk Walk will be on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at Krutch Park and Market Square. Artists begin working at 8:30 am and conclude by 4:30 pm. We will also host a fun and informative workshop in March at the Knoxville Museum of Art. If we have bad weather, the walk will be moved to Sunday, April 10.

CHALK WALK

Time: 8:30am-4:30pm

**Where: Market Square
& Krutch Park**

How Much: Free

When: Saturday, April 9



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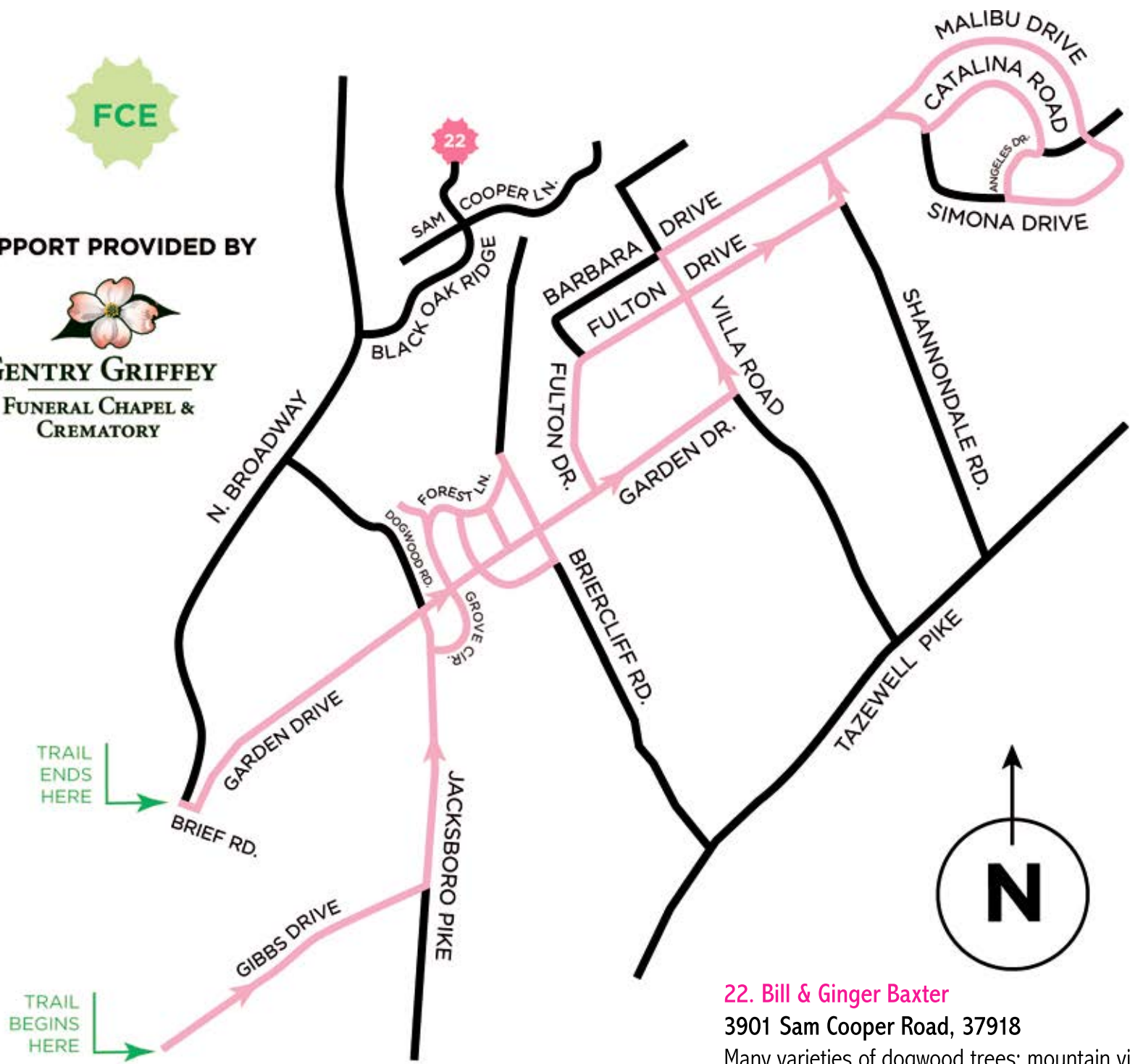
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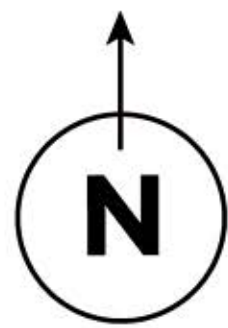


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