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PAT SUMMITT, 1952-2016



The Pat Summitt Plaza, where the statue of legendary Lady Vols head coach Pat Summitt stands, became a gathering point for many fans to pay their respects and share memories of Pat last week, after she passed away early Tuesday morning, June 28, at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville following a battle with early onset Alzheimer's disease. Summitt was 64. See columns on Coach Summitt and another photo on Page C1. Photo courtesy of UT Athletics.

Try out Knoxville Transit with Free Rides Friday

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

If you don't usually ride the Knoxville City buses or trolleys you may want to step aboard and see what you've been missing. While there are lots of parking spaces downtown, the only trouble is finding one. The city is instituting new parking meters and rates, so riding public transit might be a great alternative.

In order to raise awareness of the convenience of transit services, the city is holding "Try Transit Week" from July 11th until the 16th and will feature various activities and events and introduce new improvements. And, that Monday if you'd like, you can take a bus with Mayor Madeline Rogero. She'll ride the bus to lunch with city employees who have taken advantage of the offer of free bus passes.

"We are still refining a number of details at this point but the main events for the public will be on Friday and Saturday.

"Our Free Rides Friday is an opportunity to try the bus fare-free and we have a new tool to use for the Transit Trip Planner," Belinda Woodiel-Brill, Director of Communications and Service Department, told The Focus.

"The trip planner can be found on our website, www.katbus.com, or you can use Google Maps for the same feature," she said.

On Tuesday, July 12th you might find a local celebrity on board the Kingston Pike route around lunch time.

State elected officials will ride on Wednesday and will be hosted by KAT for a ride and lunch at Knoxville Transit Station. KAT will also be at Market Square's Farmers Market that day to inform people of the Free Rides Friday and a separate Saturday event, plus transit-related items will be given away.

On Thursday, the Knoxville City Council is invited to take the inaugural ride on KAT's newest addition to the fleet: a neighborhood service bus, which will take them to see the progress at the new East Superstop.

Free Rides Friday will introduce the new Google Trip Planner and everyone is invited to take a free bus ride all day.

Neighborhood Groups are encouraged to take the Group Rides to Market Square's Farmers Market on Saturday and KAT's booth at the market will provide free passes home and other giveaways to participating neighborhood groups.

Dawn Distler, Director of Transit, said the week is a "great opportunity for us to show the public and our elected officials all the progress we're making in Knoxville to grow our transit services."

East Knoxville library dedicated to fallen soldier

By Ken Lay

Knox County honored one of its fallen heroes on a hot late-June morning. The county dedicated the East Knoxville-Burlington Public Library Building to the memory of Specialist Fourth Class Donald A. Sherrod.

Sherrod, a graduate of East High School was killed in Vietnam on Aug. 8, 1966. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star after being killed in action.

Johnny Carter, Jr. was also honored Wednesday. He was Sherrod's best friend and acted as his escort when his body was returned home. He was also killed in action in 1968.

"I didn't want to have this occasion go by without paying tribute to Johnny," said Sherrod, who is Donald's younger brother and also a military veteran. "No one ever brought more comfort to our family than Johnny Carter.

"He was Don's best friend and Don asked him to be his escort if he was killed in action. That is a big deal because when you're an escort, you go back home to be with the family. I never met Johnny until after Don was killed. But when Don would write me letters, he often told me about

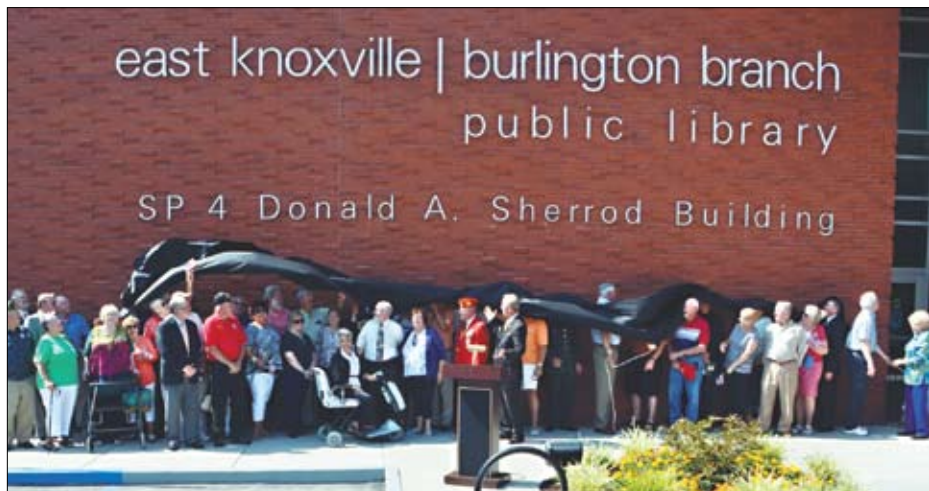


PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

East High School graduates gather to honor one of their own at the East Knoxville-Burlington Library Building at a ceremony honoring East alumnus Donald A. Sherrod Wednesday. The building now bears Sherrod's name.

Johnny. I know why they got along so well. They had so much in common."

Donald and Jack were typical brothers. They scuffled and they argued and they played pranks on one another.

"Anyone who knows me, knows that I am no one's little brother and I came to realize that when I got older," Jack said. "We would grapple and we would wrestle.

I don't think we ever really got into a fight. But we did wrestle and we did brotherly things.

"We grew up in poverty in a little house on Washington Avenue. It wasn't really a little house. But you had a mom, a dad and four kids. And since mom and dad thought our house was so big, they had

Continue on page 2

Remembering Korea, The Forgotten War

By Mike Steely
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Our World War I veterans are gone and our World War II veterans are aging and leaving us. Our Vietnam veterans are in their late middle years and retiring and our Desert Storm veterans are with us and seeking health care.

What war was forgotten?

Why don't we think of the Korean War? Maybe because it was labeled a "conflict" and

not a "war" is why that long event is seldom remembered or recognized. Most people don't know that more than 7,800 American and Korean soldiers remain missing in that struggle.

Recently the body of missing Sergeant Bailey Keeton, Jr. was returned home. His remains were identified and the highway patrol escorted the coffin to Oneida for final honors and burial. Flags in

Tennessee were flown at half-staff on June 25 by order of the governor.

The conflict, police action, or war cost the United States 33,686 casualties. By the end of the war there were an estimated 1.2 million total deaths on all sides including civilians. More than 100,000 American troops were wounded and, at the end of the war, it was estimated that more than at least 900

U.S. soldiers were still being held in North Korea.

Sgt. Keeton died in 1950 at age 20 fighting Chinese forces. The conflict lasted three more years until a Peace Treaty was signed in 1953. His sacrifice wasn't the only contribution that Korean War Veterans made. Some returned wounded and many returned, like those who fought in Vietnam,

Continued on page 2



Rex Davis, a Korean War veteran, sponsors a reunion for that war's veterans every year and this year's event marked the 66th anniversary of the start of that "Forgotten War."

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Power of Attorney: What is It and Do You Need One?

Do you know someone who has elderly parents who aren't able to get out to the grocery store or bank by themselves anymore? Do you know someone who is getting to the point where they



By **Jedidiah McKeehan**
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are starting to get forgetful or can get confused on occasion and need assistance in balancing checkbooks and managing accounts? If you do know someone like this, or feel that it may apply to you, you may want to explore the option of obtaining a Power of Attorney.

What is a Power of Attorney?

A Power of Attorney means that someone has the power to be your "Attorney-in-Fact." They will be able to make decisions on your behalf that only you yourself would be able to make, such as access your

bank accounts, buy and sell property and file tax returns. The list of duties that someone possessing a Power of Attorney is able to perform in the state of Tennessee can be found at Tennessee Code Annotated Section 34-6-109.

Who Do You Pick to be a Power of Attorney for You?

When someone becomes your Power of Attorney, the list of things they can now do on your behalf are both important and intimate. Because of this, it is of utmost importance that who you choose as your Power of Attorney is someone who is trustworthy. If you do not trust them, you certainly don't want them signing your name on investment documents or accessing your safe deposit box. Typical choices for

Power of Attorneys are adult children, often those who assist in the care for elderly parents. It is wise to discuss the choice for a Power of Attorney with close family members so that no one is taken unaware by the choice. This can prevent hurt feelings down the road that can lead to dissension and resent among family members.

How Do You Go About Making the Power of Attorney?

A good place to start is by meeting with an attorney who is familiar with drafting Power of Attorney documents. There are places online to obtain Power of Attorney forms, but those can often be problematic if you have any questions or there are specific things that you want the Power of Attorney document to say. For example, what if the individual making the Power of Attorney (also called the "principal" or "grantor") becomes incapacitated

through Alzheimer's? Is the Power of Attorney still effective? The answer is no, it's not. However, if instead of a regular Power of Attorney, you had drafted a Durable Power of Attorney pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated Sections 34-6-102 and -105, then the Power of Attorney would still be effective, and at the time when the principal most needs someone to act on their behalf and in their interest.

If You're Considering a Power of Attorney, Is There Danger in Waiting to Draft One?

Yes, there is a very real danger in waiting. A Power of Attorney cannot be created if the principal lacks the mental capacity to do so. Once they have lost the ability to make rational and reasonable decisions, they cannot form an effective legal document that can allow banks, insurance companies or other businesses to let someone act

on their behalf.

What if I Want Someone to Do Some Things For Me, But Not All Things?

There is also the possibility of drafting a Limited Power of Attorney. In this type of document you can dictate specifically what someone can and cannot do on your behalf. If you want to give someone the power to sign all the documentation on your behalf to sell one piece of property, you can most certainly do that. If you are looking at forming a Limited Power of Attorney, I highly recommend contacting an attorney-at-law (not to be confused with an "Attorney in Fact"), to assist you in including the proper language to create a document with the proper language.

Can I Revoke a Power of Attorney?

Yes, you most absolutely can. The principal

can execute a Revocation of Power of Attorney that revokes the Power of Attorney powers, appoints a new Power of Attorney, or alters the powers of the Power of Attorney. It is important to collect and destroy the original Power of Attorney documents as well as notify institutions relying on the original Power of Attorney, so that unauthorized actions aren't taken at the principal's expense.

The Knoxville Focus would like to welcome new columnist Jedidiah McKeehan. Jedidiah represents clients in criminal, family, business and estate matters at the Knoxville law firm Tardy, Cox, Fleishman & Leveille, PLLC. He has been practicing law since 2007 and can be reached at attorneyknoxville@gmail.com. For more information about Jedidiah and how he can assist you, visit www.attorney-knoxville.com.

Remembering Korea, the Forgotten War

Cont. from page 1

without much praise or fanfare.

On the same Saturday that Sgt. Keeton was honored and the flag flown at half-staff, several Korean War Veterans assembled at the Bearden Banquet Hall to remember their service, their friends who didn't return, and to visit with fellow veterans.

The day marked the 66th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

Organizer and Korean War Veteran Rex L. Davis said the annual gathering keeps the veterans connected and the memory of the "Forgotten War" alive. Corporal Davis served six months on the front line fighting in the Battle of Old Baldy inside

what is now North Korea.

Davis, a retired business owner who also served on the Knoxville City Council, said the experience caused him to do a "lot of growing up" and made him appreciate our nation.

The Thirteenth Annual "Rex Davis Korean War Veterans Reunion Luncheon" began in 2003 and attracted more than 200 veterans and guests last year with possibly 300 or more attending this year's event. A lunch was served and several regional businesses provided information booths.

The informal meeting featured remarks by Davis and leaders of the Knoxville Area Korean American Association.

Elected officials attended and authentic Korean dancers performed.

Scheduled were Rex Davis, Randal Baxter, Gary Low, Chung Il Yu, Minsoo Kim, Gina Phillips, Yank Gu Woo, and the Knoxville Area Korean American Association. Donna Longworth and Linda Marohn were the event coordinators. Also taking part were Mike Dahl and Gerald Mustin and the Sons of the Revolution.

The program blessing was delivered by Billy Wolf and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wayne Watson. Keli Dahl led the National Anthem. TTJC Karate gave a Korean Karate Demonstration and both Rex and Doug Davis presented remarks.

East Knoxville library dedicated

Continued from page 1

our grandmother living there. Mom and Dad had a bedroom. Grandmother had a bedroom and the kids had a bedroom. We would be sitting at the dinner table and then we would just start wrestling. And I never knew why Mom and Dad put us on the same side of the table."

Jack would, however, find out sometime later.

"It wasn't until I asked my sister and she told me that neither she nor our other brother wanted to sit next to either one of us," Jack said.

Jack and Donald had their differences but Jack said his brother's death has left a void in his life for nearly a half-century.

"I never knew a love like that and I've tried to re-create that relationship," Jack said. "I tried to re-create it with my son. But with my son, I created another copy of me. We're best friends as father and son, but it's not the same."

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett was on hand for the ceremony honoring the first alumnus of East High, who lost his life while serving in the military and he spoke glowingly of Sherrod and others who gave the ultimate sacrifice in Southeast Asia.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Jack Sherrod speaks at a ceremony honoring his late brother Donald, who was killed in Vietnam in 1966. The East Knoxville-Burlington Library Building was dedicated to Donald's memory and now bears his name.

"We're here today to honor a true hero," Burchett said. "So often in our society, we call people heroes because they can throw a football and more times than not they end up embarrassing us.

"Donnie Sherrod was a true hero. He volunteered to serve his country and he paid the ultimate price. This is not only for him. This is also for the Vietnam veterans who did get the appreciation and the welcome home that they deserved."

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Publisher's Position

Buzz Thomas Off To A Good Start



**By Steve Hunley,
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Interim School Superintendent Buzz Thomas is off to a good start with this letter to the community. Thomas has hit the right note by clearly indicating he's cognizant of every stakeholder involved in the school system, which extends beyond teachers, students, and parents. Buzz Thomas even mentioned the taxpayers, a group Jim McIntyre seemed never to consider. After all, anything done for students and teachers,

comes directly from the taxpayers, most of whom are parents and/or grandparents. There are also a goodly number of taxpayers who are childless, yet support the school system by paying taxes. Aside from Mike McMillan, one almost never hears the word "taxpayers" uttered by any member of the Board of Education and even less frequently by the McIntyre administration.

Thomas has been direct and to the point about those things the school system hasn't done well: transportation, transparency, public relations, continuing the reading program to ensure students are reading at grade level, and lack of preparation for those students intending to go on to college. The Focus has been critical of Jim McIntyre and his administration for many of these same reasons, which have been stated in my editorials. You never read a single word

that any of these things needed to be improved in the pages of the daily paper. You never heard the local TV news anchors ever ask Jim McIntyre about any of these things, much less ask a difficult question. Yet Buzz Thomas had the courage to just come right out and say exactly what the school system needed to do better, something most of the local media either didn't have the intelligence or fortitude to question during McIntyre's reign.

Yet Buzz Thomas went about it in the proper way, stating the facts without being critical of his predecessor, although the inference is clear. McIntyre was an imperial superintendent, dictatorial, supremely confident that he was always right. Thomas's insistence we invest in making certain our students can read at grade level is a necessity and anyone with the slightest common sense will admit it; yet it is in clear

contrast to the ephemeral goals of McIntyre. He was here for eight years and could have invested in the reading program, which would not have existed in any school had it not been for the insistence of Mayor Tim Burchett, who had to find the money to pay for it. Rather than investing in the reading program, Jim McIntyre spent a year chasing approval for a balanced calendar, which he estimated to cost somewhere between \$2 and \$20 million. McIntyre nudged the Board to spend almost \$1 million on the Parthenon study, a study so useless even his rubber stamp Board members couldn't deny it. And McIntyre grew the bureaucracy.

Buzz Thomas has already proven to be as practical as Jim McIntyre was flighty. For eight years, McIntyre seemed to think each year he could coax or demand more money from Mayor Burchett and the

County Commission simply because he wanted it. Outside of the daily paper, the business elite and a rubber stamp Board of Education (until it was wiped out in the last election), nobody bothered to pretend they were impressed with McIntyre's pursuit of the next big thing and ignored the fact he hadn't even finished the last thing before pursuing another thing. McIntyre managed to spend \$30 million outside of the regular budget in two years, yet seemed to believe Burchett and the Commission would simply continue to provide unlimited taxpayer dollars at his whim.

The local media and the Chamber types never seemed to realize that people in Knoxville and Knox County just didn't connect with McIntyre. With a colorless personality, a smug attitude that he was always the smartest person in the room, and dictatorial style made him a figure

impossible to sympathize with, much less like. Buzz Thomas is, to put it bluntly, the anti-McIntyre; extraordinarily likeable, always willing to listen, and interested in working with everyone.

The attitude taken by Buzz Thomas is worth mentioning because it is refreshing and I believe it helps set the table for the permanent superintendent once the new Board of Education has gone through the process of hiring one; Knox County needs a respite from what clearly did NOT work and needs a superintendent who can work with everyone, listens, and isn't beholden to any special interest, which includes the teachers as well as the Chamber types. A superintendent who has the confidence of the majority of the PEOPLE will be successful. Jim McIntyre proved that beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Will Regulations Render ESSA No Better Than NCLB?

Last month, U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander welcomed members of the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) to his Washington D.C. office. KCS Board of Education member



By Sally Absher
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with Governor Haslam and Education Commissioner Candace McQueen, and work together to write a new state education plan, which is necessary to receive federal dollars for your schools.

teacher definition and requirements, teacher evaluation mandates, federal school turnaround models, federal test-based accountability and adequate yearly progress.

Alexander encouraged the school board members "to stay involved and stay in touch with me as we work to ensure Washington stays out of our classrooms." Alexander has said, "The law isn't worth the paper it's printed on unless it is implemented properly, and I'll use every power of Congress to make sure the law is implemented the way we wrote it for 50 million students and 3.4 million teachers in 100,000 public schools."

But there are already signs that Alexander will need to be held accountable to his promise to "use every power of Congress to make sure the law is implemented the way we wrote it."

Meet the U.S. Secretary of Education John King, who previously was the New York State Commissioner of Education. Parents in New York were so unhappy with King and his privatization efforts that many blame him as one of the primary

causes of New York's huge "Opt-Out" movement.

In May, the U.S. Education Department issued proposed regulations to give states guidance on how to implement the new K-12 ESSA. This resulted in immediate criticism by those who charge the Department of Education is continuing the same federal overreach that characterized NCLB.

Valerie Strauss, writing in the Washington Post, suggests that King is utilizing the drafting of regulations to try to shut down the Opt Out movement. She writes, "With a testing 'opt out' movement that has been growing in recent years, the department spells out a series of punitive options states should take in an attempt to get schools to ensure 95% student



Knox County School Board member Patti Bounds (third from left) and other members of the TSBA with Senator Lamar Alexander.

participation rate on federally required state-selected standardized tests."

She explains that ESSA continues the NCLB mandate of annual standardized testing in grades 3 - 8 and once in high school, despite the belief by many critics that standardized tests are not good measures of student progress. The opt out movement is a "revolt

against testing, with many parents refusing to allow their children to take tests that they believe are being used improperly to evaluate students and teachers, and even some educators refusing to administer exams they believe are

Continue on page 4

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Celebrating 15 Years!

Mixed use plan to improve quality of life in Bearden

By Mike Steely
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The Bearden neighborhood is on the verge of change and may look very different over the next few years. The Bearden Village "Mixed Use District" was explained again Tuesday when the Metropolitan Planning Commission met with local residents at the Bearden United Methodist Church.

Actually the planned changes in Bearden have been underway for several years since the "Village" concept began around 2001 with the support of the Bearden Council, an umbrella group of various neighborhood groups. Improvements, including sidewalks, were planned along Sutherland Avenue and changes at Homberg Place to allow for residential mixed with commercial have pushed the idea along.

The Bearden Village Opportunities Plan called for enhanced pedestrian access, a sense of community and building on the neighborhood's urban character and unique atmosphere. A vision of the future back when first adopted called for expanding pedestrian and greenway links, a shopping village atmosphere, landscaping, and architectural harmony in commercial and office development.

The development of the Everly Brothers Park on Kingston Pike and Forest Park Boulevard last year boosted the attention and support of neighborhood residents.

The mixed use plan adds to that idea and groups and links places for living, working, shopping, education and recreation. The idea is to reduce vehicle trips, relieve traffic congestion and improving the quality of life.

The public meeting, hosted by MPC Director Gerald Green and explained by senior planner Mike Reynolds, drew several local residents, business owners, and elected county and city officials. A detailed map of the suggested changes involving zoning drew a lot of attention. Green said that Reynolds has done "the

bulk of the work" on the project. "We've gone from basic standards to a lot more detailed," said Green. The plan calls for only three zoning areas there, replacing about 13 current zonings. Under the proposed plan the traditional zones would be replaced by OX, NX and CX. OX would be for office while allowing for housing and limited retail. NX provides a variety of residential, retail and commercial uses within walking distance of residential. CX permits commercial mixed use with residential.

Reynolds told the meeting that existing dwellings and businesses would not be affected by the zoning changes unless additions to the structures are involved. Demolition and new construction would need to meet all the requirements including setback, height restrictions, and buffers.

"The goal is to increase the value of the land and increase tax revenue," Reynolds said. He added that over the next twenty years Knoxville's population is expected to increase by 107,000 people. He said that much of the "mixed use" plans came from Raleigh, N.C. and the city could utilize the Bearden approach for other areas in town.

The mixed use district begins just east of West High School along Sutherland Road and flows west along Sutherland beyond Bearden Elementary School to Northshore. The southern boundary basically follows Kingston Pike from the east end at Western Plaza to Old Kingston Pike and along the railroad to Northshore.

The city council, in a motion by Vice Mayor Duane Grieve, authorized the study last year and citizens can review the current plans at www.knoxmpc/beardenmixedusedistrict. The study by the planning staff should be presented for approval to the MPC in August. Reynolds said he hopes to hold one more public hearing in late July or early August. The City Council could hear the Bearden Mixed Use Plan in September.

County Commission

Will raising beer sales fines help?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission continued to get tough with businesses caught selling beer to minors recently as the elected officials heard twenty-two incidents. City Police Captain Allen "Wolfie" May reported on each and every sting operation that took place around high school prom season.

The stings involved neighborhood convenience stores, restaurants, drug stores and taverns.

The commissioners heard each and every case with descriptions by Captain May about when and how the illegal sales were made and then heard owners and managers describe how the sales took place and, in most cases, how the employee who made the sale was terminated.

While some businesses were found in violation for the second or third time many were found in violation for a first offense. In most cases the owners chose to pay a fine rather than take a suspension of their license. The commissioners again discussed whether the fines, from \$500 to a maximum of \$2,500, were steep enough to discourage the illegal sales. They also discussed if the employees should also be fined rather than just the owner.

Facing a third offense over the past five years, Lee's Market at 7657 Clinton Highway lost its license for 90 days without the option of a fine. A spokesman for Lee's Enterprises, owner of 37 stores that sell beer, said that

the store was "in a bad neighborhood" but said there was no excuse and the company would try to do better. Commissioner Mike Brown at first moved to suspend the license for 120 days but settled for the 90 days.

Some stores have a computer that reads the driver's license or the clerk can input the information into a computer to calculate the day the person turns 21 and becomes eligible to buy beer. Some do not and the clerk must do the math, but every license issued to anyone younger than 21 has a red strip that indicates the person is under that age. While all beer outlets must send their staff through state-required training, many places post a calendar to help remind employees of the day's date and hold weekly or monthly training sessions.

Only two of the violators chose to take the suspension rather than pay a fine. One store on Ebenezer said that given street construction around the business the time without selling beer would be preferred. Another outlet, a restaurant, said that beer sales are such a small part of their business that they preferred the suspension as well.

Only one outlet, a restaurant, had the charges dismissed. The owner said that his wife, who served the table, had told the sting youth that he was underage and refused to serve the beer. She had the beer in her hand and the youth left the restaurant before being served. Commissioner

Mike Brown says he has eaten there often and knows the couple well. He moved successfully to dismiss the charges.

A couple of the first time violators had years of sales in the past with no violations with one business going 25 years without a violation being issued.

Commissioner Charles Busler noted that one business had gone 15 years without a violation and moved to lower the current fine of \$1,500 for a first offense to \$500 or a 30-day suspension. The idea passed with two "No" votes.

Following almost six hours of beer board, commission and zoning meetings the commissioners turned once again to the problem of beer sales to minors in an open discussion. The county beer fines were compared to the state liquor fines and raising the fines locally was debated with a suggestion that fines reflect the volume of beer sold at a store.

"It's not getting better," said Commissioner Randy Smith, adding, "We've got to do something."

Busler said that until the county raises fines to a point that it "really hurts" the violators the problem won't stop. Law Director Richard "Bud" Armstrong told the meeting that state law allows for a maximum fine of \$2,500 per incident but noted that one violator before the commission had two violations. That fine could be applied to the first violation which, currently, is \$1,000 or less.

Will Regulations Render ESSA No Better Than NCLB?

Cont. from page 3

poorly designed."

But if, as Alexander claims, ESSA ends the Common Core mandate, including federal test-based accountability, then why write regulations that continue to micromanage local education policy and punish schools with students who "Opt Out?" The implementation battle, says Strauss, is how much power the U.S. Education

Alexander said in a statement that he was

"disappointed that the draft regulation seems to include provisions that the Congress considered - and expressly rejected."

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, was much more specific in her critique of the regulations, saying in a statement:

"Rather than listen to the outcry by parents and educators over hypertesting, the department offers specific punitive consequences for when fewer than 95 percent of students participate in tests. This doesn't solve the issue of the misuse of

testing. It simply inflames the problem by suggesting punitive consequences for those who are so frustrated by the misuse and high-stakes nature of standardized testing that they want to opt their kids out.

"The department seeks to impose a more aggressive timeline than the new law provides for districts to implement these new accountability systems. Without enough time to put them in place, states will revert back to what they have - a test-driven accountability system. This will maintain the old test-

and-punish accountability systems and an overly prescriptive federal role in schools. That is not the reset ESSA promised."

Yet Strauss reports that other critics don't feel the proposed regulations go far enough in directing states what to do, specifically in dealing with groups of students in schools who are chronically "underperforming."

For example, the Education Trust, a nonprofit advocacy group, said, "By allowing states to limit the definition of consistent under-performance for a group to

being in the lowest performance level on an indicator, or being the farthest away from statewide average performance, it undermines the idea - and the congressional requirement - that any group that is struggling in any school needs help and assured action, not just the very lowest performing groups or groups in a limited number of schools."

Patti Bounds told The Focus, "Tennessee has the opportunity to change public education for our children, teachers, and communities but we MUST

get involved. We can't let those in Nashville dictate the Tennessee Plan. Senator Alexander implored with local school boards to be proactive - and especially to encourage parents and educators to be involved - in developing the model we will use for our state."

The proposed regulations are open for public comment through Aug. 1, 2016. You can read the proposed regulations and comment online here: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=ED-2016-OESE-0032-0001>.



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Our Neighborhoods

Farmers Markets growing in the area

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

"We've got about 30 vendors with everything including local tomatoes, sweet corn, beans, okra, cucumbers, squash, zucchini and berries," said Jeff Cannon.

Cannon and his wife, Virginia, host the Dixie Lee Farmers Market every Saturday morning from May to October in the parking lot of the Renaissance Center at Dixie Lee Junction in west Knox County. It's the time of year for fresh local produce and products and the Dixie Lee Farmers Market also offers crafts, book sales and signing, handmade knives, honey and much more including information from local businesses and services.

Jim Farmer, a prolific Knox County writer, had his books for sale and told The Focus that there's a new one being published soon. Bill and Pat Phelps of Loudon County were there selling his self-made knives and crafts; Marshall Dudley of Loudon was promoting his pure honey; and Michelle "Taja" Durham was displaying and selling her unique framed planters. From one end to the



other the Saturday morning vendors, from home gardens, farms, and workshops were doing a booming business.

Some vendors only take part in the Dixie Lee event and others travel to other Farmers Markets around the area to offer their products and produce.

Just across town another Farmers Market was underway at Market Square. The downtown market, which starts at 9 a.m. and runs until 2 p.m. on Saturdays, also happens each Wednesday from 11 to 2 p.m. Dandridge has a market downtown every Saturday morning as does Gatlinburg, Lenoir City and Seymour. The Seymour market is at the First Baptist Church at 11621 Chapman Highway



each Saturday from 8 until noon.

On Mondays and Fridays the Fresh from the Earth Farmers Market takes place at 2 p.m. at the Grove Center in Oak Ridge

and on Mondays, from 3 until 6 p.m. is the Norris Farmers Market on the Commons.

On Tuesday and Fridays from 3 until 6 in



PHOTOS BY MIKE STEELY.

Clockwise, from top left: Saturday mornings are busy at the Dixie Lee Farmers Market. Recently more than 30 vendors were offering their wares, everything from local tomatoes to handmade tools. Bill and Pat Phelps offer handmade knives and crafts. Local author Jim Farmer displays one of his many books he offers at various Farmers Markets. Jeff and Virginia Cannon promote the Dixie Lee Farmers Market and also offer their own products. If you're interested in fresh produce and crafts then there are plenty of Farmers Markets in and around Knox County.

County Commission

Safety Center RFPs now being accepted

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

"The RFP is a skeleton," Commissioner Mike Brown said last week when the Knox County Commission finally issued a Request for Proposals for a safety center to help mentally ill people arrested for minor offenses. Now all the safety center needs are bids to help flesh it out into reality.

"With the reply the committee will sit down and pick it over," Brown said before bringing the proposed RFP to the full commission. The committee, made up of members of the community, the Sheriff's Department, city council,

city police department and non-profit organizations, have been meeting for months. Hopes were dashed when Randy Nichols, the Sheriff's special advisor, reported that a meeting with the governor's office failed to get state funding.

Both the county and the city have each pledged \$200,000 toward the project and the vote last week issues a pretty open-ended RFP for the project. Some estimates have the center, called the "Jail Diversion Center" in the request, operating on between \$800,000 to \$1.3 million per year, not counting the cost of construction or renovation of an existing building.

The requirements within the 12-page request for proposals call for about 24 beds for male and female patients and asks for bids from 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations with the capacity to renovate and manage the center for an initial period of five years. In order to qualify, the applicants must have 10 years of experience in mental health care and the financial capability to do the project. They also must demonstrate a specific plan and present a summary of proposals of a development team.

A building that would house the center, existing or renovated, must be large enough to house

a 72-hour diversion program, a 72-hour Crisis Stabilization Unit, and a 24/7 on-site staff for all the programs. The building must be designed for ten years of possible operation.

In addition to being qualified in mental health and addiction treatment, the medical staff must have experience in behavioral crisis services. Male and female patients must be separated during sleeping hours and the building must have a policing office, access to intensive care management services, and the operator must be able to develop and implement post-incarceration services such as housing, case management

and mental health care.

Patients, according to earlier hearings, would be those mentally-ill people arrested but given a choice between jail or the three days of treatment.

Those interested must meet the requirements and submit program operation costs. All proposals must be sent by August 16th to the Knox County Procurement Division. Further information is available by calling (865)215-5750 or at www.knoxcounty.org/procurement.

Several people applauded the passage of the RFP release, including Lita Mayor, John Mott, Jerry Askew and Vivian Shipe.

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County Commission

HUD funding questioned at commission meeting

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

With a beer board meeting, a regular commission meeting, and the zoning hearing the Knox County Commission session stretched last week from 3 p.m. until well after 8 p.m. with only a brief break between the public forum and regular meeting.

Much discussion came in trying to adopt the tentative agenda set at the commission's work session at the week before. On that prior approved agenda were several items that involve funding from the Housing and Urban Development.

HUD Funding, accepted by the county for many years, supplies money for various programs. Seventeen items on Monday's agenda involved accepting HUD funds for programs that varied from services for autistic adults, housing for the handicapped and disadvantaged, dental services, homeless assistance programs, heating and air at public housing, and repairs for low-income homeowners.

Commissioner Jeff Ownby moved successfully to pull the HUD grant approvals from the "consent" list to be discussed. He said after the meeting that everyone has a right to speak and be heard. Commissioner

Brad Anders asked that Rebecca Gibson, Director of Knox County Community Development, speak to the meeting.

Gibson passionately described and defended the programs and said that HUD has supplied the county with more than \$10 million over the past ten years and nothing will change in the current program.

"I can't understand why anyone would oppose these things," she said, adding that the county serves more than 9,600 disadvantaged people with the help of HUD funding.

Ownby said he has nothing against the programs but

citizens contacted him the week before the regular meeting who were against the funding. Commission John Schoonmaker asked if the opponents had contacted Gibson's office but she said no one had done so.

Gibson said the opposition to HUD funds came because of an "overall misunderstanding of the regulations." She also said that HUD changes in requirements and local use of federal funds won't come for five years.

Commissioners Charles Busler and Mike Brown commented that some people are afraid of more government

control in the local community. Commissioner Sam McKenzie moved to "set the agenda" which placed the HUD funding back on the approved "consent" agenda and the vote was unanimous.

In other business the commissioners voted on first reading to extend Military Leave for county employees to 30 days instead of the current 20 days. They also voted to approve an agreement with Island Home Airport for a slot for the Sheriff's Office and approved a "Spread of Record" concerning a bond for Oliver (Buzz) Thomas, the interim school superintendent.

Farmers Markets growing in the area

Cont. from page 1

the afternoon there is a market at the Laurel Church of Christ at 3457 Kingston Pike.

The Oak Ridge Farmers Market is every Wednesday from 3-6 and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon at Jackson Square at Georgia Avenue.

UT's Farmers Market at UT Gardens at 2431 Joe Johnson Drive is every Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. The Maryville Farmers Market goes from 3:30 until 6:30 on Wednesdays at New Providence Presbyterian Church on West Broadway and Saturdays starting at 9 a.m. on Church Avenue. The New Harvest Park

Farmers Market is held each Thursday from 3 until 6 p.m., located just off Washington Pike at 4700 New Harvest Pike, just beyond the Target Shopping Center.

Other farmers markets in our area include the Lakeshore Park Market on Fridays from 3-6, the Ebenezer Road FARM Market on Tuesdays from 3-6 at the United Methodist Church, and the CCC Beardsley Farm sale each Wednesday. There's also a farmers market at the Tellico Yacht Club.

The Lonsdale neighborhood has a second Saturday International Food and Craft Market from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

at 1317 Louisiana Avenue and the Southern Station, downtown Knoxville, holds a Farmers Market each Monday from 3 until 6 p.m.

From 3-6 p.m. each Thursday, the Marble Springs State Historic Site on Gov. John Sevier Highway has a farmers market.

Shopping at a farmers market can be fun and informational. Vendors can tell you about their produce or products and you know exactly where it came from and how fresh it is. Spending your money directly with growers helps the local economy and recirculates money within our area.



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Bees collect nectar from flowers, regurgitate it, then store the liquid within wax cells in their hive. The

variety produced by honey bees is the one most commonly referred to, as it is the type of honey collected by most beekeepers and consumed by people.

The book by Sue Monk Kidd, set in 1964, is a coming-of-age story that acknowledges the predicament of loss and betrayal. It was later adapted into a film. I haven't seen the movie but I loved the book.

Now I'm in a dilemma. Should I stick with honey or revert back to sugar? Also I am stymied by the subject of fat-free and sugar-free foods. Perhaps our prolific author Jim Ferguson will write a column about that? I try to eat sensibly but it's hard when there are so many contradicting factors about the subject.

Thought for the day: My child, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Proverbs 24:13

Send comments to: rosemerrie@att.net. Thank you.

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Pure Honey is offered by beekeeper Marshall Dudley at the Dixie Lee Farmers Market. Photo/M.Steely.

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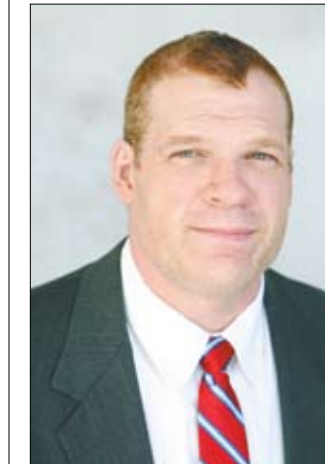
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'The Man'

Theodore G. Bilbo of Mississippi PART 2

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Theodore Gilmore Bilbo had twice been governor of Mississippi and was engaged in a serious controversy when he proposed to fire one hundred and seventy nine professors and faculty members from the state university system. Bilbo's plan to move the University of Mississippi from Oxford to Jackson had failed. Governor Bilbo gleefully told reporters the presidents of three Mississippi universities and colleges had been replaced in little more than two hours. The replacements for the universities and colleges were dismal, hardly being qualified to hold such positions. The qualifications of the Dean of Mississippi's Medical School were almost nonexistent, other than once having had a course in dentistry.

It could hardly be surprising the firings brought about serious repercussions almost immediately. Degrees from four of Mississippi's state universities and colleges were no longer recognized by either the Southern Association of Colleges and the American Association of Universities. Outraged students at Ole Miss burned the governor in effigy.

Governor Bilbo was unconcerned by the reaction inside his own state. Bilbo held a press conference while literally lolling in his bathtub. Various soap and washrag, while smoking a cigar, Bilbo made it quite clear he didn't give a damn what anyone thought. Bilbo's relations with the state legislature continued to deteriorate and by the conclusion of his term of office, government was at a standstill; worse, Mississippi was completely bankrupt.

Bilbo left office and needed a job. He implored Mississippi's senior U. S. senator, Pat Harrison, to secure him a position. "I will repay you a thousand times," Bilbo promised.

Dissatisfied with the lack of progress Senator Harrison was making on his behalf, Bilbo journeyed to Washington and all but lived in Harrison's suite inside the Senate Office Building. Bilbo was entirely broke and Harrison was forced to give the former governor money to tide him over. Finally, Senator Harrison went to the Department of Agriculture to find Bilbo a job.

Visiting George Peek, Director of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Harrison told his friend it was imperative an appropriate job be found for Bilbo. Should Bilbo run for the United States

Senate in 1934 against Hubert Stephens, it would be a "disaster."

"The man is a vote getter," Harrison explained to Peek.

Senator Harrison advised against putting Bilbo in a position handling money or around young women, but aside from that, the former governor was perfectly all right.

According to Harrison's biographer, Martha Swain, Peek laughed and said to Pat Harrison, "In other words, Senator, this good Democrat Bilbo will be fine for us if we muzzle him, tie his hands, and lock up the petty cash."

With dignity, Harrison agreed with the assessment.

Hired by the Department of Agriculture, Bilbo was kept preoccupied clipping articles, causing some to refer to him as the "Pastemaster General," a title the former governor despised.

As the 1934 election approached, Bilbo began eyeing the Senate seat occupied by Hubert Stephens. Senator Stephens had thought of retiring, but when it became apparent Bilbo intended to run, he decided to seek reelection.

Under financed and given little chance of winning, Theodore G. Bilbo resigned his sinecure at the Department of Agriculture and went home to Mississippi to campaign. Shamelessly promoting himself, Bilbo waged a populist campaign, verbally demolishing the wealthy. Bilbo, with his usual modesty, brazenly stated that he was "a wonder in sustained power of endurance, and a marvel of intellectual brilliance!" Mississippi was acutely suffering from the ravages of the Great Depression and Bilbo's populist message resonated with the poor, oppressed, and dirt farmers. Few politicians of the time possessed the vocabulary of Bilbo, who could easily quote the Bible and any other number of literary works while speaking. Even fewer still had such a thorough command of invective and ability to ridicule opponents in such amusing and easily understood language. The Man's friends and acquaintances in Mississippi numbered in the tens of thousands.

Senator Hubert Stephens was a dignified man, but he was not a good speaker and unlike Bilbo, he was not at all flamboyant. Despite the best efforts of Mississippi's political establishment, Bilbo, running on a platform of all out support for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, won.

It was not long before



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Senator Theodore Bilbo in 1944, already showing the ravages of the oral cancer that would kill him within months.

Mississippi's two senators, Pat Harrison and Theodore G. Bilbo, were bickering. Bilbo resented Harrison's preeminence in Washington, D. C. where he was one of the more senior Democrats in the Senate. Their political philosophies were also starkly different; Bilbo represented the lower classes while the more patrician Harrison represented business and the wealthy Delta planters who loathed the junior senator.

Harrison was up for reelection in 1936 and it soon became apparent that Governor Martin Sennett "Mike" Conner would oppose him inside the Democratic primary. Senator Harrison had not been seriously challenged for renomination since he had defeated James K. Vardaman in 1918. Bilbo returned to Mississippi to stump for Conner. It was an especially bitter contest and Harrison ultimately won easily. The hard feelings left over from the campaign did nothing to improve relations between Harrison and Bilbo.

In 1937, Senate Majority Leader Joe T. Robinson of Arkansas died in the midst of the debate over President Roosevelt's plan to enlarge the U. S. Supreme Court. Robinson was found dead, clad in his pajamas, beside his bed clutching a copy of the Congressional Record, by his maid. Senator Pat Harrison was backed by the more conservative members of the Democratic caucus against Kentucky Senator Alben W. Barkley, who was believed to be Franklin Roosevelt's choice for Majority Leader. It was a close contest and Harrison's supporters quickly concluded he needed the vote of his colleague, Theo Bilbo, to win. Bilbo had indicated he would indeed vote for Harrison if his colleague were to ask him personally.

South Carolina's James F. Byrnes told the Mississippian that Bilbo would vote for him, if he

were asked personally. Harrison listened, chomping on his cigar and thinking.

He finally replied, "You tell the son-of-a-bitch I wouldn't speak to him if it meant the presidency of the United States".

When the vote for Majority Leader was being tallied, the suspense was so great Barkley later admitted he bit his pipe stem in two.

Harrison lost by a single vote.

Bilbo chortled he was "the boy who killed Cock Robin."

Senator Bilbo remained a staunch supporter of President Roosevelt and the New Deal throughout his time in the Senate. Yet FDR had to be somewhat embarrassed by Bilbo's support, especially considering the Mississippi senator's virulent racism. Bilbo attempted to amend one Roosevelt spending bill to relocate African-Americans to Liberia.

Bilbo almost casually revealed that he had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan while appearing on the radio program Meet the Press. The Mississippi senator opined no Klan member ever truly left the organization after joining.

Senator Bilbo's racism became ever more pronounced as he gained seniority inside the Senate. He also remained a force to be reckoned with back home in Mississippi. Bilbo seemed unable to tend to his own interests without interfering in local elections. His senior colleague, Pat Harrison, died of cancer in 1941 and Bilbo had already been reelected to another six-year term in 1940. A special election was called to fill the remaining year of Senator Harrison's term and Bilbo was back home in Mississippi campaigning hard for Congressman Wall Doxey.

Doxey was almost the antithesis of Bilbo; tall, stately, and handsome, with a head of white hair. Wall Doxey narrowly won the special election, but would face the voters again

in 1942.

James O. Eastland, had served in the United States Senate by virtue of a gubernatorial appointment until the 1941 special election. Eastland was not a candidate in 1941, but entered the 1942 Democratic primary against Senator Doxey. Bilbo again campaigned for Doxey, who lost decisively to Eastland. Senator Eastland would prove to be closer to Bilbo's own blatant racism than the stately and genteel Doxey.

Many Mississippians recognized Bilbo's vile racism was a detriment to their state and image. Senator Bilbo faced three opponents inside the Democratic primary in his 1946 reelection bid. The sixty-nine year old senator campaigned hard and won just over fifty percent of the vote to avoid a run off election.

It was Bilbo's last victory.

The Democratic majority in Congress had been wiped out in the 1946 elections and replaced with a Republican majority. That would become a pertinent fact when the new session of Congress began in 1946 and Bilbo was kept from taking the oath of office. Yet it was a fellow Democrat who insisted Bilbo not take the oath of office, Glen Taylor of Idaho.

Charges were filed over comments made by Senator Bilbo during his recent reelection campaign where he incited white violence against those African-Americans who tried to vote. More serious charges came to light when Bilbo was accused of having accepted bribes by war contractors. Bilbo had built an impressive mansion, dubbed "Dream House" in his native Pearl River County. Evidently the massive swimming pool at the senator's home had been built by just such a contractor.

As the Senate began its investigation, Theodore G.

Bilbo was struggling with serious health problems. Bilbo underwent several operations for oral cancer and was often absent from the Senate.

Not surprisingly, Senator Bilbo remained defiant and was enraged when his former Chief of Staff appeared before a Senate committee, relating information detrimental to Bilbo's cause.

Bilbo was in New Orleans as the end of his life approached, a patient at what would eventually become the Oschner Medical Center. Standing by his bedside were his two children, whom he knew none too well. Bilbo had undergone surgery to remove a blood clot that was interfering with his breathing. Evidently, the embolism grew and "The Man" breathed his last on August 21, 1947. His lifeless body lay untouched until it was removed by a black orderly.

Despite all the revelations about Bilbo's unscrupulous nature, his funeral attracted more than five thousand mourners and most of Mississippi's political elite. There was even a bronze statue of Bilbo erected in the state capitol in Jackson. It depicted the Mississippian with his arms raised and many members of the legislature use those arms today to hang their coats.

Theodore Gilmore Bilbo's legacy of hatred has overshadowed his unwavering support for the less fortunate in society. Clearly talented and blessed with a magnificent ability to speak, Theodore Bilbo frittered away his talent by using his talents to promote himself and denigrate other human beings. Bilbo became the caricature of a Southern demagogue and used his office for himself and evil, rather than good.

Summer wasn't so grand

Ah, summer! Is anything comparable to it? Plenty of hot weather comes to the point so that some folks long for the snowy months. Gardens and flowers burst forth in exhibition of our



By Joe Rector
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green thumbs. Most of all, the kids are out of school and are overcome with joy about their temporary freedom. On that last point, some parents might hang their heads in disappointment and dread. I get that because I remember the days with my own two children during summer.

When Jim and I were young, we had dreams of all the activities that we'd enjoy during the summer. We just knew that this was the year that trips to the beach, mountains, and amusement parks would occur. The television commercials told of the fun families could have at Rebel Railroad, Ghost Town in Maggie Valley, and Gatlinburg; Jim and I couldn't wait to travel to those places.

As things turned out, most of our summer vacation was spent at Route 18, Ball Camp Pike. Our time was filled with pulling weeds in the garden, cleaning house, and trimming grass around the flower gardens. On an occasion or two we did travel to a tourist trap, but for the most part, summer vacation meant staying home.

We became couch

potatoes when cartoons or other kid shows aired. Trips to the front yard to throw the baseball almost never ended well. Our skills weren't that great, and before long errant throws flew into the hayfield from the east or buried into the razor-covered limbs of an out-of-control rambling rose bush. Summer heat caused tempers to soar, and before long, we'd throw down the gloves and fight and roll around the ground for a while, at least until one of us began to cry from the pain from the other's fist.

Mother spent most summers going to school to earn her B.S. degree at U.T. and we boys were left on our own, something that was common back in the day. We were to stay in the yard, but sometimes the temptations overwhelmed a boy's better judgement. Jim and I rode bikes on the road. We might encounter a couple of cars, dogs, or turtles. A bike wreck on asphalt, however, proved hard to explain. We also rode the back roads with other boys and climbed Baldy, a big hill not far from the house.

Our biggest treats during the summer came when we went swimming. We traveled to Concord Pool for the day. The place was full. Other pools we visited included the big ones in Alcoa and Oak Ridge. We

arrived early and stayed the entire day. Mother packed a picnic basket and spread a blanket in the shade. We boys hit the pool and stayed except to eat a sandwich. I know that she grew weary hearing us yell, "Watch this, Mama!" At the end of the day, we climbed into the car and fought off car sickness brought on by swallowing too much pool water. At least for one night, Mother and Daddy got some peace and quiet because we boys hit the sack early.

By the end of the summer, the most exciting days came when we made trips downtown to buy a couple of shirts and pairs of jeans for the coming school year. During evenings, we organized school supplies and practiced our handwriting or multiplication skills. The first day of the school year came after Labor Day, and we woke up early and excited on that morning.

Children have shorter summers now, but they have many more things to entertain themselves during the hot days. Still, they complain, "I'm bored!" I'm not so sure today's youth could bear even a week of our summers. The breaks are still long, the new wears off, and parents and children both agree that summer wasn't so grand. It's those of us who still have to work, even if on a part-time basis, who wish for the return of free summers. Maybe we'll find them when we can retire for good.

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Thank you, Pat Summitt

By Mark Nagi

You couldn't script it if you tried...

A girl from a small town in the middle of Tennessee wins more games than any basketball coach in history...

But Pat Summitt was so much more than that.

Pat was, simply put, one of the most important people in the history of our state, and, along with Billie Jean King, one of the most impactful people in the history of women's athletics in

our country.

Think about it... could you write the book of Tennessee or the history of women's athletics in America without Pat Summitt? No, you could not.

Pat Summitt came on the scene in 1974, two years after Title IX, as a newly hired 22-year-old basketball coach at the University of Tennessee. She did everything for a Lady Vols basketball program that needed someone to take charge. Heck, women's sports needed someone

to step up and say, "Things are going to change."

As the years went on, Summitt's Lady Vols would become a global brand. They won eight National Championships and went to 18 Final Fours. But she always wanted more. Summitt often spoke of the loss in the Regional Finals in 1990 that cost Tennessee a spot in the Final Four that was played in Knoxville. She used that as motivation. The Lady Vols won the national title the following season.

The Lady Vols were willing to play any opponent at any time, and wouldn't be afraid to go on the road either. A loss at UConn in January 1995 ushered in a new era of women's basketball. Tennessee didn't have to play that game, but Summitt knew that it would be good for her sport.

While the Tennessee men's program floundered for much of Pat's 38 years at UT, the Lady Vols just kept winning. They did so with class... and by going to class. 100% of the players

that finished their eligibility at Tennessee graduated.

Summitt's impact on those players is obvious... her impact on generations of girls across the country isn't difficult to see either. She helped girls realize that it was ok to play, and it was all right to be tough and physical and athletic, just like the boys.

I moved to Knoxville in 1994 and started grad school at the University of Tennessee. I was 21 years old, and my knowledge of Tennessee was Elvis

Presley and Pat Summitt.

I wanted to be a sportscaster, but had no idea how to be a sportscaster. During those two years I got the opportunity to cover the Lady Vols for the old TN cable station in town. This wasn't exactly ESPN folks, but Pat Summitt treated me with respect.

Five years later I was back in Knoxville, working at the local ABC affiliate. I covered the Lady Vols for the next 10 years, interviewing Summitt countless times.

Continue on page 2

Tennessee Head Coach Pat Summitt cuts down the net following the SEC Tournament championship game against LSU at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville on March 9, 2008. Summitt died last Tuesday morning, June 28, after a battle with early onset Alzheimer's disease. She was 64.



PHOTO BY TENNESSEE ATHLETICS

Pat

By Ralphine Major

I always thought she belonged to Knoxville and Tennessee. Sometimes, I almost forgot that along the way, this local celebrity became a national icon. Pat Head Summitt was the Head Coach of the Tennessee Lady Vols for 38 years.

Pat's life story sounds like something in a movie: a farm girl from Henrietta, Tennessee, who rose to prominence through the game of basketball. Her many accomplishments have become common knowledge to most people. Some of the recognitions she received included Olympic medalist as player and coach, Coach of the Year many times, basketball courts named in her honor, Presidential Medal of Freedom, and Arthur Ashe Courage Award. Just one of these is quite an honor. Pat spent her life's work building the Lady Vols basketball program into a powerhouse at The University of Tennessee. As she elevated women's basketball nationwide, the lady became a legend.

When Pat was stricken with Alzheimer's five years ago, her leadership rose to an even higher level. She dealt with a personal issue publicly, and she did it with grace and class.

For 38 years, Pat was a joy to watch on the basketball court. I still miss seeing her stroll along the Tennessee bench with her unique poise, confidence, and signature glare. The nation has lost an amazing leader—one that is truly in a class of her own. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and former players during this time.

Family roots and values kept Pat well grounded

By Steve Williams

When Pat Head Summitt was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000, one of her remarks in her acceptance speech was, "I feel like I'm an angel in a basketball Heaven."

For years, Pat could have passed for an angel. Early last Tuesday morning she became one.

Here locally and beyond - from coast to coast in our country and around the globe - people were paying tribute to Summitt, and not for just being an outstanding coach and great promoter of the women's game, but for being an outstanding human being.

Some of us might have been a little surprised by the magnitude of her worldwide popularity when we heard and saw the volume of acclaim that came her way after she died from Alzheimer's disease.

Our coach ranked right up there with Muhammad Ali and Jackie Robinson as far as sports figures so revered.

International basketball took Pat far and wide - Moscow, Mexico and Montreal as a young player and San Juan, Taipei, Seoul, San Paulo and Los Angeles as a young coach. But her roots and values learned growing up on a West Tennessee

farm kept her well grounded throughout life.

Former Auburn coach Nell Fortner talked about an "aura" that surrounded Summitt. Even the President of the United States, said Nell, may have a little bit of a hard time addressing an icon like Pat.

"But as soon as you said, 'Hello Coach Summitt,' she became a warm and down-to-earth person," said Nell. That's a rare quality for a person of her stature, added Fortner, who guided the U.S. to a gold medal in the 2000 Olympics.

Pat was the fourth child and the first girl in her family. She

wondered how her parents, Richard and Hazel Head, would feel about a girl.

With three older brothers - Tommy, Charles and Kenneth - Pat soon figured, "They needed me ... to play 2 on 2." To their credit, her older brothers, who each went on to earn an athletic scholarship, helped make Pat tough and competitive.

Her late dad also deserves a big assist in Pat's basketball career, as he moved the family across the county line to Henrietta in Cheatham County so she could play high school basketball. They didn't have a girls

Continue on page 2

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Local softball players to represent USA in Spain

By Ken Lay

Seven area high school softball players will soon get the opportunity to compete for their country on the international stage.

Sadie Coons, Elena Schusterick, Kaylor Susong, Cameran McKenry, Lauren Hamby, Jasmine Goodman and Kayley Kern will compete for America's Team 16-and-under team in Spain later this month.

They'll depart for Spain on July 11.

Coons, Schusterick, Susong and McKenry are all former Bearden High School players. They last played high school softball in 2015 when the Lady Bulldogs made an appearance in the Class AAA State Tournament.

Those four players opted to leave the program when Leonard Sams was dismissed as coach after seven seasons.

Other area players headed to Spain include Hamby, who helped lead Maryville to the District 4-AAA regular-season title. The Lady Rebels finished second in the district tournament and advanced to the Region 2-AAA Tournament semifinals before being eliminated by Gibbs, which advanced to the state tournament in 2016 and posted a runner-up finish.

The Lady Eagles will be represented on the squad by Kayley Kern.

Goodman recently finished her freshman season at Hardin Valley Academy. There, she played for the Lady Hawks, who recently won their second consecutive district and region tournament titles. Hardin Valley narrowly missed a second consecutive Class AAA State Tournament appearance when it lost to Seymour in a state sectional contest in Knoxville in May.

Sams will coach the team and will be assisted by Adam McKenry, a former Bearden High assistant.

The team recently received their Team USA uniforms and Sams said that the excitement was tangible.

"This is really exciting and this will be a great experience for these girls," Sams said. "The girls got their Team USA jerseys and they were excited."

"This is a great honor for me and there's no bigger honor for these girls than the chance to wear the USA's emblem across their chest. It will be a chance for all of us to go overseas and see how they do things over there."

Sams is a longtime travel softball coach but this trip will be about more than just

softball.

"This is like a good will mission for us," Sams said. "And after the tournament is over, the girls will get a chance to fly over to Paris and have a little bit of fun."

"We're excited to get this opportunity to see different cultures. These girls are among the best players in our region of the country. We have the girls from Knoxville and from the Johnson City area. We also have players from Texas. These are the best players from the Southeast region of the country."

McKenry was Sams' choice for the assistant coaching position.

"I considered other people and I kept coming back to Adam," Sams said. "He's a great coach."

McKenry said that he's also anticipating the trip across the Atlantic.

"I always wanted to go to Europe," said McKenry, who will make the trip abroad with his daughter, one of the players on the team. "I always wanted to go two places. I always wanted to go to Greece because of the history there and I always wanted to go to Spain."

"I'm going there to learn and this will be a great opportunity to compete against these players and learn about different cultures."

Four Gibbs softball players named to all-KIL team

By Ken Lay

The 2016 high school softball season was truly one to remember for several area teams and local players.

Those local standouts were recently named to the all-Knoxville Interscholastic League by the county coaches.

Gibbs High School won the District 3-AAA Championship and made a deep run in the Class AAA State Tournament after a one-year absence from Murfreesboro. The Eagles had four players named to the squad including Leah Sohm, Abby Hicks, Sierra Hucklebee and Olivia Wheeler.

Sohm, Gibbs High's leadoff hitter, batted .469, scored 68 runs and stole 41 bases. Hicks was dominant in the circle. She went 29-9 and recorded 15 shutouts. She finished

the season with 181 strikeouts.

Hucklebee and Wheeler were two of the area's top hitters.

Powell High School, the District 3-AAA runner-up, had three players receive all-county honors. Brittney Franse, Allison Farr and Kiley Longmire were all selected to the team from the Lady Panthers.

Christian Academy of Knoxville won the Class AA State Championship and was represented on the team by Hannah DeVault and Allison Zimmerman. DeVault, a five-year starter for the Lady Warriors, hit .611 in the State Tournament. Zimmerman hit 18 home runs and drove in 92 runs in 2016.

Hardin Valley won the District 4-AAA and Region 2-AAA Tournaments for the second consecutive season. Pitcher Kaleigh

Wynne, a recent HVA graduate and College of Central Florida signee, went 19-7 and had 247 strikeouts. She battled a mid-season finger injury on her pitching hand and threw just 163 innings.

She was also a potent offensive weapon for the Lady Hawks, hitting 14 homers and knocking in 50 runs. She batted .530 and had 22 doubles. HVA leadoff hitter and second baseman Haley Cloud was also chosen for the all-county squad.

Farragut also had a pair of selections in senior first baseman Mary Claire Coyne and junior catcher Lexee Lamoree.

Junior McKenna Helton of Halls was named to the team along with Catholic's Gianna Cariedeo and Grace Christian Academy's Kristin Hunt also made the squad.

Family roots and values kept Pat well grounded

Continued from page 1

team in Clarksville.

Her first stop as a 22-year-old Tennessee coach making \$250 a month came on Dec. 7, 1974 in Macon, Ga., where her Lady Vols lost 84-83 loss to Mercer. After driving the team back to Knoxville, Pat phoned her dad about the game.

"Trish," Richard Head might have begun, "you don't take donkeys to the Kentucky Derby."

Those words most likely jumpstarted Pat as a recruiter.

Pat was 0-1 but ended up 1,098-208 with eight national titles, including the 39-0 team in 1997-98, when she stepped down April 18, 2012. On her coaching record, Summitt once said she saw "faces" not numbers.

"We were all trying to build a program like hers," said No. 1 coaching rival Geno Auriemma of Connecticut, one of the first to pay respects.

"UConn basketball wouldn't be what it is, if not for Pat," added Diana Taurasi, a former Lady Huskie great.

The most impressive statistic in Summitt's coaching career came on the academic side. All 161 players who wore the Orange under Pat graduated. And at least 80 of her players went on to become coaches.

Summitt was a co-captain on the U.S. women's basketball team that won a silver medal in the 1976 Olympics. Billie

Moore, an assistant coach on that team, recently recalled seeing Pat for the first time ever in a drill but didn't know who she was. "Her leadership qualities came to the forefront," said Moore. "She also embraced guarding the opposing team's best offensive perimeter player."

Summitt was head coach of the 1984 team that won the gold.

"Today little girls can grow up and have a dream," said Pat at her Hall of Fame induction. "They can dream to get a scholarship or be a representative of their country on the basketball court. I just appreciate being a part of that process."

Current Lady Vol coach Holly Warlick, who played for Summitt and was a longtime assistant under her, was emotionally touched by the large turnout Tuesday as many gathered at the Pat Summitt Plaza, where her statue is located across the street from Thompson-Boling Arena. Many weren't basketball fans but admirers of Pat the person.

A day of mourning evolved into a day of celebration. The bells at Ayres Hall played the Tennessee Waltz and lights on the Henley Street Bridge were Orange, White and Lady Vol Blue.

A Celebration of Life service honoring Summitt is scheduled for July 14. It is open to the public and will begin at 7 p.m. at Thompson-Boling Arena.

Thank you, Pat Summitt

Cont. from page 1

Every time we spoke, I felt like I was learning something. And I never felt like it wasn't something she wanted to do.

Summitt did more for women's basketball than anyone in history, but she still did those interviews. All of them. And she remembered your name. How on earth did she always make sure to say your name back

to you?

One Sunday I had a freelance assignment to shoot some video at her house during a team event. While waiting for dinner to finish (yes, she cooked), we spoke on her deck about life and basketball and TV and her lab that was going to have puppies.

In 2005 I covered the Lady Vols at the NCAA tournament in Philadelphia. Our flight got delayed so we missed the media opportunity. This was going to make it impossible to get anything decent on the air. I asked former Lady Vols Sports Information Director Debby Jennings if we could speak with Pat after practice, but understood if the answer was no. After all she was preparing for the next day's NCAA tournament game.

Instead, Summitt made sure we were taken care of.

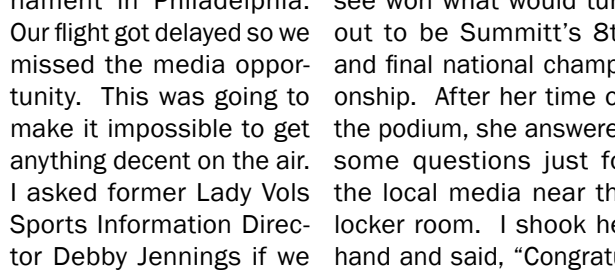
I did a one on one interview with her on their way to the bus. But that's only one story. There are hundreds of others just like it from media members across the world. Summitt was always accommodating. There aren't many coaches like that.

In 2008 I covered the Lady Vols at the Final Four in Tampa. Tennessee won what would turn out to be Summitt's 8th and final national championship. After her time on the podium, she answered some questions just for the local media near the locker room. I shook her hand and said, "Congratulations." She said, "Thank you, Mark."

No Pat... thank you...

There will never be another Pat Summitt. She left us on a Tuesday morning. She was 64 years old.

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Gametime Sidekicks net consolation title with big win

By Ken Lay

Gametime Sidekicks coach Brent Watts saw his team win a game on championship night of the Pilot Rocky Top Basketball League but it wasn't the game that he or his last two teams was used to winning.

Watts had coached the last two Pilot Rocky Top League champions but in 2016, he and his squad had to settle for third place.

Gametime Sidekicks claimed the consolation title when it notched a 116-98 over Knoxville News-Sentinel Wednesday night before a packed house at Catholic High School.

The game was tightly contested throughout much of the

first half but the contest was marred by missed dunks and poor defense.

Gametime Sidekicks, which held a 59-51 lead at halftime, exploded after the break and took a 100-81 lead when University of Tennessee incoming freshman Kwe Parker.

Parker, who finished the game with 12 points, is a part of an extremely talented freshman recruiting class that second-year head coach Rick Barnes has brought to Big Orange Country. He has coached in each of the first nine summers of the league's existence and coached his teams to championships in 2014 and 2015.

Grant Williams, another

newcomer for the Volunteers also finished with 12 points.

"It was really a weird year this year," Watts said. "Attendance [of the players] was really key this year."

"The league was fun again this year and this class of UT freshmen is really talented. They're freshmen but they'll be good next season."

The summer basketball league provides small college players the opportunity to compete against big-time NCAA Division I players.

Tennessee Wesleyan product Quincy Scates led Gametime Sidekicks with 33 points. Lee University also had two players score in double figures for

the consolation champions. Levi Woods scored 30 points while Ryan Montgomery finished with 14. Former Vol Wayne Chism scored nine points.

A Pilot Rocky Top League legend returned Wednesday night and played for the Knoxville News-Sentinel. Greg Hernandez, a former Maryville College star scored 22 points in his first game of the season.

Gametime Sidekicks player Ryan Montgomery does a reverse jam in his team's 116-98 victory over Knoxville News-Sentinel in the consolation championship game. Montgomery scored 14 points Wednesday.

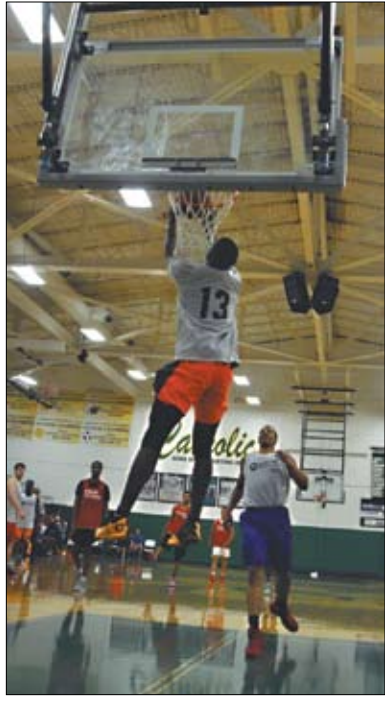


PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

H-3 Sports player Admiral Schofield dunks to add the exclamation point to his team's championship Wednesday. Schofield scored 25 points in H-3's 110-100 win over DeRoyal Industries and was named league MVP.

H-3 Sports wins Pilot Rocky Top League Title

By Ken Lay

The Pilot Rocky Top Basketball League gives area and regional college basketball players the chance to showcase their talents in the summertime.

It's also great for fans as they are admitted for free and get the chance to see a lighter side of some of their favorite players.

But don't think that the teams aren't in the games to win.

University of Tennessee sophomore forward Admiral Schofield showed just how much he wanted to lead his H-3 Sports team to a championship.

Schofield, a rising sophomore for the Volunteers, scored 25 points in H-3 Sports 110-100 victory over DeRoyal Industries in the 2016 Pilot Rocky Top League Championship Game Wednesday night.

Schofield, who scored six of his points over the final

3 minutes, 11 seconds of the game and was named the league's Most Valuable Player.

He had a stellar summer but wasn't even his team's leading scorer Wednesday night. Jordan Bone, Schofield's Tennessee teammate, led H-3 Sports with 29 points. Tennessee Wesleyan's Trey Suttles scored 19 points in the 2016 Rocky Top League finale. Fred Sturdivant (a Texas Southern product) had 18 points and Jordan Williams (Sewanee) added 11 points.

The title game was tight early. DeRoyal actually opened a double-digit advantage before Bone's slam dunk with 4:48 remaining in the opening half gave H-3 a 46-36 lead.

DeRoyal enjoyed a modest 16-13 run to close out the half and trailed 59-52 at halftime.

After the break DeRoyal

battled back and tied the game when Fulton High graduate Jalen Steele tied the game at 93-93 with 5:07 left on an old-fashioned three-point play. DeRoyal took a 95-93 lead when Tennessee freshman John Fulkerson had a dazzling dunk at the 4:27 mark.

H-3 closed the game with a 17-5 surge and made five free throws down the stretch.

DeRoyal's Lamonte Turner closed the scoring with a slam dunk in the waning seconds.

H-3 coach Alex Barron said that his team set out to win the championship Wednesday night.

"Our guys wanted a championship tonight," Barron said. "They really wanted to win. We talked about that all summer."

"We talked about having a winning attitude. We talked about having that attitude whether it's in

the Rocky Top League or whether it's in the regular season. I want these guys to take a winning attitude back to their teams next season."

Barron also commended Schofield's leadership.

"He's a leader for Tennessee no matter how old he is," Barron said. "He's wants to be a winner. He wants to win at everything he does."

Turner led all scorers with 32 points for DeRoyal. Steele added 27 while Fulkerson and Derick Pope scored 18 points each.

Parker named athletic director at Bearden High

By Ken Lay

Dan Parker's life has him cast in numerous roles and he'll now play the part of Bearden High School athletic director.

Parker, who has been an educator for four decades, was named the school's top athletic administrator just before the end of the 2015-16 academic year.

"There really wasn't much of a transition period for me," said Parker, who has been an assistant principal at Bearden for nine years. "This is the first time that I've ever been an athletic director. I was named the athletic director just before the end of school and I had four days to get acclimated to the job."

"I've never been an athletic director, but I've hired one. It's an exciting time to be an athletic director in Knox County and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Parker, who spent 30 years as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal in Florida before relocating to Knoxville 10 years ago, replaces Nathan Lynn, who is now an assistant principal at Brickey-McCloud Elementary School in North Knox County.

Upon arriving in Knox County, Parker took a job as a social studies teacher at Fulton High School. The following year, he took an administrative position at Bearden, where he's been ever since.

"I love it at Bearden," he

said. "We have great community support here. We have great coaches and great teachers."

Away from his duties at Bearden High School, Parker (who once coached high school baseball and softball) is a family man. He and his wife Becky have raised two children. The couple's son Justen works with nuclear energy and their daughter Nycole Fitt is a case manager in the insurance business in Georgia.

Parker has four grandchildren. His family is and always has been a top priority in his life.

"If you drop work, work will always be there," he said. "You can't make mistakes and drop things with your family."

"You always have to be there for your family."

His multiple years in education and having a family that now includes grandchildren have made him more patient in recent years.

"Over the years, I've become more patient and I really love watching my grandkids grow," Parker said. "When you're a parent, it's different because always have to worry about getting your kids, clothed, fed and into bed."

The challenge of the new job at Bearden hasn't changed Parker much. He had his grandchildren last week while he continued to prepare for the upcoming school year."

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Thackerson is an early bird (Eagle) at Carson-Newman

By Steve Williams

Tyler Thackerson already has turned a page on the new chapter in his life. The record-setting Clinton High quarterback has begun preparation for his first year at Carson-Newman University.

"Since I reported to



Record-setting Clinton High quarterback Tyler Thackerson is preparing for his first season at Carson-Newman University.

Carson-Newman in early June, my main focus has been completing two summer classes, working out every day and to also gain as much weight as possible before training camp comes in the fall," he said via e-mail recently.

Thackerson, who was named Clinton's male Student-Athlete of the Year for 2015-16, comes to Carson-Newman with quite a reputation as a passer. Not only does he hold every passing record at Clinton, he also put his name in the TSSAA record book in many categories.

In his senior season last fall, Thackerson completed 275 of 426 passes for 3,358 yards, giving him fourth most completions in a single season in state history, the fifth most attempts

and the ninth most yards. His 3,929 total yards ranks sixth best.

The Region 3-5A Quarterback of the Year and All-Stater also tossed eight touchdown passes against Heritage last year, the fourth most ever in a single game.

You'll also find his name listed several times in the state career rankings.

But now it's time to start over, and it doesn't sound like Thackerson is wasting anytime. He continues to learn things about his new head coach too, the legendary Ken Sparks, the winningest coach (334-92-2) in NCAA Division II history.

"My first impression of Coach Sparks was very different from any other coach I have met in the past," said Tyler. "The main thing he

talked to me about when I went on my visit to Carson-Newman was my Christian faith, and I really loved that!

"Coach Sparks always seems to surprise me, and what I've learned in the past couple of weeks about him is that he is one of the strongest men I have ever met. No matter what is going on through his day, he always comes to the players with such a positive attitude!"

At Clinton High, Thackerson also was all-district in basketball and senior captain in both sports. Academically, he graduated with honors, finishing with a 3.5 grade point average.

Tyler also was faithfully active in Young Life and nominated Mr. CHS.

When he wasn't playing

in his own sports, you could usually find him on the sidelines of Clinton Middle School games and other youth sports contests in town.

Jefferson City, where Carson-Newman is located, is a small town like Clinton and about the same distance to Knoxville.

"Being close to home is a big thing to me, and Carson-Newman being really close to home made my decision to go there so much easier," said Thackerson.

"I am majoring in Exercise Science," he added. "I plan to become either a physical therapist or an athletic trainer for a football team."

That will be another new chapter.

Roddy will continue athletic career in basketball

Lindsey Roddy was a talented basketball player and track and field athlete at William Blount but has chosen to continue her athletic career on the hardwood at Lee University in Cleveland.

The Student-Athlete of the Year, finished her prep career as a member of the 1,000-point club. She led the Lady Governors in scoring and assists and was named the District 4-AAA Player of the Year.

The versatile Roddy also took fifth place in the Class AAA state pentathlon this past spring.

Wandell stood tall on the court and in the classroom

By Steve Williams

The court was home away from home for most of the school year for Kelley Wandell.

From late July with the first practice session in volleyball to late February and the end of basketball season, that's where Wandell spent most of her afternoons or evenings the past four years - on the volleyball and basketball court in Clinton High's gymnasium.

Kelley did have the last three weeks of October off in between the two seasons but said that time was really used for switching gears.

"I would go from passing, setting, and hitting to posting up, shooting, and rebounding," she said via e-mail.

The 5-foot-11 Wandell was a dominant force around the net in both sports and a three-time All-District 3-AAA honoree in each.

For her standout play in both sports, she has been named Clinton's female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2015-16.



Kelley Wandell believes she has left plenty of "blood, sweat and tears" on the court after four years of playing volleyball and basketball for the Lady Dragons.

"This title truly means a lot to me," said Wandell. "I have worked extremely hard over my four years of high school athletics to be the best I can be no matter what and this title is a symbol of all of my hard work and dedication."

Kelley also was voted the district's Offensive Player of the Year in volleyball and she accepted an

Academic Presidential Scholarship to Maryville College, where she will be a volleyball team member for the Scots this fall.

The middle hitter was team captain her senior year and received team Academic Awards her junior and senior seasons.

"Basketball and volleyball have always been a big part in my life and have shaped me into who I am, so it is hard to say which one is my favorite," said Wandell. "Like I said before, I try to be my best in both sports so I'm not sure which one I'm better at, but I've heard from many people that they think I'm better at basketball."

"I chose to play volleyball because it is more of a challenge for me and I believe it will really help me grow as an athlete. If there is a chance to play basketball and my knee checks out good I will definitely be considering that as an option."

Wandell could be sneaky in basketball and sometimes slip out and put up a 3-point shot. But with a six-foot wingspan, she was most effective around the goal. Her career

stats reflect that too as she totaled 815 points, 715 rebounds and 130 blocks. She had over 12 double-doubles her senior season.

Her volleyball skills sometimes were evident on the defensive end of the floor in basketball as she would reject shots with authority.

Wandell was named team MVP her senior season and also earned Academic Coaches Awards.

She leaves Clinton still owning a school record for boys and girls that most likely will last for a good while - 21 rebounds in one game.

Kelley also stood tall in the classroom throughout high school, taking all Honors and AP classes. She graduated with honors and ranked No. 8 in her class with a 3.975 GPA.

Wandell, who was awarded the Army/ROTC Outstanding Athlete Award in May, plans to study sports medicine with a special interest in orthopedics and helping athletes.

L&N Academy honors Glatt and Bretscher

Juniors Rory Glatt and Emily Bretscher are L&N STEM Academy's male and female Student-Athletes of the Year.

Glatt lettered in tennis, while Bretscher is an outstanding diver.

"Rory's excellence on the court is enhanced by service to the school and community," noted L&N STEM Academy Office Manager Tim Powell. "He is active in School Government Association, a regular volunteer at his church and plays violin with a group to entertain assisted living residents."

Emily is a state record holder, state champion and recently qualified for the 2016 Olympic Diving Trials, said Powell.

Bretscher, L&N's junior class president, also is "a high academic achiever and active mentor to new students," according to Powell.

On a mission, Trentham's 'team' connects with children

By Steve Williams

Softball standout Samantha Trentham enjoyed a victory of a different kind last week as she went to Mexico on a mission trip.

"We have been loving on and witnessing to the children down here and being 'Jesus with skin on,' which has kind of become our motto," e-mailed Trentham, Seymour High's female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2015-16.

"It makes you realize how truly blessed you are when you see how little these families have, but how they remain true to their faith and are so thankful for the little bit that they do have."

Trentham was part of the Engage Student Ministries from Seymour Church that flew to Mexico June 24.

"We are building a wall at the local school, and we have had events for the families in several cities and churches," added Trentham. "My favorite part of this trip is when the kids' faces light up just when we tell them that Jesus loves them. I'm blessed to have the youth group and the leaders that I have, and I am excited to see how God uses our group in the future!"

Trentham and Grant Wallen took different paths in being named Seymour's top student-athletes this past school year. Trentham specialized in softball after a season of volleyball as a freshman. Wallen, also a senior, was a three-sport standout in football, wrestling and tennis.

"Sam had an outstanding year for us," said Coach Jessica Sterling, whose Lady Eagles advanced to the Class AAA state tournament. "She became our ace pitcher midway through her junior year."

"Sam was also a team-first type of player."

Trentham finished her prep career strong too as she was selected the Pitcher of the Year and the Player of the Year in the IMAC (District 2-AAA) Conference, noted Athletic Director Gary Householder.

"In the district championship she had two home runs - the second one being the game-winner," pointed out Coach Sterling.



Seymour's Samantha Trentham with some of the kids on a recent mission trip to Mexico. "My favorite part of this trip is when the kids' faces light up just when we tell them that Jesus loves them," said Samantha.

Trentham finished with a .453 batting average and seven homers. In the circle, she posted a 1.22 ERA and recorded 285 strikeouts in 34 games.

"No greater pleasure as a coach to watch a player pour their heart and soul into the game and the game reward them. And that's exactly what happened for Sam this year," summed up Sterling. "She put in the work and was very successful."

But most importantly, Sam is a great kid and a great teammate. I look forward to what the future holds for her."

Trentham will continue her softball career at Emory and Henry College in Emory, Va.

Wallen, for starters, was a second-team All-IMAC cornerback in football. He captured a district title in wrestling for the fourth straight year and then placed second in Region 1-AAA to qualify for the state in the 145-pound weight class. The versatile Wallen capped the year with a district singles title in tennis.

"Grant is a physically and mentally tough young man who is extremely competitive," said Householder via e-mail. "His physical toughness helped him to excel in wrestling and football - two very demanding sports. His mental toughness and intelligence helped him to excel in tennis and to shut down opposing wide receivers in football that might be bigger and a little faster."

Wallen has been accepted to the University

of Tennessee and plans to attend Pharmacy school.

A-E's Neal has 'the opportunity of a lifetime'

Austin-East product Bradley Neal will be reporting to Tennessee Tech Monday to begin his collegiate football career.

Neal, A-E's Student-Athlete of the Year for 2015-16, will be an offensive right tackle for the Golden Eagles in Cookeville.

During his prep career, Bradley was a three-year starter for the Roadrunners, playing offensive tackle and guard, and had over 100 pancake blocks. He earned first-team all-region honors in 2014 and 2015.

"His excellent work on the field and in the classroom has given Bradley the opportunity of a lifetime, playing college football at Tennessee Tech," said Austin-East Head Coach Jeff Phillips.

Neal, who received an Outstanding Professionalism Marketing Award at Austin-East, plans to major in computer engineering at TTU.

Track and field athlete Iyana Armstrong is Austin-East's female honoree.

Armstrong was a four-year member of the A-E track team and was a part of the Lady Roadrunners' state runner-up squad as a freshman in 2013.

Iyana ran on the 4x100 and 4x200 relays all four years, noted A-E girls coach Heather Sumpter-Blakemore. She also participated in the 100 and 200-meter events and was team captain this past season.

Academically, Armstrong was an AVID Scholar (Advancement Via Individual Determination), Project GRAD scholarship recipient, Urban League National Achiever and a Hope Scholar.

Iyana will be attending Tennessee State University, where she will major in health and sports science. She's planning on walking on to the TSU track program her sophomore year.

TOPPING OFF A SWEET SIXTEEN

The Knoxville Focus continues its recognition of Student-Athletes of the Year from local TSSAA-member high schools in this week's issue.

The honorees:

Iyana Armstrong, Austin-East
Emily Bretscher, L&N STEM Academy
Rory Glatt, L&N STEM Academy
Bradley Neal, Austin-East
Lindsey Roddy, William Blount
Tyler Thackerson, Clinton
Samantha Trentham, Seymour
Grant Wallen, Seymour
Kelley Wandell, Clinton

Previously recognized:

Nicole Adams, West
Peyton Alford, Powell
Makenna Black, Fulton
Miranda Burt, Farragut
Gianna Carideo, Catholic
Johnathan Chavez, Catholic
Hayden Coffman, GCA
Demi Coleman, Alcoa
Jon Decker, Alcoa
Sydney Duggins, GCA
Lily Felts, Berean Christian
Derek Flatford, Anderson County
Bailey Gale, South-Doyle
Holly Hagood, Bearden
Frances Harrison, Webb
Nathan Hastings, Berean Christian
Juan Hernandez, Heritage
Connor Jacobs, Webb
Kailey Keeble, Heritage
Allen Kidd, South-Doyle
Erica Laning, HVA
Madison McCoy, Anderson County
Ian McNitt, HVA
Phillip Nichols, CAK
Dylan Pacifico, Farragut
Matt Randolph, Central
Shelby Reynolds, Carter
Niamh Schumacher, King's Academy
Cole Skvara, West
Spencer Smiley, Bearden
Emily Threant, CAK
Brittany Tolson, Powell
Chandler Viscardis, King's Academy
Kentel Williams, Fulton
Emily Wise, Central



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

To the Summitt

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is a cruel condition. It takes away a person's humanity and then their life. In ancient times a person was considered alive as long as they were breathing. In Genesis 2:7, God "breathed into man and he became a living being." I imagined this as ensoulment in a previous essay. Later, life was associated with a beating heart and blood was thought of as the life force. Now, we consider the essence of life as residing with our mind.

We lost a giant last week. John Donne once wrote, "No man is an island" and any death lessens us all because we are so interconnected. However, Pat Summitt was special, and we claimed her as one of our own. And when folks die young (Pat was younger than me!) or "before their time" it seems especially poignant.

On hearing of Coach Summitt's death, my daughter asked me what causes Alzheimer's Disease (AD). She seemed perplexed to hear there is no cure for this scourge and only limited treatment. With my children, now adults, I sometimes preface my explanations with "It's complicated." This is certainly true with AD.

Philosophically, inter-nists are mechanistic people. We want to understand why something occurs. I believe it's necessary to fundamentally understand how a disease occurs before you move on to what you can do about it. I've previously written about the complex mechanisms operative in Alzheimer's Disease, but perhaps an update is timely. I apologize in advance for an internist's view of this all too common disease. Some might compare my explanations to a

book on elephants, more than you want to know. But "for inquiring minds," read on.

Alzheimer's Disease was first described in the late 1800s by the Italian physician, Dr. Alois Alzheimer. He described "pre-senile dementia" in a number of patients with early onset senility - as if dementia was understandable if you were old! There are other causes of declining intellectual function, but I'll focus on this most common type of dementia. The cause of Alzheimer's Disease remains unknown, and there is no definitive test for the condition other than a brain biopsy. In fact, doctors often label the disease as DAT, dementia of the Alzheimer's type, when there is no pathological confirmation.

For a long time the culprit in AD was thought to be the accumulation of a protein called amyloid in the brain. It's unknown whether amyloid accumulates because of an over-production, decreased clearance or both in some individuals. Researchers can now measure the amyloid burden with special scans. MRIs only show nonspecific brain shrinkage which may, none the less, be consistent with AD. And, even though as amyloid accumulates and cognitive ability declines,

many older individuals have amyloid deposits and normal cognitive function. Furthermore, it has been frustrating that research drugs used to combat amyloid deposits have negligible benefits when treating patients with established DAT.

The tau protein also accumulates in AD. This protein is thought to stabilize microtubules along nerve roots. Imagine microtubules as the plumbing of cells which delivers nutrients and removes waste. The tau protein also maintains flexibility and the structure of nerve cells, much like the frame of a house. In AD the tau protein becomes dysfunctional and folds upon itself, producing tangled aggregates and leads to blockage of cellular plumbing and collapse of the cellular frame, analogous to a mine cave in. Furthermore, the dysfunctional tau protein spreads to neighboring nerve cells much like an infection. Research trials are now testing drugs to try and stabilize the tau protein and reverse the damage.

It's confusing that both the tau protein and amyloid can be seen in normal individuals. Furthermore, both seem to silently accumulate over decades and only years later does the cumulative damage produce

recognizable dementia. The latest theory is that the interaction of amyloid and tau proteins produce dementia.

The current treatment of AD, outside of research trials, is cholinesterase inhibitors like Aricept or another agent called Namenda. Like the drugs to lower amyloid burden, available agents have only minimal effects on AD and none of them are curative. The new hope is to use a cocktail of therapies very early in the disease process (if it can be identified!).

Pat Summitt died as a result of AD which was diagnosed in 2011. More important than the cause of her death, Pat Summitt touched us all. I don't like basketball, especially pro basketball, but I liked the Lady Vols. Pat Summitt, through her tireless advocacy of Title 9, gave opportunities to women athletes and gave us the team spirit of women's basketball. I didn't personally know the Coach, but I admired her work ethic, her zeal to win and her legendary kindness and toughness. Her players were made into principled, strong women by her leadership and "the stare" that few dared to cross.

Alzheimer's Disease is a cruel illness that saps our humanity. I read a story

recently which imagined a loved one with AD as slowly leaving this reality and being reconstituted elsewhere (heaven). A materialist would find this notion foolish because there's no proof of heaven. Well, I would counter there's no proof there isn't. I can say Pat's gone from us now, but she remains in our hearts and memories. It is said you're never "gone" if you are remembered.

I'll close this arcane eulogy with wisdom from the "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran.

For what is it to die, but to stand naked in the wind and melt into the sun?

And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.

And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.

And when the earth shall claim your limbs,

Then shall you truly dance.

Rest assured, Pat is OK, and is dancing down the court among the stars.

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

Pet Loss Prevention Month

July is National Pet Loss Prevention Month and a subject close to Hobo the Wonder Dog's heart. Every two seconds a pet becomes separated from their family in the United States. Those who have become separated from their pets know every second matters and being prepared for the unthinkable is the best option for being reunited with your pet. Positive outcomes of a lost pet are usually those where the owner is prepared and acts



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

quickly. With any emergency, knowing what to do and acting quickly reduces stress and improves results. Pets with the best odds of being reunited with their families

are those easily identified with identification tags and microchips.

4 Pet Loss Prevention Tips

- Secure the home and play areas. Make sure doors, windows, and gates are secure.

- Personalized identification tag and microchip. Securely attach identification tags to collars making sure contact information is accurate. Microchips are only as good as the information provided to the service. Make sure contact information is current and up to date.

- Maintain current pictures of your pet, representative of how they look to help others easily identify them and post on social media.

- Spay and neuter your pet. This will help prevent unwanted animals' attentions and lessen their natural instinct to roam.

It only takes a second for your pet to dart out a door or gate and out of sight. Notify neighbors that your pet is lost, circulate pictures, and notify your microchip service provider. Many providers will alert area shelters, veterinarians, businesses, and residents in the area to be on the lookout for your pet. Never underestimate the power of social media; posting a picture of your pet, and its last known location can also be helpful. Remember that not everyone is plugged into social media and electronic notifications. Technology is a great tool but I recommend

posters on utility poles and storefronts. Canvas the neighborhood—knock on doors and talk with people on the street. The more people aware you are looking for your pet, the more eyes you have helping you reunite with your family.

July is Pet Loss Prevention Month and prevention is always the best strategy. Take time this month to update your pet's information on their identification tag, and your microchip service provider. If you have not yet microchipped your pet—make Pet Loss Prevention Month Chip Your Pet Month. The cost

of microchipping your pet can range from ten to fifty dollars. I recommend price comparing local shelters and veterinarians.

Hobo the Wonder Dog is chipped, tagged, and often wears a GPS tracking device. Hobo is seldom left alone and constantly monitored. Sometimes prevention and diligence is not enough to keep your Houdini escape artist from escaping and knowing what to do and acting quickly will help reunite your family.

Life is better with a dog!

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Every County Commission Race Contested

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

While most of the political attention in Knox County has no doubt been focused on the heated presidential race, there's another race beginning to draw some interest.

The race for Knox County Commission has a crowded field of candidates on the ballot for the August 4 election and every district has at least two candidates. All of the incumbent commissioners are opposed and, while there's hope among Republicans of capturing all the seats, there are Democrats and Independent opponents for each position.

Following the election there will definitely be at least four new members on the eleven member board. Local Republicans are dreaming of overturning the Democrats' hold on the First and Second Districts given that both sitting commissioners, Sam McKenzie in the First and Amy Broyles in the

Second, have chosen not to seek re-election. Fourth District Commissioner Jeff Ownby was defeated in his primary and Ninth District Commissioner Mike Brown chose not to seek re-election.

The new faces include the winners of these races:

Republican Michael Covington and Democrat Evelyn Gill face off in the county's only totally-urban First District. Covington has been active in the community for the past two years, building an East Knoxville Community forum and recently organizing the "I Love the First District" event at Knoxville Botanical Gardens. Gill is a long-time Democratic activist who scored a surprising victory over Rick Staples in that party primary and is well known in the community.

Tyrone LaMar Find is the Independent candidate on the First District ballot against Covington and Gill.

The Second District sees Michele Carringer, a Republican, facing

Democrat Laura K. Kildare. Both overcame primary opposition. Carringer defeated John N. Fugate II in her party primary.

Republican Hugh Nystrom faces Democrat Marleen Kay Davis in the Fourth District race. Nystrom won his primary, defeating Ownby and Janet Testerman.

Incumbent Fifth District Commissioner John Schoonmaker, a Republican appointed by the commission to replace Dr. Richard Briggs who was elected to the state Senate, will face Democrat Sheri Ridgeway. Former Commission Chairman Brad Anders faces Democrat Donna G. Lucas in the Sixth District.

Chairman Dave Wright, who had no Republican Primary opposition, faces Independent Donald M. Wiser for the Eighth District seat.

Mike Brown's retirement from the commission sees him support Carson Dailey in the Ninth District. Dailey

defeated Josh Ward for the Republican nomination and will face Independent Tom Pierce and Democrat James "Brandon" Hamilton in August.

In other races former Assessor of Property, John Whitehead, will again hold that seat as he has no opposition and Richard "Bud" Armstrong will return as County Law Director without opposition. Both men are Republicans.

Two new school board members will also be elected: Jennifer Owen in the Second District and former commissioner Tony Norman in the Third District. Former School Board Chairman Michael M. (Mike) McMillan is the only candidate for the Eighth District seat and the Fifth District School Board race sees Susan Horn facing Reuben "Buddy" Pelot.

The 18th Tennessee House District has four Republicans on the ballot: incumbent Martin Daniel faces James Corcoran, Bryan Dodson and Steve

Hall. The winner will face Democrat Brandi Price in the November General Election. Martin narrowly defeated Hall in the 2014 race.

Farragut voters will choose between Richard A. Cataldi and Louise Povlin for the Ward One seat and Ron Williams is unopposed for the Ward Two seat.

Voters will also be asked if various judges should be elected or replaced.

The final day to register to vote in the August election is Tuesday, July 5 and early voting begins July 15 and runs through July 30.

August 4 is also the Primary for both political parties and the general election will be held on the same day of the National Election on November 8. The final day to register to vote in the National Election is October 11 and the early voting runs October 19 through November 3.

Federal and State Primary/Knox County General/Town of Farragut Municipal Election

July 5, 2016 Final day to register to vote before election
July 15, 2016 First day of Early Voting period
July 28, 2016 Final day to request an absentee ballot
July 30, 2016 Final day of Early Voting period
August 4, 2016 Election Day



2016 Presidential Election/Federal and State General Election Schedule

August 10, 2016 First day to request an absentee ballot
October 11, 2016 Final day to register to vote before election
October 19, 2016 First day of Early Voting period
November 1, 2016 Final day to request an absentee ballot
November 3, 2016 Final day of Early Voting period
November 8, 2016 Election Day

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Daniel earns NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award

The Tennessee office of the National Federation of Independent Business, the state's leading small-business association, has presented its coveted Guardian of Small Business Award to state Rep. Martin Daniel. NFIB made the presentation this morning at Beaman Imports Parts & Service, an NFIB member in West Knoxville.

The Guardian of Small Business award is the most prestigious honor that NFIB bestows on legislators in recognition of their efforts to support small business issues. The NFIB Tennessee Leadership Council, an advisory board comprised of NFIB members, voted to present the award to the legislator for supporting small-business issues in the 109th Tennessee General Assembly (2015-2016).

Jim Brown, state director of NFIB, said, "Martin Daniel is an exceptionally strong supporter of NFIB on a variety of issues. Representative Daniel not only scored a perfect 100 percent voting record with NFIB, but he continues to lead the charge for less regulation and red tape on small business and to vote for legislation that promotes a stable business environment for free enterprise."

Brown praised Daniel for his sponsorship of the Right to Earn a Living Act (HB 2201), which requires state government to review entry



Rep. Martin Daniel

regulations for licensed professions and occupations and will help cut through some of the red tape that makes it harder for people to own and operate their own businesses.

"Tennesseans are fortunate to have leaders like Martin Daniel representing them in our legislature," Brown said. "On behalf of all small businesses in Tennessee, NFIB wants to thank Representative Daniel for everything he's done for our state's entrepreneurs."

Daniel, who serves on the House Business & Utilities and Civil Justice committees, is an NFIB member from Knoxville.

NFIB is Tennessee's leading small-business association. Learn more at www.NFIB.com/TN or follow NFIB on Twitter at @NFIB_TN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are Your Shrubs Hiding Your House?

Join Master Gardener John Payne to learn when and how to properly prune those bushes, shrubs and small trees that are planted in the foundation beds around your house. You'll be surprised to learn that most homeowners prune at the wrong time; don't be one of them! This free public event is scheduled on two different dates and locations: Saturday, July 9, at 1:30 p.m. at the Bearden Branch Library, 100 Golfclub Rd, Knoxville, TN 37919, phone (865)588-8813 or web.knoxlib.org and on Thursday, July 14, from 3:15-4:15 p.m. at Humana Guidance Center, 4438 Western Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37921, phone (865)329-8892.

Boxes of Blessings

Dante Church of God will be distributing Boxes Of Blessings (food) on Saturday, July 9, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or until boxes are gone. Anyone who would like to come and receive a box of blessings is invited. You must be present to receive a box of food. One box per household.

For more information call (865)689-4829.

CHS 50th Reunion

The Knoxville Central High School Class of 1966 will be celebrating its 50th reunion Saturday, October 8, at Beaver Brook Country Club. The planning committee is searching for members of that class. If you are a member of the Class of 66 or know a member of that class who would like to receive information about the reunion, please send that information to Gail Norris Kitts at gknitts@yahoo.com.

Karns Republican Club Meetings

The Karns Republican Club will meet on July 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Karns Middle School Library.

Knox County Democrat Women's Club Meeting

Knox County Democrat Women's Club will hold the monthly meeting at Austin's Restaurant, 900 Merchants Drive, on Tuesday, July 12. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and new members are always welcome.

